

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter



March 2010

Monthly Query:

“Are our children made to feel a valued part of the Meeting, with opportunity to participate and share in its worship and work?”

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One-Day Introductory Compassionate Listening & Peacemaking Training

Saturdays, March 6 or April 17

9:00am to 5:00pm at the Schoolhouse

The Compassionate Listening Project grew out of the work of Gene Knudsen Hoffman, a Quaker and international peacemaker. This work offers practices that strengthen our capacity to connect with the humanity of each person whose path we cross, whether we share the same values and behaviors, or not. As builders of peace, we learn to move beyond a mindset that dehumanizes the 'other', seeking instead to listen, to feel compassion for, and to see ourselves in the 'other', the 'other' in ourselves.

Cost: Suggested Donation, \$25 - \$75, according to ability to pay. No one from CHFM will be turned away for lack of funds. Compassionate Listening is offered under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee. Learn more at chapelhillfriends.org. Contact Jan Hutton for info and registration: janhutton@earthlink.net, 919-967-1959.

THE COMPASSIONATE LISTENING PROJECT
Healing the World from the Inside Out
www.compassionatelistening.org

Stock the IFC Pantry

For the first Sunday in March, the IFC special need is toothpaste!

Upcoming Forums

9:45am in the Meetinghouse

March 7 -- Personal sharing with Rene Prillaman

March 14 -- No forum due to PFF retreat

March 28 -- "Listening to our Muslim Neighbors" -- Abdullah Antepi, the Muslim chaplain for Duke University, will present

April 4 -- "Embodying the Message of Jesus: Creative responses to violence" -- Three quotations that are widely agreed to be by Jesus will be explored, facilitated by Hank Elkins

Piedmont Friends Fellowship 2010 Spring Weekend

Friday, March 12, to Sunday, March 14

The theme of this year's Annual Retreat at Camp New Hope is Uncovering Our Wholeness: Learning to Share Faith Journeys. We will explore ways that we can understand and practice sharing our faith and Quaker experience with others. The theme builds upon the experience at PFF's fall retreat that focused on the Quaker Quest program. There will be program activities for adults, youth, and younger children as well as opportunities for intergenerational activities. For more information, view the PDF posted on the Meeting website.

Annual Spiritual State of the Meeting

Saturday, March 20, 2010

9:30am-12:30pm in the Meetinghouse

What is it, really??

WHAT: A gathering which helps assess the Meeting's spiritual condition and needs.

WHO: All Members and Attenders, i.e., YOU!

HOW: Queries, Small groups, Sharing, Food

WHEN: Saturday, March 20, 2010, 9:30am – 12:30pm, the Meetinghouse.

The Spiritual State of the Meeting is a chance to reach deep and examine the heart of the Meeting. It is an annual exercise to take stock of where we are and dream about where would like to be. Make this YOUR Meeting—be a part of our annual self-examination and add to it your vision of a spiritual home.

Childcare is provided. Contact Ministry and Worship Committee members, Bonnie Raphael, 969- 9555, raphael@email.unc.edu; Max Drake, 928-0537, maxdrake@bellsouth.net, or Jan Hutton, 967-1959, janhutton@earthlink.net if you have questions.

Exploring Quakerism

Sunday, March 21--*NOTE DATE CHANGE*

1:00-2:30pm in the Meetinghouse

Lloyd Kramer's class on the history, spiritual traditions, and current directions of Quakerism continues this month. These discussion meetings will include an introductory overview of key themes and small group conversations, and each session will focus on a chapter in the concise book by Pink Dandelion, "The Quakers: A Very Short Introduction." Contact Lloyd Kramer for more information (lskramer@mindspring.com).

Crop Walk

Sunday, March 21

1:30pm at the Carroboro Town Commons

The CROP Walk is coming up March 21st! This is a great opportunity for members/attenders of the Meeting to get together and have fun! Consider walking, or sponsor a walker. 25% of money raised stays in Chapel Hill at the Inter-Faith Council, and 75% goes to one of many international organizations fighting hunger. (The default is Church World Service, but you can designate one of your choosing!) The IFC is challenging congregations to have 10 more people walk this year than last. For us that is a goal of 21 walkers.

