

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

April, 2011



Monthly Query:

How does our Meeting encourage each of us to simplify our lives? In what ways do we encourage thoughtful use of our gifts to nourish our spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of others?

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From the ECC:

We are being called to examine our relationship with modern technology, to make conscious choices about which technologies enhance our lives and which are superfluous or destructive. We are being asked to develop a new relationship with the land, one based on mutual respect and care rather than exploitation. We are being asked to acknowledge our inter-dependence with all Creation.

- Lisa Gould, "Friends, Slavery, and the Earth"



Upcoming Forum Schedule

April 3 "IFC's Homestart: Service to Women and Children" - with speaker Laurie Tucker, IFC Residential Services Director

April 10 "Food, Friends, & Faith" - exploring the links among food, fellowship, and spirituality

April 24 "Earth in Crisis: Quakers Answering the Call to Action" - an Earth Day forum presented by ECC (see page 3-4 for more)

May 1 "The Personal Journey of an African American Christian to Al-Islam" - Abdul-Hafeez Waheed to speak about his spiritual journey and his views on the current state of American Muslims

May 8 "Quaker Earth Care Witness" - Ruth Hamilton (see page 4)

IFC Needs

The IFC collects items for its Pantry, the Community Kitchen, the Community House (men's residential facility), and Project Homestart (women's residential facility). For a complete list of items needed by each facility, visit the IFC website at www.ifcweb.org/foodneeds.html.

Newcomers' Lunch

April 10, noon - 1:30pm, Schoolhouse

If you are a relative newcomer to our Friends Meeting Community and would like to get to know us better, please come to the Newcomers' Lunch on Sunday, April 10 at the rise of meeting.

The Hospitality Committee will provide a light lunch and beverages. All are welcome-- new, old and in-between. If you are an old-timer, feel free to bring along a snack to share!

Earth Day Forum

April 24, 9:30am, Meetinghouse

Earth in Crisis: Quakers Answering the Call to Action

Drawing from the history of Quaker responses to our reliance on the institution of slavery, this forum will look at our dependence on various forms of energy used to power our lives and the devastating impact this has on our planet and our social relationships. Based on our Quaker faith, what actions have we taken to form right relationships with nature? What actions would we like to take? How can we support one another in our efforts and be better stewards of nature?

This forum will be presented by members of the Environmental Concerns Committee in support of Earth Day.

Kudos to EQAT

This letter to *Friends Journal* is a preface to Forums on April 24 and May 8:

We celebrate the shaking and rumbling from Earth Quaker Action Team! In their first foray into a direct action campaign, this Friends-led organization struggling for environmental sanity just declared their first victory. The Earth Quakers were part of a national groundswell to shake PNC, a bank with Quaker roots, to officially renounce mountain-top removal – a most dastardly way to get coal by literally blowing up the tops of mountains, spewing poison into rivers. We honor their allies like Rainforest Action Network who have been at this work for many years.

As non-Quakers we wanted to honor the Earth Quakers for re-engaging with the Quaker Peace witness through the use of non-violent direct action. Moving beyond the marginalized sidelines of holding signs or passively witnessing, they are shaking things up with actions that are neither timid, nor conflict-averse. We need politically relevant Quakers who will risk going to jail, being seen as pests, and using their bodies to get in the way of injustice.

Thank you Earth Quakers – may your seismic waves grow larger!

Daniel Hunter, Training for Change

Nico Amador, Training for Change

Sharon Lungo, The Ruckus Society

John Lindsay-Poland, Fellowship of Reconciliation USA

Joshua Diamond, Wayside Center for Popular Education

Philippe Duhamel, direct action strategist

Jeanne Rewa, organizer/activist

News and Events from First Day School

Submitted by Leslie Rountree

Spring has sprung at the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, and the First Day School is busy, busy, busy! There are lots of events slated for April and May. Here are a few highlights:

April 3 Sufi Muslims are coming as guests of the CHFM high and middle schoolers today as we kick-off our World Religions study unit. With luck, our guests will join us for potluck. There will also be a Baby Welcoming ceremony that day.

April 16 First Day School Family Potluck at the Rountree-Schneider home, 216 Maple Avenue, Carrboro, at 5 pm. Be there or be square! All are welcome. Call 932-7308 if you need directions.

