

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter



August 2009

Monthly Query:

How well do we apply the testimony of simplicity to our individual lives, to the responsible use and the distribution of natural resources, and to the protection of the planet from the ravages of exploitation and pollution? Do we have reverent respect for all forms of life on the earth we share?

Contents:

Summer Forums.....	2
Quaker Women's Gathering.....	2
Multigenerational Games.....	2
Open House at Rape Crisis Center.....	2
Fall Events at CFS.....	3
Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.....	3
Folksinger Carrie Newcomer.....	3
Compassionate Listening Workshop.....	3
Information on Ann Riggs' Request.....	4
Volunteer Needed for NC Legal Aid.....	5
Reading Machine Needed.....	5
Minutes from Business Meeting.....	5
Directory Updates.....	10
Calendar	12

Summer Forums

Please consult the Meeting's website (chapelhillfriends.org) for any information regarding late-breaking summer forums!

New Location for Quaker Women's Gathering

This twice monthly gathering (first and third Wednesdays at 10:00am) will start meeting at the home of Bettie Flash (Carol Wood #157; 969-4491).

Extended Multigenerational First-Day Games II.

Sunday, August 9, starting at 9:45am

On the 26th day of Seventh Month, we held our first extended Multigenerational First-Day Games. Friends between the ages of 5 and 65 played Masterpiece, Rummikub, Othello, Caves and Claws, Monopoly, Dominoes, Balancing Aliens, Enchanted Forest, etc. On the 9th day of Eighth Month, in the multipurpose room, John Hite, Tom Munk, Leslie Rountree, and Rachel Leeman-Munk will host Multigenerational First-Day Games II. We will start after early worship (9:45am) until folks fade away in the afternoon. This program will serve as Forum and as the First Day School program. People of all ages are welcome to come and go as their schedule and interest dictates. If you think you might get hungry, please bring a bag lunch.

Open House at Rape Crisis Center

Monday, August 17, & Thursday, August 27

After 14 years at their N. Estes Drive location, the Rape Crisis Center has moved down the street to The Center professional building at 1506 East Franklin St., Suite 303. Please join them at one of their upcoming open

houses: August 17, 11:00am – 1:00pm, 4:00 – 7:00pm; or August 27, 12:30 – 2:30pm, 4:00-7:00pm. For information about volunteer opportunities, contact the Center at 968-4647, visit www.occcc.org or email info@occcc.org.

Fall Events at CFS

Sunday, August 30

Mark your calendars for Carolina Friends School's Community Back-to-School Picnic!

Quarterly Evening Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Thursday, September 3, 7:00pm

Everyone is invited to join us for the Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business! Please come be a part of our Meeting's work.

Folksinger Carrie Newcomer

Saturday, September 5, 3:00pm

We thought Friends might enjoy knowing that folksinger Carrie Newcomer will perform at Cary's Sertoma Amphitheatre on 801 High House Road. She is a wonderful performer—"I love Carrie Newcomer. 'The Geography of Light' is full of gorgeous arrangements that frame her soulful vocals, and the song 'Geodes' will make you catch your breath with its wisdom and beauty."—Mary Chapin Carpenter.

One-Day Introductory Compassionate Listening Trainings

Saturday, September 26, or October 24, 9:30am – 5:30pm

How can I be a peacemaker in my daily life and in the world?

As peacemakers, we learn to move beyond a mindset that dehumanizes and demonizes the "other," seeking instead to listen, to feel compassion for, and to see ourselves in the "other," the "other" in ourselves. Compassionate Listening

is a practice that reaches deep into the heart of discord, teaching people to listen with a different “ear” to those around them.

Come explore these core practices of Compassionate Listening:

Having compassion for oneself and others

Suspending judgment

Maintaining balance in the heat of conflict

Listening with the heart

Speaking from the heart with language that reflects a healing intention

Location: Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, Chapel Hill, NC

Cost: \$25 - \$75, sliding scale, according to need (no will be turned away)

Contact Jan Hutton for info and registration:

janhutton@earthlink.net, 919-967-1959

The Compassionate Listening Project, www.compassionatelistening.org

Jan Hutton, MSW, a certified Compassionate Listening facilitator, believes in supporting wholeness in each human being. Over the last 38 years, she has served as a community organizer, social worker in hospice and hospital settings, meditation teacher, and, she hopes, a “kind” person.

