

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

November, 2010



Monthly Query:

How do we celebrate as a community? As a faith community, how do we embody Friends' testimonies so that others might want to follow them?

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Upcoming Forum Schedule

- Nov. 7 Personal sharing - Judy Purvis
- Nov. 14 "Quaker Advocacy in Palestine"
- Betsy Brinson and Gordon Davies
- Nov. 28 Questions of Faith - small group discussions
- facilitated by Jan Hutton and Dan Darnell
- Dec. 5 Personal sharing - Barbara Williamson,
transferred membership from Evanston, IL

IFC Needs and RSVP Day

Don't forget: **November 9** is RSVP Day! Dine out at participating local restaurants and contribute funds to the IFC. Don't forget breakfast, second breakfast, lunch, high tea, supper, and dessert! For a complete list of items needed by IFC facilities, visit the IFC website at www.ifcweb.org/foodneeds.html.

Youth Camp Out: Sign Up Now!

CHFM middle and high schoolers are invited to a DFM camp out Nov. 13, 5 pm thru noon Nov. 14 at Jordan Lake. Expect great food, canoeing, smores, camp fires, tent camping as well as showers and indoor plumbing! We also may need at least one female adult and one male adult from the meeting to accompany the kids. There is a small charge for the trip for food, etc. - \$15 per participant. The deadline is past so contact Wren ASAP if you are interested, or if you have questions. Contact Wren Hendrickson at 602-1587 or Wrenhendrickson@aol.com.

Input on Quaker House Welcomed

The October 24 forum gave people a chance to give input on Quaker House, its past impact and suggestions for the future. Chuck Fager, its director, will retire in two years, and this is an opportunity to listen closely to monthly meetings and how Quaker House might be fulfilling the Peace Testimony. The survey below lists some of the queries we are asking. Those who could not attend the forum are welcome to respond to any or all of these and send via email (or U.S. mail) to Curt Torell (curtnpatty@aol.com).

Queries or Focus Questions on Quaker House - Top 10 List Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, Oct. 24, 2010

The purpose of the succession planning focus groups is threefold:

- Ø Help Quaker House identify and hire a new Director.
- Ø Ensure a smooth transition in the process of Chuck's retirement and the appointment of a new Director (Dec. 2012).
- Ø Use this succession planning process as an opportunity to strengthen and link the work of Quaker House, especially listening to the needs and concerns of our constituents.

Quaker House:

- 1) What have been Quaker House's greatest successes? What is its best "product" or "service"? What are its distinguishing characteristics, particularly those that must be maintained into the future?
- 2) In what ways has Quaker House helped this Meeting with its testimony of peace, or in other ways? What impact has it had during the last 40 years?

- 3) In what ways could Quaker House better help this Meeting?
- 4) What could Quaker House do differently or better? What are its mistakes; what has it done wrong?
- 5) In your opinion, what are the current and future needs of Quaker House?

The Search Process:

- 6) How might we start identifying candidates?
- 7) How might we go about advertising for this position? Where might we advertise [both Quaker groups (monthly and yearly meetings) and non-Quaker groups (On Earth Peace, Hotline community, etc.)]?

The Broader Context:

- 8) What other organizations might we use as benchmarks, either as demonstration of their successes or as example of failures to avoid?
- 9) In what ways, if any, should Quaker House adapt to, or even address, the expanding Military/Industrial/Political Complex or the changing demographic, political, and economic conditions in this country?

For attention at future CRE, YRE, and middle and high school FDS classes:

- 10) How might we engage young people in this work?

CHFM Toilet Paper Goes Green

By Emily Nelson

Hello Meeting Folk,

We have some good news in regards to our toilet paper and paper towels, they are now green! Not in color, but in process. We have made the switch as a meeting to recycled, non-chlorine

bleached, made in America products. As a Meetinghouse, it is good for us to make steps toward becoming better stewards of nature. According to the Natural Resources Defense Counsel, if every household in America replaced one roll of toilet paper with a 100% recycled roll, that alone would save 423,900 trees. If every household replaced one roll of paper towels with a 100% recycled one, that would save 544,000 trees. And if every household in America replaced one package of napkins with a 100% recycled version, that would save one million trees!