Sign up at a table at Meeting or email Lauren Hart at lauren.jacqueline@gmail.com. There are also t-shirts for sale; all t-shirt money goes to the IFC! For more information see the IFC's website: <http://www.ifcweb.org/cropwalk.html>

Labyrinth Walk

Palm Sunday through Easter

Our meeting is joining with other churches in Chapel Hill to co-sponsor the Labyrinth Walk, held every year between Palm Sunday and Easter at Binkley Baptist Church. Please take advantage of this opportunity for walking this 11-circuit labyrinth in this lovely setting. It will open Palm Sunday, March 28 from 4:00-9:00pm, Monday and Tuesday 6:30am-9:00pm, Wednesday 6:30am-4:30pm,

Thursday 6:30am-5:00pm, Friday 6:30am-2:00pm. If you would like to help with set up Sunday afternoon from 2:00-4:00pm or during our turn to supervise on Monday from 5:00-9:00pm after the Binkley office closes, please contact Alice Carlton, 641-5507.

Shotts and Leadership Development Funds

Now is the time of year when members and attenders of Meeting should be thinking about possible application for funding assistance from the Shotts and Leadership Development funds. These funds are YOUR funds, and have provided for support for the following over the last few years:

- * Help pay for attendance at Friends General Conference (to be held in Bowling Green, OH in 2010)
- * Obtain matching funds for scholarship awards
- * Attend conferences that will enrich their lives, promote Friends' testimonies, and/or benefit the life of the Meeting—e.g., peace conferences, Pendle Hill workshops, FLGBTQC conferences, and youth leadership development conferences and workshops
- * Make service trips to places as disparate as New Orleans, Nicaragua and Trinidad, and Africa
- * Attend New Zealand Yearly Meeting and visit to Maori Quaker communities and schools

Descriptions of the two funds are:

The Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial Fund (est. 1973) provides financial assistance to enrich and develop the lives of individuals with a relationship to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

The Leadership Development Fund (est. 1982) provides financial aid to benefit the spiritual life of the Meeting through the enhancement of leadership capabilities in individuals.

If you are interested in applying for assistance from these funds, write a short e-mail or letter to the Committee — shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org. Please include the following information:

- * Your name and your relationship to the Meeting;
- * The name, date(s), and place of the event/activity that you will be attending;
- * A short description of the activity, and a short note about how it will enrich your life and/or the spiritual life of the meeting;
- * The cost of the activity or event, how much you will be paying and how much you would like to request from the fund.

Book Review: “Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters”

Book Review by Marilyn Dyer

Harper-Collins recently published “Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters,” which was written by Omid Safi, Ph.D., professor of Islamic Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Safi specializes in Islamic mysticism (Sufism), contemporary Islamic thought, and medieval Islamic history. He is chair for the Study of Islam at the American Academy of Religion and a member of the advisory board of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University. Additionally he is editor of “Progressive Muslims,” which contains a diverse collection of essays by and about Muslims seeking reform within the tradition. The book has been described as the definitive biography of the founder of Islam, engaging as it does the interests of those with little knowledge of Muhammad (or the Qur-an) as well as those with more extensive backgrounds. The author’s considerable knowledge of and appreciation for the two other Abrahamic religions enhance his writing. In reading the book, one is not only learning so much from this scholar but one is aware of being in the company of a wise man, deeply spiritual, a seeker of peace. This is a book we need to add to our Quaker Library.

The author was born in Jacksonville, Florida, but was reared as a child in Iran during the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s. Conflict between Iraq and Iran led to the return of the family to America.

Candidates sought for FGC positions

General Secretary

Friends General Conference (FGC) has begun the search for a new General Secretary, with the job beginning in June or July 2011. FGC seeks a servant leader and who is an active member of the Religious Society of Friends and who enthusiastically supports FGC's mission and goals, among other qualifications. More details and a complete job description can be found at www.fgcquaker.org/jobs.

If interested please send your resume with a covering letter to Rich Van Dellen at fgcsearch@charter.net. If you have questions please contact: Rich Van Dellen or Deborah Fisch (richvd15@charter.net, deborahf@fgcquaker.org.)

Publications Manager

FGC is developing a Publications Program, which will utilize the capabilities of new publishing technology and the proliferation of Quaker writers to bring more Quaker voices into publication. The Publications Manager will implement and manage this small publishing business for FGC. The position requires a motivated, entrepreneurial individual who brings experience and an understanding of the rapidly changing world of publishing to the work. S/he will set up a new business operation to publish important Quaker ideas and enable important conversations to occur and new voices to be heard.