April 17 Today we officially launch the Grand Friends program with homemade cookies and tea provided by the FDS students in the library after the rise of late Meeting. If you would like to be a Grand Friend (someone who would like to have more personal relationship with our Meeting's children) or to nominate someone else as one, please contact Leslie Rountree at 932-7308, lesroutree@nc.rr.com. If you sign up, you'll be invited on field trips, included in Meeting House activities, and if you'd like, matched with a grandparent-less family from FDS. All involvement is optional... and extremely fun.

April 24 It's the annual CHFM Easter egg dyeing/hiding/finding/and eating them event! Older children are paired with younger non-siblings, and they work together to decorate, and then hide, Easter eggs. Grand Friends are especially encouraged to participate.

May 1 This is our tentative date for our annual field trip to a house of worship. This year, we hope to visit the Hindu temple in Cary, NC. Anyone is welcome to join us, but we ask that you let us know at least two weeks in advance so that we can let them know how many to expect. More details forthcoming! Many thanks to Margot Stern for arranging this.

May 22 or May 29 The Drepung Gomang Monastery Tibetan Monks will create a Sacred Sand Mandala at the East Gallery at 523 East Franklin Street in Chapel Hill beginning the 22nd. Select groups of children from the First Day School may make a "mini" field trip to observe the mandala construction, and to learn more about Tibetan Buddhism. More details to come. (Learn more on page 8.)

And lastly, sometime in late May or early June...

It will be time for the First Day School end of year camping trip at Falls Lake. If you are interested in helping plan the campout, please contact a member of the Children's Religious Education Committee.

Holocaust Remembrance Service

May 1, Congregation Judea Reform, Durham

Our community has been invited to a talk by Holocaust Survivor Hal Myers. He was saved by the Quakers, along with his brother, and credits his survival to a wonderful woman named Alice Resch. The talk is part of the annual Holocaust Remembrance Service. This year it will be held at Congregation Judea Reform on May 1 at 6:30 pm. (Directions at www.judeareform.org/) His story is riveting and is a wonderful commemoration with the Religious Society of Friends.

Federal Funding for Local Energy Upgrades

Submitted by Emily Nelson of ECC

There is still federal funding available for residential and commercial energy upgrades through the Town of Chapel Hill and the Town of Carrboro respectively. These funds will expire in the coming months so the time to act is now. Email Nora Barger, Energy and Efficiency Program Coordinator for Chapel Hill/Carrboro with specific questions or any assistance you may need. (nbarger@cleanenergysol.com)

Information about Chapel Hill's residential energy incentive program:
<http://chapelhillpublic.novusagenda.com/Bluesheet.aspx?itemid=1109&meetingid=100>

Information about Carrboro's Commercial Energy Revolving Loan program: <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/ECD/PDFs/EERLF/EERLFCarrboroDescriptionandCriteria.pdf>

Bayard Rustin Center Opens

The Bayard Rustin Center at Guilford College had its Grand Opening on March 16. Formerly the Queer and Allied Resource Center, the Bayard Rustin Center for LGBTQA Activism, Education and Reconciliation honors and continues the legacy of Bayard Rustin, a civil rights activist who counseled Martin Luther King, Jr. on the techniques of nonviolent resistance and became an advocate of gay and lesbian causes. It reopened with a keynote address by Mandy Carter, a social justice activist and founding board member of the National Black Justice Coalition.

Learn more about Bayard Rustin here: http://rustin.org/?page_id=2

Learn more about the Bayard Rustin Center here:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Bayard-Rustin-Center-for-Lgbtqa-Activism-Education-and-Reconciliation/178474272198950>

Learn more about Mandy Carter here:
<http://nbjc.org/news/black-history-lgbt-profiles-1.html>

Green Tara Sand Mandala

May 21 to June 4; submitted by Buffie Webber

The Tibetan monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery will bring a message of compassionate understanding with interfaith dialogue to Chapel Hill with the construction of the Green Tara Sand Mandala, created and exhibited at East Gallery at 523 East Franklin Street. As a member of the Planning Committee, I encourage members and attenders of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to join us to create a peace community during their stay from May 21 to June 4.

The primary public events are the following:

- construction of the Green Tara Sand Mandala, created and exhibited (May 22 to May 30) at the East Gallery
- a preview of the Cultural Pageant (May 24) at University Mall
- a Cultural Pageant (May 28) at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro.

A complete schedule of activities and opportunities to participate is available on the website, www.monkstour.info.

