

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



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

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

QUERY FOR JUNE

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?
- the common testimonies Friends declare?
- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

*Source: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1998):
Query 3, Spiritual Nurture , Ministry and Religious Education, page 207*

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

Combined in person and Zoom, 10 am Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

(see under Events below for more details for each Sunday)

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

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

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In-person, 10:15 am Sundays

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.

... AND ANOTHER BLACK WOMAN DIES

written February 2022 by Althea Natalga Sumpter

My breath catches each time I see the news of a Black woman who has died before the age of retirement. The 2022 passing of Valerie Boyd, biographer of Zora Neale Hurston (*Wrapped in Rainbows*), devastated me. I knew she was in her 50s, but I immediately saw the story of an academic woman who achieved more than her share of work, moving from a career as a journalist for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, then to joining the faculty at the University of Georgia and creating a narrative nonfiction program. Her scholarship is renowned, and her contributions to Southern literature will stand for all time. My first thought was about her health.

My graduate school mentor, Dr. Grace Jordan McFadden, told me in the 1990s that when academe starts to kill you, walk away. An angel medallion sits on my keyboard, given to me by her husband on the day of her memorial service in 2004. She was 60. As the first Black woman to receive full professor status at the University of South Carolina, Dr. McFadden saved the African American Studies Program from potential closure after years as director (1988-1994) — doing so to her detriment. A three-organ transplant failed to save her, after a number of years waiting for a special person with matching AB negative blood to die and give her a chance at continued life.

At this moment, in 2022, I feel in my best health in more than 20 years — because I walked away. I continued to teach but was no longer on tenure track. My research became my choice, instead of following standard advice to change my research topic in order to achieve tenure. I endured grief from both Blacks and Whites for my work in the 1990s as a multi-disciplinary scholar, combining new media technology and humanities, always being expected to justify its potential. Digital humanities would eventually be recognized as a legitimate field.

Before my 25 years as a college professor, I had survived nearly 15 years in the media production industry. My physician at that time gave me an ultimatum: stay in that industry and die, or leave it and live. So, I became an academic, not realizing that I had moved from one deadly industry into a career with a similar survival rate. I gained 60 pounds in 3 and a half years, teaching four classes per semester, working on research, and pushing a doctoral program to completion in six years.

I have now made it to retirement. I work for myself — because I am compelled to write, research and create. Sometimes I feel guilty for not writing more, not pushing myself more, with all that I have to do, all the work I have left undone. Then I pull myself back from the guilt. I must, or I will reverse the vibrant health I fought to achieve. I am a hypertensive diabetic, with metal in my lumbar — the result of working twice as hard to be regarded as equal to any White person. That notion is a deathtrap, the curse of the segregation and Jim Crow laws I have experienced.

I knew about slavery when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. As an elementary-age child I wept as my family watched his funeral. Young John-John saluted his father's casket as it rolled by. Tears were flowing from our eyes, as I feared for our lives. As a 6-year-old, I thought slavery was about to start again. I knew about slavery at that young age, but no White person cared about my feelings. By that age Black children already knew that we had to be on our best behavior outside of the home or else our parents could be harmed and we could be taken away by White people who would consider that we were not being raised correctly. Today's White parents are worried about hurting the feelings of their children who learn the real history of this country instead of contrived concepts that conceal truth.

Epigenetics, changes in genetic structure caused by the legacy of trauma, are a part of my heritage. I know my history of school desegregation, the Southern story of my family as survivors of enslaved Africans, the fight just to be present over the past decades of endurance as a Black woman

in the United States. Into the 2020s, Black women continue to strive for a home life and a career while raising children. But we trigger stress-related diseases. We strive to show ourselves as equals to anyone, to be heard and recognized for the contributions Black women have made over centuries. We still raise our own children and the children of others. If we marry, our marriages too often struggle.