To see the full job description, go to www.fgcquaker.org/about-us/employment-internships. To apply, send a letter via e-mail describing your interest in the job, a current resume and three references to Lucy Duncan, Associate Secretary for Programs and Communications at lucyd@fgcquaker.org by March 20, 2010. As we are a faith based organization, letters describing your call or leading to apply for this position will be considered more seriously. Please no phone calls.

Carrboro Home for Sale

Mike and Marsha Green are selling their 3-bedroom Carrboro home. Great location, great house. \$258,000. Please pass the word. If interested call 929-2339 or email mikequaker@gmail.com. MLS listing #1707331.

Awakening the Dreamer Quote

A Friend asked us to share the George Bernard Shaw quote from the recent “Awakening the Dreamer” symposium held at our Meeting. Here it is:

“This the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me; it is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Chapel Hill Friends Meeting February 21, 2010

Opening worship

The meeting opened with worship on the query: “Are our children made to feel a valued part of the Meeting, with opportunity to participate and share in its worship and work?”

One friend responded with an additional query: How do we create opportunities to receive ministry from our children, young friends and young adult friends?

Another friend spoke to the vibrant community present at the parents’ potluck, and the question of how we integrate this community with the entire community so that we benefit from each other.

Welcome to New Attenders

None present.

Review of Minutes for January 17, 2010, Meeting

Friends approved the minutes as published in the newsletter.

Publications and Records Review of Guidelines for Listserv

James Harper, for Publications and Records, asked for input on guidelines for appropriate use of the listserv. Friends were in general agreement that keeping the news emails to once or twice a week is helpful, and that including events that the meeting is involved with is the primary purpose. Friends suggested that information about youth events should also be included on the listserv when appropriate. Recognizing that Meeting members often are on multiple listservs, Publications and Records takes care in including classified ads or in including requests for political advocacy or announcements of community events that are not directly associated with the Meeting or a committee of the Meeting. There was also concern that keeping the listserv going not become a full-time job for anyone. James thanked the Meeting for their input and promised to take the information back to the Publications and Records committee. He also reminded friends to keep sending ideas, concerns and suggestions to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

Hospitality Committee

Kathy Davis, for Hospitality committee, brought forward a request for input regarding having refreshments in the library at the rise of late meeting (except for potluck Sunday). Given its other responsibilities, committee members do not feel they can take on the job of of doing something more than coffee and they wondered if asking for meeting volunteers to bring in simple refreshments and be responsible for making coffee/tea once or twice a year on rotation would be possible. Someone would sign up, bring in simple refreshments, and make coffee.

Quite a few people indicated a willingness to do such a rotation, but the question also brought up questions of whether the same should be done after early meeting, and how that might affect forum.

Kathy will take feedback to committee.

Process Question around Decisions on Benevolences

Currently, the bulk of our benevolences are brought to the Meeting's attention through Peace and Social Concerns, with a few benevolences under the care of Adult Religious Education and Ministry and Worship. The Meeting was asked to think about how issues of environmental concern might be

brought to bear on our benevolences.

The clerk noted that she has communicated with the Environmental Concerns committee and asked if they wish to bring recommendations of any specific benevolences or changes to the benevolence process to Peace and Social Concerns for consideration in the upcoming year.

Friends provided feedback, including the suggestion that it is important for the full Meeting to have ample opportunity to look at the benevolences being considered, and that the various committees overseeing benevolences should work together to present information to the Meeting.

The clerk asked Ministry and Worship, Environmental Concerns and Peace and Social Concerns committees to consider the feedback and come back to the next business meeting with a process or framework for corporate discernment around benevolences.

Peace and Social Concerns: FCNL Priorities

Tom Munk, for Peace and Social Concerns, reported on our Meeting's recommendations to FCNL on priorities (attached). The individuals who met to create the priorities added a general process statement to the 5 priorities asked for by FCNL. Tom read the recommendations, and the meeting approved them. These recommendations will be forwarded to FCNL, along with a note about the number of people involved in the creation of priorities and the number of people present at business meeting where the priorities were approved (as requested by FCNL).