Educational materials for children are available on the website.

Volunteers are being recruited to staff 523 East Franklin Street from 10 am to 7 pm, with shifts lasting 4 to 6 hours (May 22 to May 30). Individuals are encouraged to sign-up on the website. Training will be provided. A sponsorship opportunity exists for any group that decides to provide volunteers for a day. Sponsorship means that your name will be listed in a widely distributed brochure.

Event supporters will receive a one-line mention in the brochure for a \$25 donation. Sponsors can also purchase an ad in the brochure. Sizes and costs are 4" x 2" - \$350; or 2" x 2" - \$200. The brochures will be distributed starting May 10. Ideally advertising copy will be received by March 17 with payment due by April 18. The event is in its final planning stages and will be very well publicized.

Please look at the website for opportunities that will be of interest to you and contact me with any questions, Buffie Webber, 428-3218.

Recycled Content Products

Submitted by Emily Buehler

As concern for the environment grows more mainstream, options to "buy recycled" are both increasing and growing more exciting. As a rampant user of notebooks and journals, I'm constantly casing out the options at local stores. Repeat winners are the UNC Student Store, which (encouraged by the UNC Sustainability Office) stocks a variety of notebooks and journals made with recycled paper; and

Staples, which has long carried recycled products, in spite of its potentially-negative status as a “big box” store.

A recent trip to Staples turned up an exciting new product: a Sugarcane-Based Notebook made with 80% sugarcane waste. Sugarcane is a renewable resource, and using the waste of the sugar-making process makes the notebook even more “green.” Also, the notebooks are not noticeably more expensive. (On the other hand, there may be down sides related to sugarcane production about which I am ignorant.)

One down-side of buying recycled products is they never look as attractive as their tree-wasting counterparts. Standing in the notebook aisle, torn between your wish to “do right” and your desire to own the pink-and-green polkadot notebook, you’ll feel like the vegetarian at the wedding. (Why do caterers always serve us steamed vegetables? Why can’t we get some rice pilaf and sauteed asparagus like the meat-eaters have?) The recycled notebooks always have dull covers (although the leafy cover of the sugarcane notebook is a happy exception).

You can solve this problem by decorating your recycled notebook yourself. Use its blank cover as an opportunity, pasting on a photo, a magazine clipping, or *New Yorker* cartoon. Or, slowly cover your notebook with stickers and quotes as time passes, personalizing it with memories of the time period during which it was used.

Another option is to look online for greater variety. Tired of the dull recycled planner offered by Staples (which also had a plastic cover), I searched online and found Little Otsu, a green publisher in Portland, Oregon whose products (designed by several artists) are

printed in the U.S. Little Otsu uses only 100% recycled or tree-free papers and soy-based inks; they use the often-wasted margins of the printing process to produce bookmarks. Their planners cost less than the one I'd been buying at Staples. Best of all, the planner's information page includes "Car/Bike Information" instead of the usual Car Information! (Their website is www.littleotsu.com.) (Mail-order might seem to create a larger carbon footprint, but the notebooks available in local stores were usually shipped in from distant lands.)

Directory Updates

Bobbie Ackley (move from non-resident to resident)

Cell phone: 828-217-8693

Physical Address:
111 Glenmore Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 16963
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Renee Prillaman (new email address)
renee.prillaman@gmail.com

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
March 20, 2011

(Carolyn White, clerk; Robin Harper, acting recording clerk)

Query: this is last month's query; it should be in the minutes; it should match the cover of last month's newsletter How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages? In what ways do we support each other to seek divine guidance and act upon our understanding of truth?

1. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, review of agenda
Andrew Meriwether, Caitlin Prillaman, Kiernan McGowan, Sarah Grimme

2. Review of minutes for Feb Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Change the third bullet on Judy's report to read: "The contributions and pledges that we have received so far account for 90% of our budget. To meet our goals, we will need to raise the other 10% from unpledged giving."

Approved with revisions.

3. Andrew Meriwether's Conscientious Objector letter (letter not available at newsletter press time)

Members witnessed to the fact that this is not a new commitment for Andrew. This conviction has been growing in him for years, and Friends have witnessed this growth as he has matured.

Friends expressed praise for Andrew's letter and appreciation of his stand, and charged him with fulfilling the words of his letter, "to make military action a problem, not a solution."

Approved.

4. Nominations: Approval of Robin Harper to be Recording Clerk (Jeff Brown)

Approved.

Friends also approved sending Robin and Carolyn to a clerking workshop, co-led by Judy Purvis, at Pendle Hill.

5. Approval of recommendation from M&W for membership of Jasmine McEwen (Jan Hutton)

Jan read a bio of Jasmine (attached). Lynn Drake and Perry Martin agreed to serve on a welcoming committee for Jasmine.

Approved.

6. Report of Bridging the Faith Divide subcommittee (Curt Torell)
Three documents were distributed. Two (attached) were the subcommittee's recommendations and the short version of the report of its work; the third is the longer version of the report and it is available on our website.

Friends expressed appreciation for all of the amazing work of this subcommittee and the Meeting as a whole.

First recommendation: Continue the subcommittee

One Friend pointed out that MWAB doesn't need to approve subcommittees. Peace & Social Concerns knows its needs, although we can express our support.

Curt expressed that the subcommittee does desire, however, the Meeting's "charge" for their work, not just P&SC's. It represents a commitment by the entire meeting community.

Nancy Milio (co-clerk of BFD) noted how our opening to the Jumu'ah prayer group sends our message of equality and inclusion to many others—to individual Muslims and non-Muslims, the press, CFS, FCNL, and more. And, because of our Jumu'ah friends, we were invited to a “private conversation” with Imam Feisal who leads the establishment of the controversial Islam Cultural Center and mosque in lower Manhattan; and one person told him about our collaboration in arranging a prayer space for our Muslim friends. In addition, the Jumu'ah people are slowly making progress in melding the diverse religious and cultural differences among the variety of Muslims in our community, including increasing openness and representation for men and women. Friends **approved** and supported the continuation of BFD subcommittee, under the care of P&SC, and reaffirmed the charge given to BFD in February 2009.

Second recommendation: Waiving rental fees for Friday prayers for the Jumu'ah group

Curt noted several reasons why BFD recommends a continued waiver of the rental fee of the Meetinghouse, three of which were: The group is still in a formative and delicate phase.

They are a persecuted group nationally; being targeted with bias, prejudice, and misunderstanding; and are in much need of our support and encouragement.

We helped facilitate their use of this space at no cost as a commitment from our meeting. As one member of B&G said, Islamic culture has "a particularly potent symbolism to inviting someone as a guest and asking nothing of them in order to make clear that they are 'totally' welcome." To charge now would send the wrong message. The meeting acknowledged the role of B&G to provide income from groups that rent our space and the importance to revisit this waiver after this year.

Friends **approved** to extend the waiver of rental fees for Friday prayers for the calendar year of 2011.

MWAB also requested an annual report from the subcommittee.

7. Approval of letter to David Price (Hank Elkins) (attached)
Friends thanked Peace & Social Concerns for writing this letter. One friend asked that letters like this be circulated ahead of time in the future to allow Friends time to read and consider them. Friends **approved** sending the letter to David Price.

8. Annual Report of Youth Religious Education (Jennifer Leeman)
Deferred to next month.

9. Messages and Announcements:

Orange JUICE (Jennifer Leeman) will be meeting in the Leeman/Munk home Saturday, March 26, and at the rise of meeting, Sunday, March 27. Food will be provided.

Ann Shy has transcribed the forum with David Price, which will be made available.

There will be a Forum with Peter Lems of AFSC on "The Economic Cost of War?" Peter will be coming on Sunday the 17th of April to speak at 1:00, with potluck prior.

Spiritual State of the Meeting, March 26, 9 to 12 PM

CROP Walk, March 27

"Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan" is a work created by Afghan school children as a memorial to the human cost of the war in Afghanistan. It will be on display at the Guilford College Library Atrium from March 25–April 15. Postcards with more information are available on the table in the foyer.

Worship and greeting

Attending: Max Drake, James Harper, Barbara Williamson, Ann Kessemeier, Jan Hutton, Carolyn Stuart, Judy Purvis, Jennifer Leeman, Curt Torell, Sarah Grimme, Emilie Condon, Stuart Phillips, Gwynne Pomeroy, John Hite, Emily Buehler, Dirk Spruyt, Perry Martin, Tom Munk, Kitty Bergel, Anne Smith, Nancy Elkins, Dottie Heninger, Miriam Thompson, Hank Elkins, Marilyn A. Dyer, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Hugh Meriwether, Katherine Tucci, A. Renee Prillaman, Andrew Meriwether, Caitlin Prillaman, Kiernan McGowan

Biography of Jasmine McEwen

Jasmine first learned of Quakerism through her husband's undergraduate academic experience and coursework. Intrigued, she began attending Meeting for Worship after returning from her sophomore year abroad about ten years ago, at first sporadically and then with more regularity as her geographic home and family life became more centered and stable. She has been attending Meeting for Worship with the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting since moving to Chapel Hill in 2004 to begin graduate school and now feels ready to make a commitment to be more integrally a part of the life of the Meeting. She lives in Saxapahaw with her almost five-year-old son, Desmond, and her husband, Christopher.

Bridging the Faith Divide Subcommittee Under the Care of Peace & Social Concerns

Report to Meeting for Business March 20, 2011

A Two Year Report of the Bridging the Faith Divide subcommittee (BFD) is completed and in two versions. The first contains a brief summary of activities, a list of our committee membership, a picture of the CRE visit to the Muslim Life Center at Duke, and the original minute modified and approved by the meeting on Feb. 5, 2009. The second adds a lengthy appendix detailing all of this work.

The subcommittee is grateful for the support and participation of the Meeting and so many of its members and attenders. In these past two years, our meeting has reached out in significant ways to build strong, trusting relationships with our local Muslim brothers and sisters, we have come to understand and appreciate Islam as a peaceful loving religion that shares our belief in the worship and service to one God and a common humanity, and we have provided a place of worship for Friday Jumu'ah as this group continues to develop its own mosque and community center. This Light shines bright within the local Muslim community and the entire Chapel Hill area as our meeting has demonstrated its belief in "that of God in everyone" and its commitment to "bridge the faith divide." We bring the following proposal:

Recommendation: Continue BFD until 2013 as an ad hoc committee under the care of P&SC.

1. Nurture, build, and expand upon the supportive relationships we developed with local Muslims individuals, groups, and organizations which represent a range of Muslim agendas and maintain a special focus on the Jumu'ah prayer group.

2. Extend the waiver of rental fees for Friday prayers for the calendar year of 2011.

3. As way opens, present forums and special events to educate our meeting and guide our work. Continue sponsoring forums as we have in the past two years. Work collaboratively with ARE, insuring that forum content and communication with the presenter is consistent with our standards, while also recognizing that topics may need to be flexible depending upon emerging public events, meeting interests and needs, and the availability of presenters.

4. Continue to search for opportunities to collaborate in service and educational activities, in addition to maintaining interfaith dialogue and action through the Ad Hoc Committee, TIMELEAP (Triangle/Triad Middle East Legislative, Education, and Advocacy Project), and AIME (Abrahamic Initiative for the Middle East).

5. Continue to stand with our Muslim friends in the face of possible social bias or barriers to their peaceful development, and do so in cooperation with them.

6. Explore and expand our interfaith efforts to include voices from both our local Jewish and our Christian African-American communities. Develop our own understandings of these faiths and promote interfaith dialogue through shared values and common beliefs.

7. Continue to involve the Meeting, its Committees, and its members and attenders in our work and strive for close communication and feedback with all these groups and individuals.

Reasons for Extension:

1. Our relationships with individuals and groups, developed over time, are still in a formative phase.
2. The Jumu'ah prayer group also is in a formative phase, greatly in need of our continued support and financial assistance. Extending the waiver of fees demonstrates our promise of commitment.
3. We continue to make new contacts and relationships, having built trust within Muslim community.
4. The prejudice and Islamophobia present in the U.S. (now voiced more strongly nationally in Congress, e.g. hearings on "homegrown terrorism" targeted at Muslims by Rep. Peter King and locally as reaction to Imam Feisal Rauf's visit) has not eased, and may even get worse. According to recent scientific polls only 12% of Republicans have a favorable view of American Muslims.
5. The learning process has been mutual. Some brothers and sisters are borrowing materials, others are asking questions about our faith; all have come to see how we put our faith into practice.
6. The P&SC agenda/portfolio is packed. Extending the ad hoc committee keeps the focus of time and attention on this work, and it reinforces our promise to reach out and support this community.

Reduced Version: Two Year Report of the Bridging the Faith Divide Committee

Under the Care of Peace & Social Concerns, March 20, 2011

As-salaam alaykum (the traditional Muslim greeting, “Peace be upon you”)

Wa alaykum as-salaam (the response, “And upon you peace”)

This report summarizes the charge and work of the Ad Hoc Committee for Bridging the Faith Divide. We have attempted to follow our charge (see Appendix 3) in searching for, developing, and nurturing relations with a variety of local Muslim groups and connecting them to our meeting to the mutual enrichment of both. We also participated in local Abrahamic interfaith groups. We outline these contacts and relationships, educational forums and materials, advocacy efforts, and how our meeting committees have been part of this work (see Appendix 2). We request the Meeting to allow our efforts to continue for another two years.

Brief Summary of Activities: (For specifics, see Appendix 2 in the Complete Version of this report)

- Our first contact as a Committee, Feb. 2, 2009, was with the Muslim community in Raleigh where we met with Mona Dakrouri and others from MAPAC (Muslim American Public Affairs Council). By the end of the Fall 2009, we met and developed relationships with over a dozen local Muslim brothers and sisters, mostly from the Raleigh and Durham areas.
- In our outreach during 2010, we deepened these relationships to go beyond superficial acquaintances and, while searching for brothers and sisters in the local Chapel Hill area, added another dozen or more contacts of a significant nature.

- Along with other members of the CHFM community, we attended the inauguration of the Raleigh Mosque and annual meetings of MAPAC; Friday prayers and Iftars at Duke University, Chapel Hill Islamic Society; mosques in Raleigh, Durham, and Apex; an interfaith potluck and tea party at CFS for girls and women; and Jumu'ah at our own CHFM regularly.
- Over the two years, we attended the annual Amazing Faith Dinners, Triangle Interfaith Dialogue Groups, and monthly interfaith dinners; participated in various interfaith dialogue groups across the Triangle and the Triad; attended the Interfaith Conference weekend at Lake Junaluska on September 20–22, 2009; and helped form AIME (a group of local Abrahamic faith leaders seeking a just peace in Israel and Palestine).
- In the spring of 2010, we were invited to participate in initial planning meetings for the creation of a new Chapel Hill Mosque and Cultural Center. We later facilitated this group's application to our meeting to use its space for Friday prayers and sermon, Jumu'ah Salat, and these began at CHFM on Dec. 24, 2010.
- We encouraged links with CFS leading to an impact on their curriculum and the enrollment of three Muslim students and soon a class will participate in Jumu'ah prayers and speak to its leaders.
- We sponsored seven forums; had speakers and field trips by CRE and YRE; provided resources to members/attenders and to our library; highlighted Muslim materials, glossaries, book reviews, and concerns in newsletters and Sunday announcements; and gave regular reports to our meeting for business.
- We wrote numerous Letters to the Editor for The News & Observer, The Chapel Hill New, The Daily Tar Heel, and The Independent, and our outreach efforts have been mentioned several times in articles by the newspaper's staff and columnists. We wrote legislators and law enforcement personnel to respect the

civil and legal rights of all Muslims, and recently about the education of undocumented students. Our emails of support to contacts during times of crisis have been responded with warm appreciation.

- We involved, where possible, every committee from the meeting.
- By supporting BFD and being involved in this work, our Meeting as a whole has illuminated several Points of Light:

We reached out to our local Muslim community, nurtured deep, significant relationships with many Muslim brothers and sisters, and lent support to local Muslim organizations and groups. As a result, strong, trusting bonds have formed and erased misunderstandings that lead to prejudice and bias.

We learned that Islam is a peaceful religion sharing many of our own values and theological views, not least of which is the worship and service to one God and a common humanity. In turn, Muslim brothers and sisters learned about us, as individuals and Quakers, both in our actions and faith.

Providing a place of worship for Friday Jumu'ah has demonstrated to the larger Chapel Hill community that our meeting does truly seek to bridge the faith divide.