Now, we seem to be dying at an unprecedented rate, not just from COVID, but from stress, with a high rate of Black mothers dying while giving birth and an increase in suicide. The obituaries of many Black women within the last three years have made me weary. What is taking place within young Black women who throw themselves to their deaths from buildings (Cheslie Kryst, age 30, TV correspondent, 2019 Miss USA winner and Miss Universe contestant)? What work are Black women pushing through where we cannot rest, as exemplified by Midwin Charles (age 47, defense attorney and legal analyst), Jovita Moore (age 53, TV news anchor), Shelia Washington (age 61, whose activism helped exonerate the Scottsboro Boys), and too many others to name who have fallen and joined ancestors on the other side of the Veil?

It was by chance that I met my German-American husband over 20 years ago, as I was finishing my dissertation in humanities and Africana Studies with a focus on my Gullah Geechee culture. I was wooed when he told me that he did not mind reading academic work. I gave him chapter one. Three days later he gave me edits. All these years later, he still edits for me. He acknowledges his identity as a WASP, but also has a regard for the trauma of Black people. He asked me recently where I would be if I had not slowed down. My immediate response was, "I would be dead." I know that to be true.

Black women cannot be the saviors of this country's future. Others must join in the work. Every time I see a White woman who has gained her strength and starts to speak her truth and faces the work of hate, I cheer her. I pump my fist in the air and say, "Yes!"

"Yes!" to the Red Wine & Blue women for creating a political organization based on the truth that suburban women are not all White and Republican. "Yes," to every White sister I see in the news who is willing to take up the mantle and move forward toward making the profane into the sane.

How do we all, every ethnic one of us, move beyond the historical madness created over centuries that has become a part of my genetics, my epigenetics, and the markers that have caused my illnesses? I do not want that to become my story when another Black woman dies.

YOUNG FRIENDS PROGRAM COORDINATOR SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMING

A search committee for a new Young Friends Program Coordinator (YFPC) is being formed by the Administration Committee. We could use 2 to 3 more members. Contact Steve Collins (shcollins75@gmail.com) or Carolyn Coburn-Allen if you can participate. They can also share with you the revised YFPC job description for this paid position.

PROPERTY COORDINATOR SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMING

The Administration Committee will soon begin the search for a new AFM Property Coordinator to replace Kevin Wong. Kevin will lay down his role as coordinator after more than two years of service to the Meeting. In addition to the many, smaller tasks he has taken care of – most of which went largely unnoticed – his dedicated work on the new solar panel project is finally coming to fruition. If you are interested in assisting with the search for this important paid position or have questions about the position, please contact Steve Collins (shcollins75@gmail.com).

NEW DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

If you did not receive an electronic copy of the new 2022 directory in your email, please let the Office Coordinator know and she can forward you a copy. If you would like a paper copy, please let her know that as well. Contact atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-377-2474. If you are not in the directory and would like to be in the next one, please email afmdirectory@gmail.com.

WAYS TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AFM /// WAYS TO SHARE INFORMATION

Email lists include:

- the discussion list, which includes the announcement sheet and a variety of other emails from members and attenders about a broader range of topics related to being a Quaker, often including social justice issues and opportunities.
- the announcement list, which includes only the weekly announcement sheet and a very few other emails, all directly related to the life of the meeting (or find the latest announcement sheet at atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf). To add something to the announcement sheet, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.
- the newsletter list, which lets you know when the monthly newsletter is online on the meeting's website at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>. To add something to the newsletter, email atlquakerltr@gmail.com.
- the Atlanta FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) list for those who are lgbtq+ or are interested in lgbtq+ issues

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

Other ways of communicating:

- If you would like to receive email reminders about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship, and First Day School for all ages, please contact the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting and click the + Join Group button near the top.

RECORDING AND RESOURCES: "Racial Disparities in Education and the Wealth Gap"

Recording and resources from the April 24, 2022 online forum on "Racial Disparities in Education and the Wealth Gap" sponsored by the Atlanta Friends Meeting and the Friends School of Atlanta:

Recording: Racial Disparities in Education and the Wealth Gap, 4/24/22 Recording

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NVEA3zSHsNaoxfe3NILNcy51A5TkHhXH/view?usp=sharing>

Jim Crow's Pink Slip: The Untold Story of Black Principal and Teacher Leadership, by Leslie T.

Fenwick. Use the code JCPS22 for a 20% discount thru September 3 when you order at

www.hepg.org/hepg-home/books/jim-crow's-pink-slip#. The book will also be available on both [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop](#).

