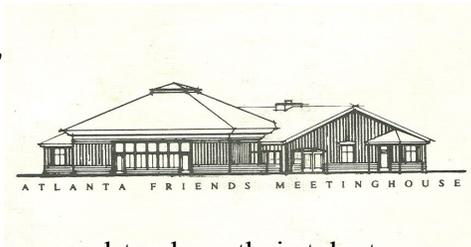


Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

September 2012

Query: Are all people in our Meeting encouraged to share their talents, abilities and/or financial support in the work undertaken by the Meeting?

A Tribute to Maggie Hasbrouck

August 12, 2012

[As written and read by Jennifer Dickie:] Friends, please join me for a few moments as we honor a long time First Day School Teacher who is retiring from her position after many years of joyful service to the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Today Maggie Hasbrouck taught her last regularly scheduled High School First Day class. I say regularly scheduled, because I already have her lined up to teach a one-month unit on silence to the middle school young friends this winter, and she has volunteered to substitute for Jonah and Dana in the coming year as they take over the High School Classroom. So she is not leaving, just stepping down so that the gifts of others might shine in the sacred space she has helped to create for our Young Friends.

As I was thinking about how long Maggie has been teaching first day school, I realized I didn't really know. I think she started teaching when I did, back in '95 or '96, but I didn't really know her then, so maybe she had already been teaching. I panicked a little and thought, well, I don't need dates, I can just say, "Maggie has been teaching the high school First Day School class for as long as I can remember!" and be done with it. How long Maggie has been teaching, however, is less important than *how* she has been teaching.

What makes Maggie such an extraordinary teacher and guide is her ability to be present in the lives of young Friends. Maggie once told me that she didn't really miss sitting in Meeting, because the First Day school room where she spends every First Day, a place most of us have never even visited, is so filled with the spirit that she considers that a spiritual home. She has been touched by and touched the lives of scores of young people, many of whom are grown now with jobs and children of their own.

What tells me she is effective in her work is that sometimes young friends arrive alone on Sundays, having left parents at home sleeping or busy with weekend chores, or even at other churches; sometimes young friends bring friends, girlfriends, and even boyfriends to join them in First Day school. As a parent of a teenager and a nearly teenager, I can appreciate this influence. And often they come back -- even from college -- to join the high school class for a couple of weeks.

I think I know why. When I have a question or a concern or a joy, I love to tell Maggie. She is a listener -- a deep and abiding listener. And man can she make you think! She is a questioner -- a thoughtful and serious questioner. She never makes you feel like you can't figure it out. She supports you as you explore the possibilities. And she believes in the Light inside you and inside her and inside all of us, which shines brightly in her as she seeks to find that of God in each person she encounters.

For each young Friend whose life she has touched, and for each of us, Maggie is someone special. I'd like you to think for yourself, who is Maggie Hasbrouck? Perhaps she is someone who listened carefully to a story you told at potluck, or spoke wisely at a Friend's School board meeting. Maybe she is the person who always sits here so straight and tall. And of course she is the person who has left Meeting with the children, every first day for the past 17 years.

I invite you to join me for a moment thinking of Maggie. Please take a minute to hold the image of her, or a moment you remember, or a feeling she inspires in your heart. Let's hold Maggie Hasbrouck in the Light as we thank her for the many hours of service she has given us.

COMING SOON: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Children, Sept. 30

After a well-seasoned period of consideration by Worship and Ministry and Care and Counsel, followed by approval of Business Meeting, AFM will hold the first of an annual Meeting for Worship with Attention to Children. For 2012, as the inaugural year, it will be held on, September 30 at 10 am. In future years, this may be held as a specially called meeting at a different time than Meeting for Worship. In the future, the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Children will only be for children who are new, or newly transferred, into Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Similar to a Meeting for Worship for Marriage, the Meeting with Attention to Children is a time when parents who wish to make promises of their specific commitments to their children, in the presence of Friends, may do so. The first 15 minutes will be in worship, and then a Friend will clerk. For those families who wish to participate, the clerk will name the child. Then parents who wish to speak aloud their promises to their children may do so. Friends will then be invited to a time of continued worship, offering vocal ministry as they are so led. At the close of worship, each child will be provided a certificate, and we will encourage them to ask adults to sign their certificate. The full content of the clerk's words are below. Parents who wish to participate with their children are asked to contact the Ad Hoc committee (Mary Jahntz, Laura Norlin, Georgia Lord, Jenny Foster) as soon as possible for planning purposes.

"Our children are given to us for a time to cherish, to protect, to nurture, and then to salute as they go their separate ways. They too have the light of God within, and a family should be a learning community in which children not only learn skills and values from parents, but in which adults learn new ways of experiencing things and seeing things through young eyes." -- Elizabeth Watson, 1980

Promises by the Meeting Community:

- Will you promise to welcome these children as full participants in this spiritual community, forming a community learning together across all ages?
- Do you acknowledge that these children bring many valuable gifts to our community and that we would be the poorer without the love, insights and questioning they provide?
- Do you promise to see our children as individuals we want to know and care for, and provide opportunities when they can get to know and care for us, growing together through sharing prosperity and adversity?
- Do you recognize that this Meeting as a whole shares a responsibility to impart to every child within it those values and practices that are central to our practice as Friends?
- Will you always strive to be mindful that the manner in which we live our lives should serve as patterns, as examples, of the Light within, teaching by example how to speak and to listen with love?

We welcome these children into this spiritual community!

[At this time, any parents who wish to make promises or wishes on behalf of their children may do so.]

We rejoice in the presence of children in our Meeting and recognize the gifts they bring!

We close with a period of silence, during which I ask each of you to hold in the Light all of the parents and children that we have acknowledged today. Each child will be given a certificate that contains the text of the promises this Meeting has made today. I ask all of you from the Meeting to sign each of these certificates as your acknowledgement that these children are part of our Meeting community.

[Text for certificates: Whereas, _____, child of _____ and _____, has been acknowledged as a part of the spiritual community of the Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, this is to certify to whom it may concern, that on this _____ day of the _____ month, in the year _____, _____ appeared in a meeting for worship of the Religious Society of Friends, at which Members and Attenders of the Meeting declared that they promised, with divine assistance, to [insert text of promises made by Meeting as a whole]. And we, having been present and entered into these promises, as further confirmation thereof, then and there, to this certificate set our hands.]

* * * * *

Come to Quaker Quest public sessions and tell others about them!

The Meeting welcomes the public to a series of programs this fall. All sessions are on Sunday afternoon. The topics are “Quakers and Peace” on Sept. 23 and Oct. 28, “Quakers and Worship” on Sept. 30 and Nov. 4, “Quakers and Equality” on Oct. 7 and Nov. 11, and “Quakers and Jesus” on Oct. 14 and Nov. 18. Each gathering will involve several Quakers sharing their experiences on the day’s theme. It will also include sharing by all participants, discussion and 30 minutes of Quaker worship.

We look forward to sharing with the Atlanta community our views on some of the underlying values of Quakerism. We offer this series with open doors and open hearts. Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. followed by the program from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Children are welcome. Childcare will be offered.

Friends are invited to any or all of the Quaker Quest public sessions whether you’ve been coming a long time or are a relative newcomer yourself. We’ll need at least 10-15 Quakers per session to greet newcomers, bring snacks, facilitate small group discussions, answer questions, visit with newcomers, or clean up. Please consider when you can come and how you can help. Please also spread the information about the public sessions as widely as possible. For more information or to sign up to help, contact Bert Skellie [bertskellie@gmail.com]. We’re excited about these opportunities to deepen and broaden the life of our spiritual community while welcoming more people to learn about Quakers.

Workshop for Quaker Quest presentations

We will be holding a workshop on Saturday, Sept 15 from 1- 2:30 pm at the meetinghouse for those people who have already signed up to be a Quaker Quest presenter or who are interested in presenting their views on the Quaker way in the future. We will have an opportunity to choose, prepare, and practice speaking informally on one or two topics selected for our public sessions (see above). We will use the presentation model from Friends General Conference focusing on positive language, Quaker quotes, and personal stories that relate the topic to our spiritual journeys and Quakerism. For more information contact Karen Morris, Sue May or Denny Webster.

* * * * *

More Lost Members

Thank you to those who have sent me information about "lost members," people listed as inactive members for whom we have no addresses or other contact information. Here are a few more. If you have information about any of these people, please email me at ninagooch AT gmail DOT com or call me at 404-451-5974: Mary Ann Horne, joined 1998; Beatrice Roosa, joined 1967; William Roosa, joined 1967; Neva Webb, joined 1967; Mary Truan, joined 1964; Dale McConathy, joined 1962; John Bross, joined 1959; Elizabeth A. Shields, joined 1959; Senono E. Shields, joined 1959; Ann Moore, joined 1957; Elliott Moore, Jr., joined 1957.

Adult Education for September

On September 2, our Friend Muireann Brennan will speak about how the Meeting and being a Quaker affects her work with refugees and displaced persons affected by conflict famine and other emergencies. On September 9, Gabriel Ehri, Executive Director of Friends Publishing Corp (publisher of Friends Journal) will speak at the Adult Religious Education hour from 9-10am, as well as at a forum 11:45-12:45, on "As New Ways Open" about the evolution of the media landscape and the place of the Quaker message in it. He will engage Friends in a discussion of what needs the Quaker community has from its own media. From September 16-30, we will read and discuss "As Way Opened: a History of the Atlanta Friends Meeting 1943-1997." Copies of the book are available from Bill Holland and all are welcome.

Atlanta Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business August 19, 2012 Recorded Pending Approval

Query: Bill Holland presented the 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?"

Attendance: Micheal Allison, Muireann Brennan, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Jenny Foster, Nina Gooch, Clive Gordon, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Chris Kohler, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn E. Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Becky Lough, Alison Mawle, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Ron Nuse, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Jim Tolmach, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Pat Williams, Maggie Wise, David Foster (Clerk), Steve Collins (Acting Recording Clerk) (30 Friends)

Administration: On behalf of the Administration committee, Karen Morris presented a Minute on Memorials. Approved by Administration in 6th month, 2012, and amended following Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business that same month, this minute clarifies and updates procedures regarding planting and scattering of cremated remains on our grounds. It also reaffirms the Minute on Decedent's Ashes approved in 9th month, 1995.

Minute 12-08-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minute on Memorials, with minor wording changes, to be incorporated into the Meeting's Handbook. [The text follows:]

It is the intent of Atlanta Friends Meeting to help find sites for unmarked memorials on our grounds (including the watershed area) for members and attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting as long as space allows and in accordance with the Meeting's landscape plan. The memorials may include plantings and/or the scattering or unmarked burial of cremated remains of loved ones. This minute clarifies and updates procedures regarding memorial plantings and scattering of cremated remains.

-- Requests for scattering or burial of cremated remains and/or memorial plantings, including specimen and location, shall come before the Landscape committee for approval. Requests shall be quickly approved provided the request is consistent with the 1995 minute, the current Landscape Plan, the requirements of the State of Georgia, and this minute.

- Requests that depart from the Landscape Plan shall be reviewed by Landscape and Administration committees. Approval may not be given if the planting detracts from or is not considered beneficial to the plan. Other considerations may include care of the planting and relationship to adjacent plantings.
- Memorial activities, whether public or private, shall be scheduled with the Office Coordinator so as not to conflict with other events at the Meeting house.
- For approved memorial plantings, the Landscape committee shall record the specimen, location, and the name of the decedent in the Landscape Plan and report the action to Meeting for Business.
- Specimens and planting shall be paid for by the person requesting the memorial. The Landscape committee shall provide advice and references as needed.
- Memorial plantings, scattering and burial of cremated remains do not imply perpetual burial grounds that may impede or prevent the future use of the land by AFM or others. A significant portion of current AFM land is leased from MARTA, and while there are no current plans for doing so, AFM may, at some future date, relocate its Meeting facilities.
- Burial of a vessel containing cremated remains will not be approved.

The Landscape Committee shall maintain a Landscape Plan approved by Administration committee, and/or the monthly Meeting for Business.

- The Landscape Plan will contain current memorial plantings including the location, specimen, and the decedent. If and when a specimen expires, the Landscape clerk will remove reference from the Landscape Plan and report the action to Meeting for Business.
- The Landscape Plan will identify locations available for future memorial plantings along with information about suitable specimens for each location that do not require extraordinary care and are compatible with local conditions.

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland asked the Meeting to take under its care the marriage of Christina Repoley and Dean Leeper. Their marriage request was brought before the Meeting at 7th month Meeting for Business.

Minute 12-08-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the taking under its care the marriage of Christina Repoley and Dean Leeper.

On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, who have consulted with the couple, the formation of a marriage/joining committee is also proposed.

Minute 12-08-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the formation of a Marriage/Joining committee for the marriage of Christina Repoley and Dean Leeper, consisting of Hannah McDermott, Laura Norlin, Maia Hallward, Stoph Hallward, and Dana Goldman.

On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill asked the Meeting to approve a minute of remembrance for the life of Don Bayliss.

Minute 12-08-04: A Meeting for Worship to remember the life of Don Bayliss (1962 – 2012), who died in a paragliding accident, was held on August 18, 2012 at Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Social Concerns: On behalf of the Social Concerns committee, Bert Skellie asked the Meeting to approve the transfer of funds from the 2012 budget of the Social Concerns committee to the Refugee Fund. A Friend reminded us that any contributions to Atlanta Friends Meeting that contributors wish to go to the Refugee Fund specifically should be so noted in the memo line of the check.

Minute 12-08-05: The Meeting approves the transfer of \$500 from the 2012 budget of Social Concerns committee to the Refugee Fund. It also affirms the principle that requests for these types of transfers come before Meeting for Business for approval.

Betsy Eggars asked the Meeting to consider moving the responsibility for managing the Refugee support fund from Social Concerns to Care and Counsel. She will contact Care and Counsel so that they can season the request; that committee can then bring a minute to Meeting for Business.

Nominating: On behalf of Nominating committee, Steve Collins brought forth Jim Tolmach for clerk of Meetinghouse committee, serving through 2015. Final approval will be sought in 9th month.

Quaker Quest: On behalf of the Quaker Quest ad hoc committee, Bert Skellie gave an update on the series of public sessions planned for this fall. All sessions will be on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:30, with topics on “Quakers and Peace” (September 23 and October 28), “Quakers and Worship” (September 30 and November 4), “Quakers ad Equality” (October 7 and November 11), and “Quakers and Jesus” (October 14 and November 18).

The committee has updated the Meeting’s web site and created a Facebook page, which Friends were encouraged to “like.” Radio advertising and a new banner in front of the Meetinghouse are also planned. Friends were asked to contact Bert or others on the committee if they can help with publicity or assist at any of the public sessions.

Approval of Minutes of 7th Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Minute 12-08-0x: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes of 7th Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, with a notation added clarifying that copies of the new SAYMA Guide to Faith and Practice are available for \$7.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Foster, Clerk

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Entering the Life of the Meeting

One of the duties of the Meeting’s Nominating Committee is to “encourage all attenders and members to enter the life of the Meeting through the various opportunities to serve.” Have you found a way to serve yet? For 2013, several positions will need to be filled, including Assistant Clerk of Meeting, Recording clerk, and various other committee and Meeting representative positions.

Any one of these ways to serve could be a very enriching experience for someone. Please talk to a member of the Nominating Committee (Folami Adams, Steve Collins, Herb Edwards, Karen Gold, Roland Heath, Heather Jeziorowski, and Beth Ruddiman) if you have any questions about ways to “enter the life of the Meeting.”

Calendar for Ninth Month (September) 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

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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 10TH MONTH NEWSLETTER:
SEPTEMBER 22**

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.**