Learn more about Ann Riggs’ Call to Work in Africa and Friends’ Responses

At the past two Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business, the Meeting considered a request from Peace and Social Concerns Committee to use Social Action Grant funds to support Ann Riggs’ work in Africa. This question will be brought again to a future meeting for decision. Several Friends have submitted documents to aid the Meeting with its discernment. These documents can be accessed on the Meeting's webpage and include a history of the Social Action Grant funds, documents from Ann Riggs describing the work she plans to do, and a letter from a meeting member. You can access the materials at (chapelhillfriends.org/ARiggs/).

Volunteer Needed for Legal Aid of NC

I am a member of the Meeting and I work for Legal Aid of North Carolina in Pittsboro, NC. Unexpectedly we have become short-staffed and are in desperate need of a volunteer to answer telephones (and other office duties if the volunteer is interested). This could be a great summer project (with service-learning credit) for a high school student. The volunteer would gain experience in legal office management and poverty law. Like many non-profits we are working on a short budget with an increasing number of clients. Please contact me at (919) 414-1894 or by email marie.hopper@gmail.com if interested. —Marie Hopper

Funds Sought for Reading Machine

Lauren Tappan is looking for anyone interested in a project to secure funding for a SARA reading machine for the Chapel Hill Public Library or for Carol Woods. The SARA costs about \$1800 and is a very easy-to-use reading machine that can read all kinds of text. It can also translate into other languages and can put text into Braille. Lauren hopes that securing seed money for the machine might encourage more donations. Anyone interested should call Lauren at 919-929-5256 or email at laurenandjay@mindspring.com.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business July 19, 2009

Opening Worship

The meeting opened with open worship on the following query: How well do we apply the testimony of simplicity to our individual lives, to the responsible use and the distribution of natural resources, and to the protection of the planet from the ravages of exploitation and pollution? Do we have reverent respect for all forms of life on the earth we share?

Approval

The meeting approved the minutes for the June 21 Meeting with a spelling correction to Ruth Zalph's name, and the addition of a missing parenthesis.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Purvis, treasurer, gave an overview of the meeting's finances, noting that the figures are not yet final for fiscal year 08-09, which ended on June 30, since not all bills, deposits, and reports have been received. Finance committee hopes to provide an end-of-year report in August.

Looking at "the 30,000 foot view" Judy pointed out:

- * Contributions are up. This reflects Finance Committee's extensive efforts to talk with members throughout the year and the multiple meetings for business that have focused on budget concerns.
- * Reserves are down – like most everyone, the meeting was hit by the market decline. Reserves include the General Fund, the Bequest Fund, and the Physical Plant Replacement Fund.
- * Chapel Hill Friends Meeting met our budget for fiscal year 08-09, with a small surplus.

Looking at "the 10,000 foot view" Judy went on to explain:

- * Total income for fiscal year 08-09 was \$81,886 (which includes about \$7,000 of football parking). As of the end of March, the meeting had taken in \$66,340. The contributions in the final three months of the fiscal year were considerably higher than the same months in the previous year, helping to account for the greater than expected income
- * Total Expenses paid out so far for fiscal year 08-09 are about \$53,400, with outstanding checks of around \$570. We still owe 50% of our benevolences (\$14,805), and \$3000 in internal transfers (\$1,500 to the leadership development and \$1,500 to the physical plant fund). If

you add all those together, it comes to expenses of about \$71,775, set against our total income of \$81,886.

* The net surplus of ~\$10,000 was created by increased giving and by \$3,900 in unspent committee funds (including \$2,500 from YRE, which was not used because they raised so much from football parking and other donations)

* The net surplus of \$10,000 includes money that can be used for the meeting's discretionary funds, which were to be funded at \$3,000 for the environmental concerns discretionary fund, and \$3,000 for the social action discretionary fund.

In a quick overview of our Reserves, Judy pointed out that:

* We have lost some money in our reserves because of the market downturn

* Some money that should be moved from reserves (bequest fund and physical plant replacement fund) to the general fund has not yet been moved because it involves selling shares, and currently that would mean taking a loss.

* As of 3/09 the amounts in the funds were:

- \$8,115 in the Bequest Fund (of which \$4,300 is scheduled to be moved to the general fund, leaving the remainder is to be used for the Spiritual Enrichment of the meeting, as agreed upon earlier.)
- \$8,400 in the Physical Plant Replacement fund (of which \$3,000 is scheduled to be moved to the general fund)
- \$8,900 in the general reserve fund.
- These funds do not include money in the Leadership Development Fund, the Shotts Fund and the Care and Counsel Fund. These funds are not tracked as part of the Meeting's annual budget, but are overseen by other committees.

Based on this information, the Finance committee brought to the meeting two recommendations:

1. That we fully fund all of our benevolences (including internal funds such as the physical plant replacement fund and the two discretionary funds) for 2008-09.
2. That for our 2009-10 budget, we maintain the overall budget at \$68,000, recognizing that if contributions remain strong, we can always revisit the budget mid-year, but that \$68,000 is a conservative estimate about how much money we will be able to raise during the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Friends approved these two recommendations, with thanks for the work of the finance committee.

It was noted that neither discretionary fund had been actually spent in 2008-09 fiscal year, but if we agree to spend the money soon, it can be retroactively applied to the 2008-09 fiscal year budget. The Clerk also noted that the meeting needs to schedule a future discussion about the discretionary funds and how they work and whether we need to change our practices, based on questions that were raised in June.

Recommendation from Peace & Social Concerns for a Social Action Discretionary Grant

Hank Elkins, for Peace & Social Concerns, recommended to the meeting that \$2000 from the Social Action Discretionary Fund be used to support meeting member Ann Riggs in her ministry to serve as director of the Friends Theological College (FTC) in Kenya.

Hank Elkins read a letter from Ann Riggs describing her calling. One Friend brought and shared a written statement stating her inability to join with this concern because the college is supported by Friends United Meeting, which has a hiring policy that is discriminatory against homosexuals, a position with which our meeting disagrees. Other

Friends spoke about the need for kindness and caregiving and the fact that many groups whose policies we don't agree with nevertheless do excellent work in the world, which we can support. Other Friends spoke about the need to reach out and work with people we disagree with, and about Ann's excellent ecumenical work and the knowledge that Anne is not in agreement with the discriminatory hiring policy. Other Friends spoke of the great need for peace work and work on AIDS/HIV in Africa. Ann's letter, along with the letter written shared with meeting by one Friend, and other documents regarding this decision, are available online at www.chapelhillfriends.org/ARiggs/.

Because our meeting time was drawing to a close, the clerk expressed her appreciation for Peace & Social Concerns Committee bringing this forward, and for the thoughtful responses of those attending. The clerk asked members and attenders to contact Hank Elkins with additional questions, and asked the meeting to continue our discernment.

The meeting ended with a moment of silent worship.

Attending:

Mike Green, Judy Purvis, Jan Hutton, Catherine Elkins, Lloyd Kramer, Buffie Webber, Wren Hendrickson, Ken Grogan, Jeff Brown, Larry Tabor, Dottie Heninger, Bettie L. Flash, Lynn Drake, Robin Harper, Marilyn A. Dyer, Ruth Zalph, Anne Smith, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Maria Darlington, Julia Cleaver, Emily Condon, Nancy Milio, Asta Crowe, Don Hopper, Mila Seckinger, Carolyn Stuart (clerk pro tem), Marsha Green (recording clerk)

Directory Updates

ADDITIONS:

AGATHA BUELL
agathabuell@gmail.com

NANCY JEANNECHILD
Njeannechild@aol.com
601 Jones Ferry Road A19
Carrboro, 27510

JACKIE MARKS
jackie.s.marks@gmail.com
1808 Rolling Rd.
Chapel Hill, 27514
942.0892

SARAH MENDOZA
sarahdoza@yahoo.com
207 Napa Valley Way
Chapel Hill, 27516
407.761.7708

KATHY MOORE
CIARAN POLLEN
info@cslldurham.com
490.3174

AMANDA POE
amanda722@gmail.com
403 Copperline Dr.
Chapel Hill, 27516

CHANGES:

CATHERINE ELKINS
celkins143@gmail.com

BILL MCDONNELL
VANGIE FOSHEE
McDonnell.William@earthlink.net
1207 Hillview Rd.
Chapel Hill, 27514
967.1219

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: Jennifer Leeman (929.9135)
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 James and Robin Harper at 768.9870.

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.

Monthly Query:

How well do we apply the testimony of simplicity to our individual lives, to the responsible use and the distribution of natural resources, and to the protection of the planet from the ravages of exploitation and pollution? Do we have reverent respect for all forms of life on the earth we share?

Calendar: (All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 8/2	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC Sunday - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
Tue. 8/4	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 8/5	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash's Home
Thu. 8/6	11am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 8/7	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 8/9	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Multigenerational Games - Multipurpose Room
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 8/11	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 8/14	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 8/16	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. 8/18	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 8/19	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash's Home
Fri. 8/21	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 8/23	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Fri. 8/28	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 8/30	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Tue. 9/1	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 9/2	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash's Home
Thu. 9/3	11am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
	7pm	Quarterly Mtg for Worship w/Atten. to Business
Sun. 9/6	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC Sunday - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse