

THANK YOU!

It means so much to us that you have taken the time to celebrate with us. Thank you for being a part of our beloved community.

With love and gratitude,

Christine
and
Erick

Use the link to share any photos or videos!



Persons in our hearts

Félix Gaído Castellanos, Florencia Susana Velásquez viuda de Gaído, Carmen Ondina Gaído, Roberta Rose, Mike Alesia

WELCOME TO
THE WEDDING OF

**CHRISTINA
CASTELLI**

and

**ERICK
PEÑA**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

DURHAM FRIENDS MEETING

404 ALEXANDER AVE, DURHAM, NC 27705

Thank you for being here to celebrate with us!

A Quaker wedding ceremony will be new to many here, so we have written a description here to ensure that you feel comfortable and invited to participate in the way that best suits you!

If you've walked in and sat down before picking up two stones from the front table, please skip to the "Our Take on the Traditional Ceremony" section for more guidance. This will lead you to get your stones and return to your seat.

The Traditional Quaker Wedding Ceremony

The traditional Friends marriage ceremony is striking in its simplicity: during a called Meeting for Worship, the couple stands and says their vows to each other without the help of a third person, and thus enters into a binding relationship in the presence of their community.

The custom of not giving the bride away was adopted by the Society of Friends in its early days in affirmation of Friends' recognition of the equal status of men and women. The custom of having the marriage pronounced by the couple themselves, and not by a minister or other official, reflects Friends' devotion to the personal relationship each of us has with Spirit, without need for mediation or interpretation by others.

The signing of the marriage certificate by the couple towards the end of the service is comparable to being pronounced man and wife. The signing of this document, beautiful in its wording, is a significant part of the wedding procedure.

A typical Meeting for Worship is unprogrammed. Any person may, if they feel called to share a message, stand and speak. Friends do not share their names, as these messages are from the Spirit. It is typical to allow a bit of time (at least a minute) after each message to allow it to settle. Longer periods of silence are common. We encourage you not to consider this an "awkward silence", but rather a gathered time of thought, meditation, and holding space for each other and for the Light.

Our Take on the Traditional Ceremony

Friends often use the phrase "hold in the Light" when they are considering someone with loving kindness and care. As such, we encourage you to choose two matching stones from the table in front as a symbolic gesture of holding us in the Light. Each one is a different color and represents a different blessing that you would like to hold for us. We ask you to hold these matching stones during the ceremony - one will be for you, and one will be for us.

There are tables with small bowls set throughout the meeting space. You may choose to stand and walk to place your stone in one of these bowls for us as a complement after your spoken message, or in place of a spoken message. You may also choose to hold the stone the entire time, and share it with us on your way out. We will make our stones into a piece of art that represents the sum of your blessings for us. You holding us will become something that we ourselves can hold.

We will complete our vows to each other within the first 15-20 minutes. After that time, children are invited, but not expected or required, to head downstairs where childcare is available. An adult can leave with the children to help get them settled and then return.

After the Ceremony

After the ceremony concludes, those present are asked to sign the certificate as evidence of their witnessing the beginning of the new relationship. **Please prioritize this!** This is not a guest book, but a formal representation of our commitment. The certificate will become a cherished possession. As such, **please do not bring food or drink near the certificate while signing it.**

The certificate will stay in the worship room for some time as guests leave the room and you may choose to sign it there. As the room clears, it will be moved to the fellowship room and be available there for continued signatures.

There will be a receiving line immediately outside the worship room. It will make sense for some to move directly to cake, and loop back later to the receiving line. Clean-up will begin at 3:30. Formal photos will also begin at 3:30, so the family of the bride and groom are asked to remain until this time.