Committee Members (current and past): Barbara Conger, Graeme Durovich, Kay Eager, Nancy Milio, Diane Rowley, Bill Jenkins, Miriam Thompson, and Curt Torell

Appendix 1: CRE Field Trip to Muslim Life Center, Duke Univ., hosted by Abdullah Antepi (see picture next page)

Appendix 2: A Chronological Listing of Most Activities, is in the Complete Version



Appendix 3: Minute Modified and Approved by CHFM, Feb. 5, 2009
Accordingly, we at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting affirm that Quaker values compel us to:

1. In 2009, commit to look for and engage American Muslim secular and religious organizations with which to learn together and collaborate on issues of common interest and concern.
2. Commit to implement this initiative in a purposeful way by forming a small ad hoc committee, under the care of Peace and Social Concerns, that will:
 - a) Develop an inclusive outreach outline or plan that explores opportunities among secular and religious Muslim organizations, as well as other disenfranchised groups, for collaborative work, while gaining an understanding of shared truths;
 - b) Interpret, support, and report on progress of this initiative to our Meeting.

The ad hoc committee could help each of our committees explore ways it might link up with its Muslim counterpart

The outreach outline or plan could also supply contact numbers of a variety of Muslim and other diverse groups for longer term outreach efforts, relevant websites, and other background resources.

3. By the end of 2010, fold the ad hoc committee into the normal fabric of Peace and Social Concerns so that this effort becomes an ongoing part of its work and that of the Meeting.

Individual friends and committees are asked to discern personally how it will live in our lives.

Dear Congressman Price:

As your constituents we have long appreciated your principled work exemplified by actions such as:

- Your opposition to the war in Iraq coupled with your strong advocacy for diplomacy,
- Your leadership in building democratic institutions through the House Democracy Partnership,
- Your efforts to bring government contractors to accountability, and
- Your courageous vote last year among only 34 House members not to dismiss the Goldstone Report detailing possible war crimes in Gaza and Israel.

On February 6 at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, you made a strong plea for considering major reductions in our bloated military budget and redirecting funds for domestic needs. In speaking of the military cuts proposed by President Obama, you said “I think there are some promising efforts that we could build on and should build on.”

Based on your presentation we are deeply concerned by your recent votes on military spending:

- Not to reduce the number of U.S. troops stationed in Europe (Amdt.46 to H.R. 1),
- Not to reduce the military funds for Afghanistan (Amdt.232 to H.R. 1),
- Not to cancel the second F-35 engine (Amdt.16 to H.R. 1),
- Not to reduce Department of Defense expenses to the 2008 level (Amdt.150 to H.R.1)
- Not to remove troops from Afghanistan pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, (House Concurrent Resolution 28).

On the other hand, we are pleased to note you voted

- To cut expenses for the Marines' expeditionary vehicle (Roll Call 102)
- To cut expenses for the Osprey (Roll Call 102)

We agree with and applaud your concern for supporting the Afghan people and their democratic institutions you have worked to promote. To achieve that purpose we are convinced that our military occupation is counterproductive and that war is not the answer.

We urge you to co-sign the letter circulated by Rep. Barbara Lee to President Obama which "expresses support for his planned drawdown of the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan beginning no later than July of this year."

This letter would articulate the expectations of Members of Congress that the forthcoming reduction of U.S. troop levels must be significant and sizeable, and executed in an orderly fashion. A significant redeployment of U.S. troops from Afghanistan beginning in July 2011 will send a clear signal that the United States does not seek a permanent presence in Afghanistan. This course of action is supported by the majority of the American people, as shown by a recently released Gallup Poll indicating that 72% of Americans favor action this year to "speed up the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan."

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,
Carolyn White, Clerk
Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 4/3 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: IFC's Homestart Program
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
12:30pm **Potluck & IFC donations, Baby Welcoming**
Tue. 4/5 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 4/6 10am Quaker Women's Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
Thurs. 4/7 9am–1pm CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 4/8 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 4/10 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: Food, Friends, and Faith
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
12 noon Newcomers' Lunch – Schoolhouse
12:30pm Peace & Social Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse

Tue. 4/12 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 4/15 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sat. 4/16 5pm FDS Family Potluck – Rountree–Schneider home

Sun. 4/17 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am **Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business**
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
12 noon Grand Friends program launch – Library
Tue. 4/19 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 4/20 10am Quaker Women's Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
7pm YRE Committee – Meetinghouse
Fri. 4/22 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 4/24 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: Earth in Crisis/Earth Day
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)

	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
	12 noon	Easter egg event
	12:30pm	Environmental Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Fri. 4/29	4:30–5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 5/1	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Abdul–Hafeez Waheed Personal Journey
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse
		FDS Field Trip (tentative)
Tue. 5/3	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 5/4	10am	Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
Thur.5/5	9am–1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 5/6	4:30–5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd



**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.

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