"What Racism Looks Like" infographic pdf

<https://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resource-files/What%20Racism%20Looks%20Like%2010.pdf>

The panelists were: Attorney Lezli Baskerville (CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education); Dr. Leslie T. Fenwick (Dean in Residence at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and author of *Jim Crow's Pink Slip: The Untold Story of Black Principal and Teacher Leadership*); Dr. Rosalind Fuse-Hall (Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs and Commission Support for the Southern Association of College & Schools Commissions on Colleges (SACSCOC). For more information, contact Herb Edwards at Herbmedwards@gmail.com.

RESOURCES: RESPONDING TO BUFFALO

Susan Firestone shared this link from "Teaching While White," which includes a number of resources for teachers, parents, and other adults.: <https://www.teachingwhilewhite.org/blog/ending-white-silence-in-the-face-of-racial-violence>.

DONATING TO DECATUR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY (DEAM)

You may donate to DEAM's food pantry by bringing food items to the meeting house (basket under table by front door). DEAM's website (www.deamdecatour.org/contribute) lists items they particularly need this month. You can also mail them a check, donate online at their website, or designate them as your charity of choice when you shop at Kroger or Amazon Smile. Monetary contributions help stock the food pantry, and DEAM relies completely on monetary contributions to fund financial aid for prescriptions and the prevention of utility cut-offs.

SIGNING UP TO PROVIDE MEALS AT HAGAR'S HOUSE

Before COVID, Atlanta Friends Meeting twice a year would provide and serve evening meals for a week at Hagar's House, Decatur Cooperative Ministries (DCM)'s shelter for families and children. DCM and Hagar's House have reached out to us with changes to how we can help provide meals to residents at the shelter. Now, volunteers sign up directly and are just being asked to drop off food. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4dafab28a3fd0-2022>. If this will be your first time serving dinner at Hagar's House, please email serve@dcmshines.org upon signing up.

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Beth-Ann Buitekant
Nan Roark
Janet Wuichet

*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.

SAYMA ANNUAL RETREAT & SESSIONS – Thursday thru Sunday, June 16 to 19
Register for online attendance by Tuesday, May 31

Registration for in-person attendance for Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), our yearly meeting's, Annual Sessions and Retreat from June 16 to 19 has ended, but until May 31, you can still register to attend selected events at www.sayma.org/.

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

8:30 am. This meeting for worship is both in person and Zoom again. Watch announcement sheet for updates. 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 – June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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 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, June 2 and upcoming months

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. On June 2, the group will be meeting in person in combination with Zoom and will be discussing *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. The group will take a break in July and return August 4 (in person and via Zoom) to discuss *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. Future books include:

September 1, poetry selected by members of the group

October 6, *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

November 3, *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

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

January 5, 2023, *The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois* by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

February 2, 2023, *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabelle Allende

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

WORKSHOP: Choosing Hope: A Path from Despair to Action – Saturday, June 4

9 :00 am to 4:00 pm in person at the meetinghouse. This workshop, sponsored by Green Friends, offers participants a chance to explore how our grief, anger and despair connects us all through our Love of the Earth and can inspire us for planetary transformation. Facilitated by Beth Remmes. FREE, but participants must register in advance at nonukesyall.org. (Donations accepted.) Includes lunch.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, June 5, 12, 19, 26

Adult First Day School will meet in person at the meetinghouse, and people will continue to be able to join via Zoom. (See the first page 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. On June 5, Susan Firestone will share her Spiritual Journey. (You can listen to Lynda Kerr's Spiritual Journey, shared May 1, at <https://tinyurl.com/489nc6jb>. You can see the water colors she shared at <https://tinyurl.com/2p92yw53>.)

On second Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will discuss *Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know* by Timothy Beal. Please join us, even if you haven't read the book.

GREEN FRIENDS – Sunday, June 5

Green Friends will meet Sunday, June 5 at approximately 11:45 AM in the library at the meetinghouse as well as over Zoom. Newcomers welcome.