Peace and Social Concerns: Co-Sponsorship

Hank Elkins, for Peace and Social Concerns, asked for the Meeting to consider co-sponsoring two upcoming conferences. The first is a conference April 8-10, "Weaving a Net of Accountability: Taking on extraordinary rendition at the state and regional level," sponsored by the Duke Human Rights Center. The Meeting approved co-sponsoring this conference, leaving the question to Peace and Social Concerns as to whether they will provide any money from their budget.

The second co-sponsor opportunity is for a Speaker Series Spring 2010, "Speaking Truth – Seeking Justice in Israel-Palestine." Speakers will include Ben White, Anna Baltzer, and Mark Braverman. The series is sponsored by the

Coalition for Peace with Justice. PSC does not have in its budget the \$150 they are requesting for co-sponsorship, but recommends co-sponsorship even without monetary assistance. Friends approved becoming a co-sponsor of this conference.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Purvis, treasurer, reported that we have raised \$47,000 out of \$69,000 budgeted for the fiscal year (July – June), noting that we have gone through the fat months, so friends need to consider continuing to donate.

This month the treasurer will pay 50% of all benevolences. Finance committee will recommend whether or not to pay remainder at the end of the year. Friends accepted treasurer's report (attached) with appreciation.

Announcements

- Hank Elkins reported for the Bridging the Faith Divide subcommittee from Peace and Social Concerns. They were very pleased with the recent forum and first-day school interaction with our Muslim friends. The next activity will be a forum on March 28: Duke University's Muslim chaplain and director of the Duke University Islamic Center. Nancy Milio reported that the Chapel Hill Islamic Society is interested in continuing a relationship with CHFM.
- Sue Regen from Rochester, NY, Meeting will be offering a workshop next week on "Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice." Friday evening opening session is open to all. The full day on Saturday requires registration. We are limited to 30 at Sue's request. Sue will be joining us for a Forum next week. This workshop is the first of several that are to be funded by the bequests from Charlotte Adams and Gerry Gourley.
- The Spiritual State of the Meeting gathering will take place March 20, from 9:30am to 12:30pm.
- Jill Bolk, Executive Director of FCNL, will be in town on March 20. Meeting will take place in the afternoon, place TBD.
- FGC Summer Gathering is July 3-9. Money is available from Meeting, PFF, and from FGC (for first-timers).
- Saturday, February 27, will be HK on J (rescheduled from earlier date).

The meeting ended with silent worship.

Friends in attendance:

Mike Green, Jan Hutton, Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, Max Drake, Dirk Kelder, Judy Purvis, Kathy Davis, Ann Kessemeier, Jeff Brown, Lloyd Kramer, Emilie Condon, Ken Grogan, Nancy Milio, Ann Miller, Wren Hendrickson, Tom Munk, Deborah Gibbs, Pam Schwingl, Susan Ingles, Dotty Henninger, Francis Coyle, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Ruth Zalph, Anne Smith, Marilyn Dyer, James Harper, Robin Harper, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Curt Torell, Alice Carlton, David Curtin. Jennifer Leeman (clerk), Marsha Green (recording clerk)

Treasurer's Report Fiscal YTD through January 31, 2010

Income

	1/1/10 to 1/31/10	2009- 2010 budget	Cumulative total from 7/1/09	Budgeted funds to be raised
Unrestricted Income				
Unrestricted personal	\$9227		\$44,606.34	
Unrestricted building use	961.50		\$2690.50	
ARE Book Sales			\$530	
Total Unrestricted Income	\$10,188.50	\$69,530	\$47,826.84	\$21,703.16
Restricted Income				
Football parking (YRE)*			\$6,915	
QEW Minigrant	\$250			
Pass-through: donation to Hollister Knowlton's organization (PacheMama)	\$290			
Total Restricted Income	\$540			

*Total applied to YRE expenses before budget (see Expenses).