The tree fiber collected to be used in toilet paper comes mostly from the ancient forests of North America. They go into and destroy these ecosystems because they claim that virgin wood creates a softer product, and most consumers want the softest product available. But are we aware of the true cost? The bleaching process used in standard American toilet paper releases harmful chemicals into our air and water, it also can lead to health problems such as cancer. One can imagine the remote regions where these forests are still large enough to carve out for industry. Thinking of the ecosystems, the plants and animals, who make their home in these forests and thinking of the important role these trees play in the harmony of natural global balance, it is good to be aware of the option we have to not cut them down.

If you would like to consider making the change in your own home, you can visit <http://www.nrdc.org/land/forests/gtissue.asp> for information on product choice. To find information on the bleaching process, visit <http://www.conservatree.org/paper/PaperTypes/CFDisc.shtml> For more information on these forests, please visit <http://www.nrdc.org/land/forests/tissue.asp>

Thank You,

Emily Nelson, on behalf of Environmental Concerns &
Buildings and Grounds

Coalition to Unchain Dogs Fence Built!

By Robin Harper

Our spaghetti supper paid off--the fence for which we raised funds has been built and the video made. (The fence was actually built very shortly after we donated the funds back in May, but we've just now received the video documenting the event.) You can view this video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWDDEObwn9k>, or just go to YouTube and do a search for "Baby, Precious, & Roxy." This video documents particularly good examples of the change that occurs after unchaining, and why I always stress to people that this work is all about ENDING SUFFERING.

We raised \$500 at the spaghetti supper, which covers the cost of spaying or neutering, basic vet care, vaccines, and a fence for one dog. So you may be wondering why we were able to unchain three dogs instead of just one. Because there were three dogs to neuter, the Coalition got a "bulk rate." In addition, because these dogs all belonged to the same owner, they only needed one fence. The fence needed to be bigger for three dogs, but not three times bigger. So, more bang for our buck--Ended Suffering Times Three.

Learn more about the Coalition at unchaindogs.net

Reminder from Library Committee

The Library Committee reminds members and attenders to return materials to the library within one month. If an item is kept out longer, it is not available for someone else to borrow, and it is more likely to be misplaced.

Reminder from Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality committee would like to find volunteers who would be willing to provide an occasional meal for an individual or family within our Meeting who might be in need of one. If you are interested in being put on a list of volunteers that we can contact when in need of meals, please respond to Gwynne Pomeroy at pomeroy@mindspring.com. Thank you!

A Brief Overview of Jainism

By Emily Buehler

(The following is a summary of Chapter 4 of the book “What the Great Religions Believe” by Joseph Gaer, from the Meeting library. I’ve used masculine pronouns since that’s what the author used.)

At first glance, Jainism appears similar to Buddhism. An Indian prince, Vardhamana, excelled at princely skills and exhibited courage, so they called him *Mahavira*, or the Great Hero. He studied the Hindu texts, then married happily. When he was 29, his parents died a “holy death” by starving themselves. Upset, the Prince took a 12-year vow of silence and became a beggar-monk, wandering the land to meditate on human suffering and salvation.

At the end of his vow of silence, Mahavira began preaching and attracted followers. The religion he founded is called *Jainism*, meaning “Religion of the Conquerors.” The Jains sought to conquer only themselves. Like Buddha, Mahavira accepted the Law of Karma (from good must come good, and from evil, evil), belief in

Reincarnation, and ultimate release in Nirvana; he rejected the sacredness of the caste system, salvation by prayer, and the absolute truth of the *Vedas* (Hindu texts).

But while Buddha believed that man's soul is part of the World-Soul, Mahavira preached that each man's soul is individual: he who conquers himself, conquers all. This conquest is achieved through self-denial, asceticism, and renunciation of desire and worldly ambitions. Self-denial is balanced out by right conduct toward others--not only humans, but all living things. *Ahimsa*, which means "non-injury" but implies a reverence for all life, is the core of Jainism.

After Mahavira's death, his followers collected his sermons into the sacred books of Jainism, called *Agamas*. One book contains proverbs, such as, "There are three ways of committing sins: by our actions, by authorizing others, and by approval," "He who is purified by meditation is like a ship in the water that avoids all dangers until it reaches the shore," and a version of the Golden Rule.

Jains adhere to Five Commandments: Do not kill any living thing--even in self-defense; do not steal; do not lie; do not live an unchaste life or become intoxicated; and do not desire anything. Jains are vegetarians and noncombatants in wartime. They cannot become butchers, farmers (who kill worms when plowing), or fisherman. If they are prosperous, they do not indulge desires; they perform regular acts of charity. They tolerate suicide in old age. They believe women cannot enter Nirvana, but if they lead good lives, practice charity, and learn to conquer themselves, they can be reborn as men and find the way to Nirvana.

Jainism has never spread outside of India.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
October 17, 2010**

Friends began the meeting with worship on the query: *How does my life reflect the joy of living in the Spirit? In what ways does my daily life demonstrate Friends' testimonies so that others might want to follow them?*

Approval of minutes from previous meetings

Friends **approved** the minutes of the September 9 and September 19 meetings for worship with attention to business, as published in the newsletter.

Fiscal year financial report

Judy Purvis, treasurer, gave the fiscal year 2009-10 report. Donations were slightly lower than what we had budgeted, but when combined with building rental income, our total income was higher than budgeted (\$72,308.44 vs \$69,530). Total expenditures were lower than budgeted (\$63,913.51 vs \$68,730).

As of the end of the year, the meeting paid all benevolences in full. As of June 30, our funds held in the Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) include:

*Bequest: \$6,444.57

*General Fund: \$17,287.50

*Physical Plant Reserve Fund: \$11,170.97

In addition, the Meeting has a checking account at the Bank of America. Once the 2009-2010 bills and benevolences were paid, we had about \$36,389.94 in this account.

Other notes: The contingency fund was used in 2009-10 to pay for a projector and related equipment. YRE raised enough money from Football parking to cover all of their expenses, thus effectively “donating” their budgeted amount back to the meeting.
Friends accepted reports with thanks.

Treasurer’s Quarterly Report

Judy Purvis gave the first report of what will now be Quarterly (rather than Monthly) treasurer’s reports.

During the first quarter, the Meeting took in \$9,167 in contributions, \$565 in building rentals, and \$896 from parking. In addition, a restricted gift of \$10,000 from the late Christy Morgan, given before her death, was put into the Physical Plant Replacement Fund, as requested by Christy.

Friends accepted reports with thanks.

Peace & Social Concerns

Asta Crowe reported that Peace & Social Concerns recommends supporting the “Against the Tide” documentary about inmates returning to public life with \$100 from the contingency fund. The makers of the documentary - who offered a forum at the Meeting earlier this year - hope to finish it by the end of November but need additional money for marketing and distribution. The Meeting can also be a sponsor of the documentary without providing financial help. Friends are encouraged to give individual tax-deductible donations to this effort.

The Meeting **approved** sponsoring the Against the Tide documentary about inmates returning to public life.

The Meeting also **approved** providing \$300 from the Contingency Fund to help with costs of distributing the documentary.

Hank Elkins added a happy addendum to this effort, explaining that Peace & Social Concerns has approved a small grant to Bill Rasor, one of the inmates highlighted in the documentary who works part time as a

carpenter and who is also a photographer, for him to attend a Durham Technical College class on digital photography.

Letter from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

Although the Meeting is not a member of SAYMA, our youth attend their youth group (Southern Appalachian Young Friends, SAYF). About two years ago, the YRE Committee began contributing to SAYMA to help support the SAYF program. Recently, the meeting received the following letter from SAYMA:

To our Friends at Chapel Hill Meetinghouse

Many thanks for your recent financial contribution to our Southern Appalachian Young Friends SAYF program. At each of our retreats during the year we have a few teens that are unable to pay the retreat fee (for most retreats this is \$2500). Your assistance assures that they are still able to attend the retreat and that the planning committee of each retreat can still have the money they need to provide food, activity supplies and pay for an occasional workshop presenter.

Personally, I have been the SAYF administrative assistant for over 9 years.

During that time I have gathered in my head and heart many individual stories of teens that have grown and matured through their years with SAYF. I have watched teens who feel alienated at their schools come to SAYF and feel an acceptance and love not felt elsewhere in their lives. I have watched the Steering and Nurturing Committee face challenges as they arise and use them to teach Quaker process and to reinforce Quaker values. I have watched our Young Friends take ownership of their SAYF community and provide leadership to assure its integrity and emotional safety.

Your contribution helps us financially. It also encourages us to appreciate our joys and to face our concerns with good Quaker modeling.

Many Thanks

Therese Hildebrand, SAYF administrative assistant

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming events:

- Clerks retreat Nov 6 - every committee should send a rep.
- Request for directory changes
- Opportunity on Nov. 15 to attend a conversation between inmates and released inmates who have re-entered public and family life. Contact Asta Crowe or Hank Elkins for details
- Environmental Concerns Committee showing "Food Inc." this coming Saturday.
- "Souls to the Polls" rally on Oct. 30, 9:30 - 12:30
- Oct. 29, Linda DiLorenzo will present readings from her Journal, accompanied by Faye Stanley. The event, held at Carolina Friends School, is free, but contributions to help cover Linda's medical expenses as she fights cancer are encouraged.

Bridging the Faith subcommittee – report from Curt Torell: "We continue to nurture our contacts, gather and share information about Islam, and promote forums and events for our Meeting. A resurgence of Islamophobia across our country and even locally makes our work more relevant. Many Muslims are feeling more protective of their faith and reluctant to speak out publicly. As a subcommittee, we will share our progress with Peace & Social Concerns and seek their guidance and direction as we move forward with our subcommittee's charge. We will continue to support our local Muslim brothers and sisters as they find a way to secure a place for worship.

Friends noted that a Muslim group is ready to make application to rent our Meetinghouse for Friday prayers.

Attending: Judy Purvis, Ann Kessemeier, Beth Kurtz-Costes, Kitty Bergel, Dottie Heninger, Asta Crowe, Ruth Hamilton, Emilie Condon, Ken Grogan,

Tom Munk, Jennifer Leeman, Larry Tabor, Anne Smith, Deborah Gibbs, Lynn Drake, Ruth Zalph, Marilyn A. Dyer, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Bettie Flash, Pamela Chevalier, Dirk Kelder, Maria Darlington, Curt Torell, Nancy Milio, Ann Miller, Sarah Grime, Carolyn White (clerk), Marsha Green (recording clerk)



Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

- Sun. 11/7 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:30am Forum: Judy Purvis Personal Sharing
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
12:30pm **Potluck & IFC donations**
Environmental Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse
- Tue. 11/9 7:30–8:30pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
- Fri. 11/12 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sat. 11/13 NOTE: Football Parking
- Sun. 11/14 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:30am Forum: Quaker Advocacy in Palestine
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
- Tue. 11/16 7:30–8:30pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
- Wed. 11/17 10am Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
- Fri. 11/19 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sat. 11/20 NOTE: Football Parking
- Sun. 11/21 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:30am **Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business**
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
- Tue. 11/23 7:30–8:30pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
- Fri. 11/26 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sun. 11/28 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:30am Forum: Questions of Faith (small group sharing)
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
10pm **Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!**
- Wed. 12/1 10am–12pm Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
- Thur. 12/2 9am–1pm CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
- Fri. 12/3 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 12/5 8:30am
9:30am
11am
11am
12:30pm

Meeting for Worship (Early)
Forum: Barbara Williamson Personal Sharing
Meeting for Worship (Late)
Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse
Environmental Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse



**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends**

531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
929.5377

Meetings for Worship at 8:30 and 11:00am

Forum at 9:45am

Child Care from 9:30am–12:15pm

First Day School from 11:15am–12:00pm

Clerk of the Meeting: Carolyn White (967.4926)

Resident: John Hite (929.5377)

This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. The deadline for submissions is evening, last Sunday of the month. Please email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org, or call Emily Buehler at 475.5756.

To send Meeting News and In The Light announcements via email, or to get your name on our listserv, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org.

This and past issues of the newsletter are available online at www.chapelhillfriends.org. To get items posted on our website, send the information to news@chapelhillfriends.org.