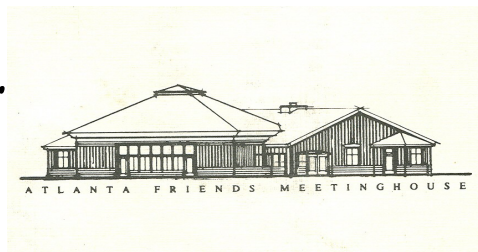


# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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 2013

**Query:** Do we listen to others, even beyond words, being sensitive to their personal needs and difficulties? Do we regard our possessions as given to us in trust and do we part with them freely for the needs of others? Are we careful to keep our jobs and social activities from absorbing time and energy that need to be given to spiritual growth and service to others?

### *As First Year of QVS Closes, We Prepare to Welcome New Volunteers*

The first year of Quaker Voluntary Service comes to a close at the end of July. It has been an incredible year and we are so grateful for all of the loving support shown to Allison, Lisa, Justin, Becca, Liz, Rebecca, and Kelsey. We are pleased that several of them will be staying in Atlanta, and we will greatly miss those who are moving on. Below are the photos and bios of the 2013-2014 QVS Atlanta Volunteers, who will arrive in late August. QVS will also welcome seven Volunteers to Portland, OR and eight Volunteers to Philadelphia, PA. Our work is growing! To learn more about all of them, and our work, please visit [www.quakervoluntaryservice.org](http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org).

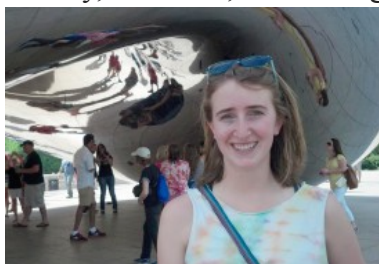
### *2013-2014 QVS Atlanta Volunteers*

#### **Anthony Alexander**

Anthony Alexander graduated from Ursinus College in May 2011, where he majored in American Studies with a Sociology concentration and minored in Religious Studies. Throughout college, he was actively involved in community service, We C.A.N. (the campus social justice organization) and Sigma Pi Fraternity. He also spent the fall of his junior semester studying abroad in London at SOAS, University of London. Anthony has gained experience through volunteering at various nonprofit organizations, including: ACLU of Pennsylvania, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Catholic Charities, the Center for the Visually Impaired, and Habitat for Humanity-North Central Georgia. Although he has lived in the Philadelphia area for a while, Anthony is happy to return to his hometown of Atlanta, where he will be working at the Frazer Center, serving adults and children with developmental disabilities.



**Amy Greulich** Amy graduated from Haverford College in May 2013 where she majored in Religion with a concentration in Peace, Justice, and Human Rights. Her senior thesis focused on notions of identity, narrative, and belonging in the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She interned with the TRC in the summer of 2012 through Haverford's Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, and revisited Maine in February 2013 for the signing ceremony of the five TRC commissioners. Much of her college career was devoted to the Sneetches Ultimate Frisbee team, a group of women at Haverford and Bryn Mawr committed to a community of love, support, and betterment



of ultimate skills and team cohesion. As co-captain, she led the team through many tournaments, organized practices held four to five times a week, managed finances, ran a spring break training trip in South Carolina, and facilitated team bonding throughout the year. Amy will be serving at the Friends School of Atlanta as the Elementary Assistant.



### **Lara Wik**

Lara Wik grew up in New Castle, Delaware, where she attended Wilmington Friends School during her younger years. She graduated from Rice University in May 2013 with a BA in Religious Studies. During her undergraduate career, Lara's two greatest interests were interfaith work and education. While attending Rice, she worked for The Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance to coordinate undergraduate programming and assist in youth and community initiatives promoting interfaith awareness in Houston. Lara's passion for education has led her to teach in a number of settings, from a school for refugees and immigrants in Norway, to YES Prep Charter school and an after school program at a Southern Baptist church in Houston, to a private school in Taiwan. Lara's journey in education continues to develop in her QVS placement as a middle school support teacher at Friends School of Atlanta this year. Though not a "convinced" Quaker, Lara has felt drawn to Quakerism for years and can't wait to explore the faith in more depth through Quaker Voluntary Service. Lara will be serving at the Friends

School of Atlanta as the Middle School Assistant.

### **A.J. Mendoza**

A.J. Mendoza graduated from George Fox University in May 2013 with a double major in Political Science and History. While at school he was a founding member and first President of a student organization called Common Ground, a club that is dedicated to supporting and creating a safe space for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer students. He continues to carry this concern and is passionate about sharing the stories of LGBTQ students at Christian colleges and ensuring that they receive understanding and have the means to meet their needs. A.J. was raised in the Pentecostal tradition but he is now a convinced Quaker and is a member of West Hills Friends in Portland Oregon. He actively visits other meetings within the evangelical Northwest Yearly Meeting as he seeks to grow in understanding of Quaker testimonies and process. A.J. will be serving at Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, where he will work as a Family Services Outreach Assistant, working to inform potential new homeowners of the resources and programs of Habitat for Humanity.



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### **Alice Erickson**

Alice Erickson graduated from Bryn Mawr College in May of 2013 with a degree in mathematics, and a minor in Italian. For many years Alice has been interested in exploring education outside of the traditional large classroom environment, and she has worked extensively with Hickman Charter school (a charter school California that serves homeschoolers), as well as working with the Exploratorium in San Francisco on developing homeschool programs and a girls science workshop. Alice was raised in Berkeley Friends Meeting, and during her time at Bryn Mawr she attended the worship group at Haverford College and served on their Nurture and Care committee. In recent years she has become interested in becoming more involved in the national and global Quaker community. Alice will be serving at the Frazer Center, working with children and adults with developmental disabilities.



### **Jessica Zipin**

Jessica Zipin graduated from Haverford College in May of 2013 with a degree in Psychology and Child and Family Studies. Her senior thesis was entitled “Inspiration from Meditation: Investigating the Relationship between Mindfulness and Creativity.” Jessica grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, and was first introduced to Quakerism as a high school student at Sandy Spring Friends School. While at Haverford, she spent all three summers working at a Quaker overnight camp in Medford, New Jersey, which taught her appreciation for Quaker values and the unique communities that they foster. In addition to her time as a camp counselor, she has enjoyed working with children as the coordinator of a program which trains Haverford students to teach writing skills to nearby middle school students. Jessica is really excited to begin her QVS placement at the Kindezi School in Atlanta, GA.

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### **Find Out More About the Alternatives to Violence Project**

The AFM Prison Concerns working group (part of Social Concerns) is pleased to announce that on August 10, 1 – 4 pm facilitators from Nashville Friends meeting will be doing an introduction to The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). This is a program developed originally by Quakers, but open to anyone and used in prisons, schools and communities to reduce the level of violence in our society, by transforming violent situations through attention to positive personal interactions. The introductory workshop will show us some of the aspects of the program. Come and experience the healing power of the AVP curriculum. AVP is taught internationally as well as nationally. For instance the recent edition of Friends Peace Teams newsletter mentions the work of AVP as part of the healing process for communities in Guatemala and Nepal. Learn about the history and development of the program. Learn

about the process of becoming a facilitator. More importantly, come and have fun with us!! The workshop will be held in the Meeting Room. For those wishing to pursue more training, our hope would be to arrange for the 3-day basic training workshop at a later time. Please RSVP to Jonah McDonald, Office Coordinator, Atlanta Friends Meeting at [afmqakers@hotmail.com](mailto:afmqakers@hotmail.com) or 404-377-2474. Please spread the word about this important opportunity. You can learn more about the Alternatives to Violence Project at their website: <http://www.avpusa.org/>.

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### **"It is in giving that we receive . . ."**

During our meeting for worship with attention to business in April 2012, we agreed to take the Quaker Voluntary Service Atlanta project under our spiritual care, trusting that we would live into the gifts and challenges of this commitment. The first group of seven volunteers arrived in August and are now in the final weeks of their year of QVS service. They were all recent college graduates who dedicated a year to live in community, work in nonprofit service agencies, be open to transformation and learn about Quaker faith and practice. The organizations served this year were Clarkston Community Center, Habitat for Humanity, American Friends Service Committee, Frazer Center, and Georgia Women's Action for New Directions.

Our support took many forms with most of the early ones being practical gifts of money and furniture to get a beautiful rental house ready. We found beds, chairs, sofas, and a dining table, essential kitchen equipment and pantry staples along with a required popcorn popper and picnic table. Friends offered dinner invitations, swim parties, led hikes and workshops, donated books and enjoyed finding many ways to welcome and be involved in the life of QVS. One way we offered spiritual support was through pairing each volunteer with one meeting Friend in the role of spiritual nurturer. The volunteer and nurturer met at least monthly to consider the everyday joys and concerns volunteers faced living in multiple new communities: their QVS house of 7, our meeting community, their work community of staff and those served, and all this navigating the Atlanta metro community. Our spiritual nurture for QVS has been like the traditional role of meeting elders that Friend Jan Hoffman described as being midwives for the ministers, discerning, calling forth and supporting the gifts of emerging ministers, trusting the value of being present to the Light within, offering guidance and encouragement.

Working together to offer support for QVS brought us together in new ways and strengthened our community even before the volunteers arrived and continued all year. Their presence in meeting for worship, and meeting for business, sharing stories of spiritual journeys at Adult First Day, hosting welcome dinners for us, caring for children at the meeting retreat, being greeters on First Day, attending SAYMA, getting to know many Friends and becoming fully a part of the life of the meeting gave back to us as much or more than we gave. We've learned from them more about living in community, serving others, being transformed and deepening our faith as we translate it into practice. Our journey together this year reminds me of the words from the prayer of St Francis, "For it is in giving that we receive."

**STOP PRESSES! The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), was asked during Yearly Meeting business proceedings to shepherd a Minute on the Israeli – Palestinian conflict which was approved by Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting (North Carolina) through all of the Meetings and Worship groups in SAYMA with a sense of urgency. The Minute will be brought before the Business Meeting in July for consideration, with possible changes and approval, as Spirit leads, in August. An ad hoc subcommittee of the Social Concerns committee responsible for bringing this forward is composed of Pat Williams, Kathy Johnson, Micheal Allison, Free Polazzo and Karen Morris, and will work on any suggestions offered before bringing it back to the August Meeting for Business. This group notes that the AFSC has historically been involved in the Israel-Palestine conflict and has written its own guidelines, "Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel." You may also wish to refer to the AFSC website for more information. <https://afsc.org/story/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-explained>**

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**July 21, 2013**  
**Recorded Pending Approval**

**Attendance:** Michael Allison, Paul Baker, Steve Collins, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Clive Gordon, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Karen terHorst Morris, Caroline Noyes, Beth Ruddiman, Erica Schoon, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, David Foster (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (23 Friends).

**Clerk's Readings and Reflections:** The Clerk read an excerpt from Bill Taber, "On Ministering to the Meeting for Business" (Friends' Journal 3/1988). **Query:** Bill Holland presented the query: "How does my life reflect Friends' beliefs and thus encourage others to be interested in the Religious Society of Friends? Are our Meetings accessible and welcoming to everyone? When our Meetings for Worship are attended by visitors, are they welcomed warmly? Do I respond openly to inquiries about Quaker experience and belief?"

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Bill Holland brought forward for final approval Coryn Murphy for membership. The minute was approved.

**Minute 7-21-13-01:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the membership of Coryn Murphy in the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Bill Holland reminded meeting that in April of 2012 Meeting minuted that we would take under our spiritual care the first project of Quaker Voluntary Service in Atlanta. We asked Ministry and Worship Committee to review our experience and bring a recommendation to Meeting at this meeting. Ministry and Worship has received reports from QVS and at our last committee meeting had the opportunity to meet with Mary Ann Downey and Christina Repoley, who shared the positive reactions that have observed from the Meeting to the presence of QVS.

**Minute 7-21-13-02:** Atlanta Meeting has been enriched by the opportunities to share in the development of Quaker Voluntary Service in its first year and to form community with the first class of QVS volunteers. We joyfully minute our continued commitment to the spiritual care and nurturance of Quaker Voluntary Service. We look forward to welcoming the next class of volunteers in August 2013. We thank our Meeting members and attenders who serve in staff and volunteer roles. We ask the Ministry and Worship Committee to bring relevant reports and requests to Meeting as need arise. We welcome opportunities to give and to receive.

Bill Holland presented the following Report from SAYMA Annual Gathering.

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association held our annual gathering** at Warren Wilson College from June 13-16 around the theme "Let us see what Love can do." We will receive the minutes and Epistle later this summer. Fifty five members and attenders from Atlanta meeting registered and attended the yearly meeting gathering. There were business sessions, opportunities for worship, plenaries and workshops. Young Adult Friends, SAYF and Young Friends were active. Michael Kramer and Jennifer Dickie led the Junior Yearly Meeting program.

There were two plenary speakers addressing the theme of the gathering. **Max Carter**, Maia's father, spoke on Thursday night about his over 40 year involvement with the Ramallah Friends School beginning when he served his alternative service. On Friday, **Herb Walters** described Rural Southern Voice for Peace.

There were 25 workshops offered. Six workshops were led or co-led by members of our meeting including: **Richard Allen**, who led a workshop playing his "2000 years ago in Jerusalem" piano composition; **Roy Taylor**, who led a workshop on imagining the future; **Julia Ewen**, who offered a workshop on how the justice system would look from God's perspective; **Christina Repoley**, who led a workshop on QVS that included contributions by the volunteers and **Mary Ann Downey**; **Bonnie**

**Horton** of AFSC, along with **Sarah Walton** and **Bert Skellie**, led a workshop on organizing against mass incarceration. **Maia Carter** participated in a workshop on middle east peace. SAYMA was the usual rich mélange of business, inter-visitation and cross-fertilization.

**Finance Committee:** On behalf of the Finance Committee, Peter Sederberg presented the financial reports for the second quarter of 2013. He reported that contributions (as a percentage of budget) are still running behind the same period in 2012. Rental income, however, is doing very well.

**Administrative Committee:** Peter Sederberg reported that the building and grounds improvement project is continuing slowly as we await the necessary permits to begin work. There have been meetings with the city committees and the recommended revisions have been made to the plans, so we hope to be able to begin work in mid-August. The Smart Toddlers Program has been asked to select the equipment for the playground within a \$5000 - \$7000 cost range. They have agreed to use the front lawn as an alternative to the playground during construction in the fall. Peter reminded the Meeting that in the design all major trees will remain in place, but the “trash trees” and undergrowth will be removed. Once all necessary permits have been obtained, the committee, designer and engineers will have a timeline which will be presented to the Meeting for further discussion and discernment. They will schedule an informational meeting to share the plans with all those interested.

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Beth Ruddiman brought forward Bill Holland for SAYMA Representative. His name will be brought forward for approval next month.

**Social Concerns/Green Friends:** On behalf of the Green Friends and the Social Concerns Committee, Pat Williams brought forward a Minute received via SAYMA Peace and Social Concerns Committee (2013) which was adopted by Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting concerning the Israeli-Palestine conflict. [Space limitations prevent us from printing the minute here. – Eds.] Pat reported that the Social Concerns Committee and the Green Friends have unity of spirit with the minute, although not necessarily with all of the details, and have approved shepherding it through discernment in Atlanta Friends Meeting. As part of this process an ad hoc working group has been formed to determine how best to educate the Meeting about the Israeli- Palestine situation, to receive input from members and attenders of AFM, and to modify the Minute as we see fit to bring forth for discernment by the Meeting. Members of the ad hoc working group are Kathy Johnson, Michael Allison, Free Polazzo, Karen Morris and Pat Williams. Anyone interested in joining the group is encouraged to do so. The overall process is this: Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting brought the Minute to SAYMA seeking wider input; SAYMA distributed copies to all member meetings; each member meeting (including AFM) is encouraged to discern which parts of the Minute they are led to adopt and report back to the Representatives meeting; the Representatives meeting will then forward everything back to SAYMA. The sense of the Meeting today was that on this very important issue we need to move forward while allowing adequate time for seasoning, without a rigid timeline. To that end AFM approved the following minute:

**Minute 7-21-13-03:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting asks the ad hoc Working Group for the Minute on the Israeli-Palestine Conflict to convene a gathering of interested Friends to consider the Swannanoa Valley Minute and to discern what further preparation is needed in order to season this concern for our faithful discernment.

**Minute 7-21-13-04:** The Minutes for the June 2013 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with a correction to the spelling of Carol Gray’s name in Minute 6-16-01 presented by the Nominating Committee.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk; David Foster, Clerk

## Calendar for Eighth Month (August) 2013

### 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 Second and Fourth First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.  
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.  
Every Second First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.  
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.  
First Fifth Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.  
Every Fifth Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons,  
Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, berts kellie@gmail.com.  
Sixth Day (Friday) (2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Library  
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 Third Day (Tuesday)  
7:00 p.m. Silent Meditation, Library  
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)  
7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship, Library  
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

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Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com  
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com  
Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358  
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280  
Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539  
Care & Counsel: Don Bender, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com  
Religious Education: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING  
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**ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING**  
**701 West Howard Ave., Decatur, GA 30030**  
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**Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; afmquakers@hotmail.com**  
**Clerk: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com**  
**Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@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.*

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**DEADLINE FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> MONTH NEWSLETTER:  
AUGUST 21**

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.**