Expenses

<i>Committee Expenses</i>	<i>1/1/10 to 1/31/10</i>	<i>2009-2010 budget</i>	<i>Cumulative total from 7/1/09</i>	<i>Budget Remaining</i>
Adult Religious Education	20	\$300.00		\$280.00
<i>Q 101 books</i>			\$540.80	<i>(offset by sales)</i>
Buildings & Grounds	\$433.41	\$15,300	\$7664.47	\$7635.53
<i>Insurance</i>		\$5,550	\$3056	\$2494
<i>Utilities</i>	\$433.41	\$5,500	\$3432	\$2068
<i>Maintain & Improve</i>		\$3,250	\$1,176.47	\$2073.53
<i>Landscaping</i>		\$1,000		1000
Care & Counsel		\$100		100
Children's Religious Educ.	\$394.96	\$5,100	\$1307.90	3792.10
Environmental Concerns		\$650		650
Finance		\$300	\$200.90	99.10
Hospitality		\$450	\$45.60	404.40
Library		\$400	\$447.92	(47.92)
Ministry & Worship	\$214.05	\$1,300	\$747.05	552.95
Nominations		\$25		25
Peace & Social Concerns		\$300	\$235.24	64.76
Publications & Records	\$340.71	\$1,800	\$1251.83	548.17
<i>Youth Relig. Educ. *</i>		\$2,000	\$1,652.86	\$2000.00
Total Committee Expenses*	\$1383.13	\$28,025		
Fund for Quaker Service		\$2,000	\$1574.06	\$425.94
Discretionary Fund	\$646.49	\$2,550	\$1133.10	\$1416.90
External Benevolences		\$32,770		\$32,770
Phys. Pl. Repl. Fund		\$1,500		\$1,500
Leadership Dev. Fund		\$1750		\$1,750
TOTAL EXPENSES	2029.62			

* YRE expenses subtracted first from fundraising income: \$6915-\$1652.86 = \$5262.14 available over Meeting budget
Total committee expenses does not include YRE expenses.

Priority Recommendations for the Friends Committee on National Legislation

General Process Statement

The Friends Committee on National Legislation seeks to bring Quaker spiritual values and testimonies to bear on public policy decisions. The vast majority of these are short term and human centered. This ignores the growing evidence we will soon be overwhelmed by environmental changes of our making. To highlight this disparity, we divide legislative priorities into two categories. I. Longer term and II. Short term. To illuminate the connections between these two categories, we propose that longer term consequences become a routine part of short term decision analysis and recommendations. This is to help policy makers be aware of such issues as the loss of non renewable resources (e.g. petroleum); the over consumption of renewable resources (e.g. fresh water); climate change (e.g. climate extremes and rising sea level); and extinctions. The imperative is realizing the social, economic, and political implications of these changes and disappearing opportunities to soften their impact.

Priority 1. Priority should be placed on Congress to enact measures that combat climate change. Many other countries around the world, especially in Europe, are ready and continue waiting for the US to take credible steps towards managing climate change. US involvement and leadership on multilateral environmental agreements, which can be enforced through possible penalties and sanctions, would make a much-needed statement to the world. Furthermore initiatives to foster renewable energy resources, green jobs, and much more public transportation would be very beneficial.

Priority 2. Acknowledge and address ongoing institutional and societal discrimination based on race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, and immigration status, with equal investment in every child's well-being.

Priority 3. Redirect military spending to constructive purposes at home and abroad. This will include retraining and pursuit of alternatives to war such as: robust diplomacy, the United Nations, multilateral problem solving, respect for international law and treaties.

Priority 4. Protect democracy by ending corporate control of our political system and media.

Priority 5. Implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in US.

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.

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

Sun. 3/7	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Personal Sharing by Renee Prillaman
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC (toothpaste) - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
Tue. 3/9	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 3/10	10am-12pm	Quaker Issues & Insights - Marilyn Dyer's Home
Fri. 3/12	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Streets
		PFF Weekend - Camp New Hope
Sun. 3/14	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	No Forum due to PFF retreat
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 3/16	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 3/17	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash's Home
Fri. 3/19	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Streets
Sat. 3/20	9:30am-12:30pm	Spiritual State of the Meeting
Sun. 3/21	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
	1-2:30pm	Exploring Quakerism - Lloyd Kramer
	1:30pm	Crop Walk - Carrboro Town Commons
Tue. 3/23	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 3/24	10am-12pm	Quaker Issues & Insights - Marilyn Dyer's Home
Fri. 3/26	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Streets
Sun. 3/28	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: "Listening to Our Muslim Neighbors" -- Abdullah Antepli
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	4pm	Labyrinth Walk begins - Binkley Baptist Church
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Thu. 4/1	9am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 4/2	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Streets
Sun. 4/4	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: "Embodying the Message of Jesus" -- Hank Elkins
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse