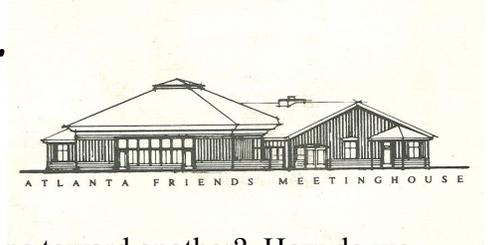


Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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



Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030

August 2012

Query: Do we live with a loving attitude one toward another? How do we show a concern for each other's well being, share one another's problems, and assist with material needs?

QVS BOARD APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; FIRST COHORT ARRIVES

The QVS Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Christina Repoley** as our Executive Director beginning August 1. Christina, a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting, has carried a leading to bring QVS to life for a number of years, having been part of the organizing team of the initial consultation that started the current effort, and as a member of the QVS board since its inception. She is a 2011 Master of Divinity graduate from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Since graduation, in addition to a considerable amount of time spent on the QVS startup, Christina has worked as the Program Coordinator for the Faith and Service Program of the Cousins Family Foundation, supporting and consulting with a national network of faith-based voluntary service programs. "Christina brings a strong calling for this work as well as considerable experience with and knowledge of voluntary service programs," says John Holding, clerk of the QVS board. "We are thrilled and grateful that Christina will be serving as the founding Executive Director of QVS."



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We are also pleased to introduce you to the **First Ever Cohort of Quaker Voluntary Service**. The Cohort will be moving to Atlanta at the end of August to begin 11 months of community living, Quaker practice, spiritual development, and work that contributes to the mission of several dynamic organizations in Atlanta. Their experience will be under the spiritual care of the Meeting and will be guided by the QVS Executive Director and Board. **Orientation begins August 27!**

Becca Bass graduated from Haverford College in May 2012 where she majored in Psychology and Educational Studies. Her senior thesis was titled "Transformational Processing of Negative Events Through Writing: An Experimental Manipulation." Becca has dedicated much of her energy to issues of education and education reform. She was a founding member of Buffalo ReformEd, an education reform policy nonprofit in her hometown. She was also the founding president of the Haverford chapter of Students for Education Reform. Becca lived in intentional community with the same group during her four years at Haverford. Introduced to Quakerism while at Haverford, she looks forwards to learning and experiencing more this year with QVS. Becca will be serving at Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, where she will work as a family services assistant, working with families to access the resources of Habitat for Humanity and engaging in community outreach and education.



Allison Letts graduated from Haverford College in May 2012 where she majored in Linguistics and Educational Studies. Allison has worked in the public school system in Philadelphia and has worked in a variety of educational settings. She worked for several summers with an organization called Achieving Better Control Diabetes Clinical Self-Management. Allison lived in Quaker House for three of her four years at Haverford, and served as co-clerk for the student Quaker community, managing budgets, organizing programs and events, and providing spiritual grounding for others. She was also a member of the Nurture and Care Committee for the wider community at Haverford. Allison will work as an Assistant Teacher in the children's program at The Frazer Center, our local community of children and adults with developmental disabilities where people at all levels of ability and disability learn together.



Justin Leverett graduated from the University of Kansas in 2010 with a degree in Journalism and French. Justin was active with the university newspaper and radio, and served as the President and Secretary of the Society of Professional Journalists on campus. He also oversaw and managed the food program for a fifty-member student housing cooperative. Justin has worked at summer camps, as a farm volunteer, and in a restaurant. Justin grew up attending both Quaker meeting and Jewish synagogue regularly and considers himself to be part of both faith traditions. He is active in Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting where he currently serves as Recording Clerk. Justin will work as the Communications Associate at Clarkston Development Foundation, whose mission is to work closely with refugees, immigrants, Americans and other stakeholders in Clarkston to create a thriving, multicultural neighborhood community supported by holistic programs and support services.



Kelsey McNicholas graduated from Guilford College in 2011 with joint degrees in Peace and Conflict Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology. Her honors thesis was entitled, "On Stories and Authority, Narrative as a Form of Resistance to Systemic Violence in U.S. Immigration Policy." While at Guilford, she was a member of the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program, she studied abroad in Mexico, she received the Newlin Award for Social Concerns from New Garden Friends Meeting, and she was a Bonner Scholar. She also organized an alternative spring break trip to the Mexico border with No More Deaths and she interned in the immigration program of the AFSC's Greensboro office. She currently works as a legal intake volunteer at the ACLU in Philadelphia. Kelsey, like Justin, will be working this year at the Clarkston Development Foundation as the Community Engagement Associate.



Liz Nicholson was raised in the West Richmond Friends Meeting and also attends First Friends in Richmond, Indiana. She graduated from Guilford College in May 2012 where she majored in Psychology and minored in Music. Liz was a member of the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program and served as Co-Clerk of that program, as well as taking other leadership roles in the community. She studied abroad in Ghana where she also worked as a museum guide, and she also worked as an intern in an affordable housing complex for seniors in Greensboro where she shared her gift of music. Liz, like Allison, will be working at The Frazer Center as a job coach in the adult program.



Lisa Scarpelli graduated from Earlham College in May 2012 where she majored in Peace and Global Studies and minored in Spanish and Hispanic Studies. Lisa volunteered at the Dayton Ohio International Peace Museum in the summer of 2010 and participated in Pendle Hill's Young Adult Leadership Development Program in the summer of 2011. She also worked as volunteer staff at the Independent Living Center of Richmond, Indiana for two years. Lisa will be working this year at Georgia Women's Action for New Directions, a grassroots, woman-led organization that seeks to direct women's voices into a powerful movement for change. Their mission is to empower women (and men) to act politically to reduce militarism and violence and to redirect excessive military spending towards unmet human and environmental needs.



Rebecca Sullivan is a lifelong Quaker and has spent her life living in intentional community. She graduated from Guilford College in May 2011 with a double major in Comparative Religion and Peace and Conflict Studies. While at Guilford Rebecca participated in the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program and served as the Co-Clerk. She also studied abroad in Kenya with the School for International Training. In Philadelphia, where she now lives, Rebecca has participated in the Emerging Leaders Scholars Program of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and is an intern with the Friends Rehabilitation Program as well as with Education Works. Rebecca will do her QVS service at the American Friends Service Committee's Atlanta office, and she will focus on AFSC's emerging work within Atlanta area schools.



Invest in QVS: Help Us Reach our Funding Goal

As we approach our launch, we are still working to reach the goal of \$10,000 that has been offered as a matching gift in 2012. Any gifts of \$250 or more will be matched dollar for dollar if we reach the \$10,000 goal. We have just over \$2,500 left to raise to meet that goal, so please consider a gift.

Checks can be sent to **Quaker Voluntary Service**, 668 Elbert St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30310. QVS is an incorporated nonprofit and has filed its § 501(c)(3) paperwork. This means that donations can be considered tax-exempt now, assuming we are granted tax exempt status before November 2013. We are confident this will be the case. If you have any questions, please contact the QVS website: www.quakervoluntaryservice.org.

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Help Us Find Lost Members

"As Membership Recorder, I've realized that we don't have addresses or other contact information for many of the people listed in our membership list as "Inactive." If you have information about any of the following people, please email me at ninagooch@gmail.com or call me at 404-451-5974."

-- Nina Gooch

Brooke Hopkins, joined 2000; Marlene Johnson, joined 2000; Leni Johnson, joined 2000
Thelma Leonard, joined 1978; Nicholas Butterfield, joined 1977; Steve Robert Watts, joined 1973
Paul Biehl, 1973; Martin Allen, joined 1972; Nancy Allen, joined 1972; Wood Smethurst, joined 1971

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
July 15, 2012
Recorded Pending Approval

After a period of silence, Mary Ann Downey presented a selection from *Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong* by Paulette Meier (2011).

Query: Bill Holland presented the query, “Do you use your leisure in ways that strengthen your physical, mental, and spiritual life? Do you avoid those habits and recreations that may prove to be harmful to yourself or others? How do you live that your spiritual growth, family, life, and the interests of your Meeting and community are given sufficient consideration and time?”

Attendance: Don Bender, Steve Collins, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Bill Holland, Chris Kohler, Elizabeth Lamb, Rick Martinson, John Roberts, Aaron Ruscetta, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Joan Thompson, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Maggie Wise, Mary Ann Downey (Acting Clerk), Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), (22 Friends)

Care and Counsel: On behalf of both Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship, Jenny Foster presented a proposal for an Annual Meeting for Welcoming Babies. This is a practice grounded in the tradition of Burundian Friends, and the idea has been well seasoned for about two years by an ad hoc committee comprised of Laura Norlin, Jenny Foster, and Georgia Lord to ensure that cultural adaptations could be made and that this tradition would be an appropriate pathway for Atlanta Friends Meeting. For families who voluntarily choose to participate, during a Meeting for Worship parents would have an opportunity to make public promises to their children while Friends in attendance have the opportunity to provide messages of their own to the children and the families in support of the parents’ promises. The following minute was approved:

Minute 12-07-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves holding a Meeting for Worship to take families with children under our care. We agree to witness and support the promises parents make to their children for their spiritual growth. We trust Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship with planning the best time and place for this special meeting.

Administration: On behalf of the Administration committee, Rick Martinson reported that the procedure for memorial plantings has been written, and will be sent to the discussion list and presented for approval next month.

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland reported that the meeting has received a request from Dean Leeper and Christina Repoley to be married under the care of the meeting. A clearness committee has met with them and found them clear for marriage. Ministry and Worship recommends the marriage be taken under our care. Following our usual practice, we ask the meeting to consider this recommendation over the next month and we will ask the meeting to discern if this is in right order at our 8th month meeting.

Quaker Quest: On behalf of the Quaker Quest planning committee, Bert Skellie gave an update on proceedings. The committee has agreed on the topics and has a list of presenters. Topics will include Quakers and the Worship Experience, Quakers and Peace, Quakers and Equality, and Quakers and Jesus. There will be a half-day workshop will held on Saturday August 4th, from noon to 5pm at the meetinghouse to make final plans. Friends are encouraged to attend this session.

In preparation for the public sessions, Friends are needed for help with social media, including the development and content of a website and Facebook page; with advertising; and with outreach. Assistance is also needed with videotaping the sessions and uploading the content to the web, as well as with providing food and welcoming seekers. Please contact Bert Skellie about ways in which you are led to help.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Sederberg reported that at the end of the second quarter, there is a deficit of \$13,157. Halfway through the year, we have received only about 34% of the budgeted contributions, while rental income is running about \$1,700 above target. Copies of the new SAYMA Guide to Faith and Practice were paid for out of the literature budget, and are available for \$10 from either Bill Holland or Jonah McDonald.

Friend in Residence: Don Bender reported that there were a number of qualified individuals who applied for the position, and that the committee has selected Erica Schoon to be the new Friend in Residence. She will begin in early September, and her mission will be working with QVS. Jim Tolmach (Clerk), Don Bender, Jonah McDonald Christina Repoley, and Beth Ruddiman served on the search committee.

Minute 12-07-02: With gratitude for their service, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves laying down the Friend in Residence search committee.

Approval of Minutes of Sixth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Minute 12-07-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes of Sixth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, with corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Downey, Acting Clerk
Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

* * * * *

Below is the graphic equivalent of a moment of silence. -- Eds.

August Adult Education

On August 5, we will hear Caroline Noyes offer her spiritual journey. We will devote the rest of the month to reading and discussing *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*. Copies of the book are available from Bill Holland and all are welcome. Here is an excerpt.

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"What to do in the Meeting for Worship," by N. Jean Toomer
From *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*

Ed. Hal Weaver, Paul Kriese, and Steve Angell
Philadelphia: QuakerPress, 2011

I never go to the meeting with an itch to speak, though it sometimes happens to me, as to others, that I am moved to speak before arriving at the meeting house. Even so, I usually restrain the urge until we have had at least a short period of silent waiting before God. One is vain indeed if he thinks that his words are more important than this waiting. If I have not been moved to speak before arriving, such an impulse, if it comes at all, is likely to arise after I have been waiting a while. It arises within my silence. An insight or understanding flashes into my mind. A prayer or a pleading or a brief exhortation comes upon me. I hold it in mind and look at it, and at myself. I examine it.

Is this a genuine moving that deserves expression in a meeting for worship or had I best curb and forget it? May it have some real meaning for others, and is it suited to the condition of this meeting? Can I phrase it clearly and simply? If it passes these tests, I regard it as something to be said but I am not yet sure it should be said here and now. To find out how urgent it is, I press it down and try to forget it. If time passes and it does not take hold of me with increased strength, I conclude that it is not to be spoken of at this time. If, on the other hand, it will not be downed, if it rebounds and insists and will not leave me alone, I give it expression.

If it turns out that the words were spoken more in my own will than in the power, I feel that egotistical-I have done it, and that this self-doing has set me apart from the other members of the meeting. I am dissatisfied until again immersed in the life of the group. But if it seems that I have been an instrument of the power, I have the feeling that the power has done it and has, by this very act, joined those assembled even closer. Having spoken, I feel at peace once again, warmed and made glowing by the passage of a living current through me to my fellows. With a heightened sense of fellowship with man and God, I resume my silent practices. . . . The message should form with the silence a seamless whole.

-- Originally published in *An Interpretation of Friends Worship*
(Philadelphia: The Committee on Religious Education of Friends
General Conference, 1947), pp. 20-27

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Calendar for Eighth Month (August) 2012

Area Meetings for Worship

- Every First Day (Sunday), 10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every First Day, 12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; Margaret Bray, 770-830-8705.
Every 2d and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
Every 2d First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
Every 4th Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.
Every 4th Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com.
First 5th Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
5th Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur.
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
6th Day (Friday) (2nd week of August through May), 8:45 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta.
Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

- Every First Day (Sunday)
9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education
9:15 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B
10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Silent Worship, Library
Every Third Day (Tuesday)
7:30 p.m. Silent Meditation, Meeting Room
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, 404-941-7337

Recording Clerk: Caroline Noyes

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309 Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, 404-762-3540

Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142 Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald

Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539; Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
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DECATUR GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
701 West Howard Ave., Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-2474; atlanta.quaker.org
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Clerk: David Foster, 404-941-7337; afmclerk1@gmail.com
Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309; afmtreasurer@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

If you would like to have a permanent nametag made, leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name and contact information to Nina Gooch at ninagooch@gmail.com or 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may be placed in the slot marked “Contributions” in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mailed to the Treasurer at the above address. Thank you!

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

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**DEADLINE FOR 9TH MONTH NEWSLETTER:
AUGUST 24**

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com **in plain text in the body of the email. Texts may be edited for length and format. Pictures should be in .jpg format.**