<https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/93713127848?pwd=UjRxZUJNWVdhNk9lck9TUGRwZStuQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 1312 7848

Passcode: 123

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHT: *PASSING* – Sunday, June 5

Virtual Documentary Night on June 5th from 7 to 9 pm. The short documentary *Passing* profiles the lives of three young transmen of color and explores what life is like living as a black man when no one knows you are transgender, and how each man perceives his own journey with gender after many years of being presumed a cisgender man. Watch the documentary (for free) in advance at <https://vimeo.com/119696471>, then RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-documentary-night-tickets-341419604227>. For more details and general info on Community Documentary Night, you can visit <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/>. Attender Adam King is founder and host of Virtual Documentary Night.

UKRAINE AND THE PEACE TESTIMONY – Wednesday, June 8

Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC announces the next online session discussing the Peace Testimony on June 8, 2022 at 7:30pm EDT. There will be a short presentation about challenges experienced while putting action to the Peace Testimony. The work of Quaker House will be used as a reference point and Friends will be invited to share their own experiences and ideas. Register in advance at <https://quakerhouse.org/event/putting-action-to-witness-living-into-the-peace-testimony/>. Connection information will be included in the registration confirmation, and you'll get a reminder email the day of the event. There is no charge for participation, but Friends are welcome to make a contribution to support the session. The session will be recorded and made available on the Quaker House website.

QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE CELEBRATION – Sunday, June 12

The Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Support Committee is excited to welcome you to the QVS house in Grant Park on Sunday, June 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for a “Celebration of Collaboration” between QVS and Atlanta Friends Meeting. Come join and celebrate with us for the afternoon, mingle and spend some time with the Fellows, their Spiritual Nurturers, and the current Local Support Committee (LSC) and support our space of gratitude for all that have helped support QVS here in Atlanta this year. You will be able to get a brief tour of the house as well. There will be light snacks and beverages. Due to technical difficulties, this will be an in-person event only. RSVP at :<https://forms.gle/aMTVSRKb9W7tk1TK7> for the house address. COVID protocols: We welcome unmasked, distanced interactions outside the house but require masking indoors. Questions? Contact Rachael Carter (QVS Atlanta Coordinator) at rachael@quakervoluntaryservice.org.

NO MEETING FOR BUSINESS IN JUNE

Because of SAYMA's (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's) Annual Sessions and Retreat, we will **NOT** have Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on June 19. Our next Meeting for Business will be July 17.

DEIDRE McCALLA CD RELEASE CELEBRATION Sunday, June 26

Sunday, June 26 at 6 pm at Eddie's Attic in Decatur, (<https://eddiesattic.com/calendar/>) attendee Deidre McCalla will celebrate the release of her new CD *Endless Grace*. The album title is taken from a line in the song I Do Not Walk This Path Alone: "There are legions I will never see/ Fighting the good fight with me/ They soldier on with ENDLESS GRACE/ So the world can be a better place." Download the album or purchase a CD (or previous CD) at <https://deidremccalla.bandcamp.com/>.

FGC GATHERING

Friends General Conference Gathering online – Sunday to Saturday, July 3 to 9
YAY- Young Adult and Youth Event in person – Wednesday to Sunday, July 6 to 10

Friends General Conference (FGC) is an umbrella organization for yearly and monthly meetings, including our yearly meeting. They offer many resources (<https://www.fgcquaker.org>) and host an annual Gathering each summer. This summer's Gathering will still be virtual with opportunities for worship, workshops and fellowship. The theme is . . . **and follow me** . For more information, see <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>. Registration will begin in early June and continue thru the Gathering, although some workshops may fill up.

FGC is also hosting YAY, an in-person event for Young Adults, Youth & Families. Children, parents, youth & young adults are invited to join them at Radford University, Radford, Virginia, July 6 to 10. This event will run at the same time as the 2022 FGC Virtual Gathering, but is not a hybrid event. YAY will only focus on in-person activities. YAY will have separate sessions for Junior Gathering (birth to rising 9th grade), High School (rising 10th to graduating seniors), Adult Young Friends (ages 18 to 37), and Parents & Sponsors (for parents & sponsors of youth & children ages 0 to 18 at the event). There will also be daily intergenerational activities for all groups to play, worship & learn together. Adult Young Friends and High School participants will each have their own separate dorms. High School participants must attend with a parent or sponsor. Registration will begin in late May. See <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/yay/> for deadlines and more details..

MINUTES FOR FIFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

May 15, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Alberta Guise, Allison Mawle, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Brent Wolff, Elizabeth Lamb, Free Polazzo, Georgia Lord, Lissa Place, Lynn Leuszler, Glenn Plyler, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Karen Morris, Kevin Moran, Micheal Allison, Myrna Trapp, Nina Gooch, Paul Mangelsdorf, Richard Allen, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Terri O'Neil, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Fifth Month Query out of the worship:

Do you recognize the needs and gifts of each member of your family and household, not forgetting your own? Try to make your home a place of loving friendship and enjoyment, where all who live or visit may find the peace and refreshment of God's presence.

Source: Britain Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries #26

(<https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/1-02/>)

Discernment

Ministry and Worship- Bill Holland reported for Ministry and Worship

Minute 5-15-22:01- On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves and welcomes Lynda Kerr into membership.

Minute 5-15-22:02- On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves continuing our 10:00 am Meeting for Worship in the hybrid format for the foreseeable future. Ministry and Worship will continue to monitor and evaluate the Worship and recommend changes as needed. Our thanks to all who have worked to make this a space of worship.

Administration- Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee.

With longtime Young Friends Program Coordinator [YFPC], Aaron Ruscetta, stepping down as coordinator, an ad hoc committee of the Meeting was formed in late 2021 to look at possible revisions to the YFPC job description and the current description for the Young Friends Support Committee [YFSC]. The ad hoc committee -- Jennifer Dickie, Brent Woolf, Stoph Hallward, and Lisa Kruse -- has completed those tasks. Their recommended revised job description is attached, along with compensation recommendations for the new YFPC. They felt that the YFPC Support Committee description is adequate as is.

Administration will submit the revision to the Nominating Committee, which is responsible for maintaining the Meeting Handbook, so that Nominating can formally seek approval from the Meeting to include the revised description in the Handbook.

Administration is putting together a search/hiring committee for the YFPC; if you are interested in serving on that committee, please let Steve Collins know.

Minute 5-15-22:03-The Meeting approved the recommendation by the Administration Committee to lay down the ad hoc committee that was formed in late 2021 to review the current job description for the Young Friends Program Coordinator (YFPC) and the current committee description for the YFPC Support Committee. We thank the members of this ad hoc committee -- Jennifer Dickie, Brent Woolf, Stoph Hallward, and Lisa Kruse -- for their work.

Nominating- Lissa Place spoke for the Nominating Committee

Minute of Appreciation for Free Polazzo.

Minute 5-15-22:04 The Atlanta Friends Meeting would like to thank Free Polazzo for his work as a SAYMA representative. We would particularly like to thank him for his hard work during this difficult time.

The meeting is formalizing Lissa Place’s role as clerk of the Committee for Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting [CURAFM] that she has been performing for awhile.

Minute 5-15-22:05- On behalf of Nominating committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Lissa Place as Clerk of the Committee for Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting [CURAFM] for a three year term starting May 2022 - December 2024.

The nominating committee brought forward Alison Mawle as Southern Applachian Yearly Meeting and Association [SAYMA] representative. Because SAYMA Sessions & Retreat is happening before the next Meeting for Business and because Alison is well known in the Meeting, the nominating committee requested immediate approval.

Minute 5-15-22:06- On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Alison Mawle as SAYMA Representative for a 2 year term starting June of 2022- December 2024.

The nominating committee requested that the revised job description for the Young Friends Program Coordinator be approved immediately because of the need for the search committee to advertise the position with an approved job description. The clerk proposed a called meeting in June if Friends did not feel prepared to approve the revised YMPC job description today. Another friend asked instead to get a description of the changes. Jennifer Dickie, in her role as the clerk of the ad hoc committee to revise the YFPC job description, explained the changes and Friends felt prepared to approve the job description.

Minute 5-15-22:07- The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised Young Friends Program Coordinator job description.

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YOUNG FRIENDS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Purpose: Direct the Atlanta Friends Meeting Young Friends Program. The purpose of the Young Friends Program is to provide engaging youth activities based in Quaker faith and practice, connect youth to the Meeting and to each other; and provide a stable and healthy social support for youth in the AFM community. The Coordinator works with young persons in three age groups: upper elementary (3rd through 5th grades), middle school (grades 6 through 8) and high school (grades 9 through 12). Responsibilities will be dynamic with the needs of the Program and include Program development and implementation, volunteer coordination, and event leadership.

Supervised by: [Young Friends Support Committee](#) [YFSC]. Evaluation and determination of compensation will be coordinated between the Administration Committee and YFSC.

Responsibilities:

1. In collaboration with the YFSC, the Young Friends Program Coordinator [YFPC] is responsible for the development of and strategic long term planning for AFM’s Young Friends Program founded in Quaker faith and practice that includes opportunities for

- YF to engage in fellowship, worship, community service and activism. Solicits input from Young Friends, parents/guardians, and members of AFM and works with the YFSC.
2. Develops a calendar of monthly events [August - May] for 3rd through 12th grade Friends. Events may be designed with specific age groups in mind (3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th) and may also include some events across age groups. Leads or supports most of the events. Communicates with AFM office coordinator to schedule use of space when needed, Provides regular reports to Meeting for Business, and uses other forms of communication as appropriate such as the AFM newsletter and announcements.
 3. Communicates with AFM community including the YFSC, young Friends, parents/guardians, Religious Education Committee, and members of AFM through regular reports to Meeting for Business and using platforms such as the AFM newsletter and/or announcements.
 4. Engages with First Day School classes, as needed, to ensure that FDS participants are aware of and invited to YF activities and have met the YF staff person
 5. Maintains a list of approved Friendly Adult Nurturers and Drivers (FAN & FAD) to assist with all events. Helps YFSC to recruit FANs and ensures, with the help of the YFSC, that applications and background checks are completed according to AFM child safety guidelines.
 6. Coordinates FANs and parent volunteers for AFM Young Friend Program events.
 7. Develops guidelines with the help of the YFSC and ensures that AFM child safety guidelines are followed at the events, in particular with regard to adult participation, maintains emergency information for all participants, and reports to YFSC and parents as needed when problems arise;
 8. Coordinates AFM young Friends' involvement with SAYF by . . .
 1. Maintaining a relationship with the SAYF program coordinator and ensuring AFM YF are aware of and knowledgeable about the SAYF program.
 2. Organizing with Young Friends at least one SAYF retreat at AFM and acting as the lead FAN.
 3. Attending some SAYF retreats.
 4. Organizing transportation for YF to and from SAYF retreats as needed.
 9. Maintains records on the date and venue of events and the persons who attended;
 10. Maintains log of the time spent in planning, preparing, organizing, and attending events; and
 11. Maintains a first aid kit

Qualifications:

Program Coordinator Minimum Qualification

- Familiarity with Quaker faith and practice
- Experience working with school age youth and awareness of developmental needs of youth and children
- Ability to travel within the SAYMA region

- At least 24 years of age
- Weekend availability for young Friends events
- Comfort with electronic communication (email, teleconference, videoconference).
- Provide own phone with service and computer with internet access
- Successful completion of a mandatory background check in accordance with AFM Youth Safety policy

Program Coordinator Preferred Qualifications and Skills

- Highly organized person with excellent time management, communication skills, recruitment skills, and ability to meet deadlines.
- Willingness to be an active member in the life of Atlanta Friends Meeting
- Experience organizing activities for groups of school age youth
- Ability to maintain a spiritual presence, a sense of humor and perspective while responding to the needs of multiple constituents and dynamic programming.

Expected Time commitment

10-15 hours/week averaged over 10 months[August - May] including 3-4 SAYF retreats.

Compensation

Range based on 20-25 dollars per hour rate. Final salary commensurate with experience.

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Finance Committee- Paul Manglesdorf reported for the finance committee

Last month after a threshing session that was held on March 6th and much discernment, the Finance committee brought forward a recommendation for the use of the Kenworthy bequest. The committee is committed to hold a large portion of the bequest in AFM's reserves (the General Fund and the Permanent Improvement Fund) in addition the finance committee is seeking approval for the following:

Minute 5-15-22:08-In recognition of the Kenworthys' longstanding support for wider-Quaker organizations and for younger Friends, the meeting approves the creation of a special fund to be used to provide financial assistance to younger friends (including but not limited to Young Adult Friends and Young Friends) to attend meetings or gatherings or wider-Quaker Organizations. We approve the use of \$10,000 of the bequest for this fund. Ministry & Worship will be charged with distributing these funds.

The following minute was approved with changes that broadened the language to allow a subcommittee to address the needs of the meeting without being confined to specific requirements.

Minute 5-15-22:09-In recognition of the environmental impact of gas appliances and the age and condition of the current stove, the meeting approves using funds from the bequest to replace or upgrade the current stove with cooking appliance(s) that is environmentally friendly and appropriate for all of the uses that it currently has, paying for any upgrades to the electrical system as required and if necessary, replacing the existing exhaust vent. The Administration Committee is assigned the responsibility for selecting the appropriate cooking appliance and overseeing its installation.

Minute 5-15-22:10-The meeting approves providing the Landscaping Committee with up to \$10,000 to use to upgrade the grounds. We ask the Grounds Committee to find appropriate change(s)/upgrade(s) to the grounds that will be an appropriate memorial to the Kenworthy's. Funds will be held in the Permanent Improvement Fund until they are used by the Landscaping Committee.

Clerk's Items Bill Holland spoke for SAYMA Finance Minute.

At Second Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Bill Holland offered a minute for the meeting's discernment. The proposed minute is in response to a report from the SAYMA Finance Committee (brought to our attention by our SAYMA representative Free Polazzo in 11th month 2021).

1. The report calls our attention to SAYMA's "undesignated equity up to \$35,400" and requests recommendations on the best use of these funds. The source of these funds is our monthly meeting assessment. The undesignated equity exceeds prudent reserves.
2. The clerk has circulated the proposed minutes and my background document requesting comments. Based on the comments I have received and my further reading of SAYMA's minutes, I have revised the recommendation and the minutes.

The initial proposal suggested AFM request the funds be returned to contributing monthly meetings and that the distribution include the recommendation that returned funds be used for furthering reconciliation and reparation work. It is the second part of the proposal that elicited comments. Some Friends feel we should be more directive, others feel we should not tell other monthly meetings what to do.

The new proposal consists of two minutes. The first minute communicates to SAYMA our recommendation that the funds be returned to contributing monthly meetings. The second minute communicates our action to the monthly meetings in SAYMA, encouraging them to unite with us in requesting funds be returned and inviting them to engage in the work of reparations and reconciliation.

Minute 5-15-22:11- The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute to SAYMA.

Atlanta Meeting has received the report of the SAYMA Finance Committee that the Yearly Meeting currently is holding an undesignated equity of "up to \$35,400" with their request for recommendations on the use of these funds. Atlanta Meeting requests SAYMA return all the undesignated equity to contributing monthly meetings and worship groups in proportion to their recent contributions to be used as they discern.

Minute 5-15-22:12-The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minute to Monthly Meetings in SAYMA.

Atlanta Friends Meeting has received the communication of the SAYMA Finance Committee reporting the yearly meeting currently is holding an undesignated equity of "up to \$35,400" with their request for recommendations on the use of these funds. Atlanta Meeting has minuted our request that the funds be returned to contributing monthly meetings' and worship groups' for discernment. Atlanta Meeting invites you to unite with us in this recommendation. Atlanta Meeting encourages you to consider using these funds to further the work of reconciliation and reparative justice as we have been led to in our minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation (Minute 8-15-21:03).

Karen Morris Stood Aside as she is on the SAYMA Finance Committee.

Reports

Ministry and Worship -Bill Hooson spoke for the Ministry and Worship **Membership:**

Sa'ed Atshan's letter of transfer from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting has been received and we have welcomed him as a member of our Atlanta Monthly Meeting. We have received his certificate of release from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and a welcoming committee has met with him. Sa'ed has been attending meeting and offered his spiritual journey in April. We will welcome and accept Sa'ed Atshan into membership at the next business meeting.

David Small has requested membership in Atlanta Monthly Friends and has been approved by Ministry and Worship Committee.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Attn: Ministry and Worship Committee
C/O: Bill Hooson, Clerk

701 W Howard Avenue
Decatur GA 30030

Dear Bill,

I am writing to request consideration for membership in the Atlanta Friends Meeting and, by extension, in the Religious Society of Friends.

I came to this Meeting 7 years ago with my Goddaughter Sophia in search of a spiritual home for her and ended up finding one for myself. In that time, I have grown to love, respect, and admire the members and regular attenders of this Meeting, the larger Quaker community, and Quaker beliefs and process. Upon learning the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality, I have increasingly tried to incorporate these into my daily life. While seeing "that of God" in everyone may not be easy for me at times, I do try, and it slowly has become easier to do so.

I have self-identified as Quaker for several years now but increasingly this has made me feel uncomfortable as I claim to be Quaker but have not yet taken the steps necessary to formalize this relationship. I truly love the Atlanta Friends Meeting. It has become an important part of my life and I am now ready to take the next step in my Spiritual journey as a Friend.

Yours in Peace,

David Small

Social Concerns Committee- Glynn Plyler spoke for the Social Concerns Committee.

The Social Concerns Committee is hosting a ZOOM Discussion on Women's Reproductive Rights

1. At the last meeting of the SCC on May 10, 2022, it was proposed that we have a zoom discussion concerning Women's Reproductive Rights.
2. Purpose will be to discuss various opinions of SCC members on the issues.
3. Glenn will set up a Zoom meeting the week of 16 May 2022. Zoom info to be in the AFM announcement sheet.

Committee Corner

QVS Local Support Committee-Steve Collins shared a report from Jillian Eller, committee member, for the Quaker Voluntary Service Support Committee. QVS Atlanta is excited to welcome you to the QVS house in Grant Park on Sunday, June 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for a “Celebration of Collaboration” between QVS and Atlanta Friends Meeting. Come join and celebrate with us for the afternoon, mingle and spend some time with the Fellows and the current Local Support Committee (LSC) and support our space of gratitude for all that have helped support QVS here in Atlanta this year. You will be able to get a brief tour of the house as well. There will be light snacks and beverages. Due to technical difficulties, this will be an in-person event only. Please reach out to Rachael Carter (QVS Atlanta Coordinator) at rachael@quakervoluntaryservice.org, if you have any questions about the gathering. RSVP here for the house address: <https://forms.gle/aMTVSRKb9W7tk1TK7>. COVID protocols: We welcome unmasked, distanced interactions outside the house but require masking indoors.

Administration- Steve Collins reported an Atlanta Journal Constitution headline this past Tuesday read “Supply chain issues delay Georgia Power solar projects by a year.” We had been hearing similar things from Creative Solar, the firm the Meeting has contracted with for our solar panel array. But we just got word from them earlier this week that they have received our materials, and the installation team is working on laying out a schedule. We should expect a call from them soon to confirm a good start date.

Social Concerns Committee-Glenn Plyler reported for the SCC committee that members strongly support Green Friends South River Speaker Event on 22 May 10, 2022.

Please join the meeting for the Saving South River speaker Dr. Echols, 11:45, 22 May 2022. Same zoom link as Meeting for Worship

Announcements

- SAYMA Sessions and Retreat is June 16-19. Registration is due by May 20. SAYMA Sessions and Retreat Advance Program_and registration link are available at SAYMA.org
- Celebration of Collaboration” between QVS and Atlanta Friends Meeting at the QVS house in Grant Park on Sunday, June 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
- The Social Concerns Committee will hold a special Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 19 at 12 noon to consider opinions and beliefs concerning women's health and reproductive rights.
- Today May 15, 2022 at 4:00pm the meeting will host a blended memorial service for Betty Turlington.

Events in the Life of the Meeting

May 14th was the memorial service for Bruce Burton

Approval of Minutes from 4th month 2022

Minute 5-15-2022:13: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the fourth month minutes.

Closing Worship

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

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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

web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474

Clerk: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and share 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.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To receive weekly emails with details about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship and First Day School, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

Do you need a directory:

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! 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 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.*