

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

March, 2012



Monthly Query:

In what ways do we support each other to seek divine guidance and act upon our understanding of truth?

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Upcoming Forum Schedule

March 4 "The Parent of A Quaker Activist" - a sharing with Buffie Webber (see below)

March 11 "The Light and Movement of Bayard Rustin" - Mandy Carter (see page 3)

March 25 "75th Anniversary" - Come, learn about and participate in the events, projects, and celebrations!

April 1 "Piedmont Friends Fellowship considers becoming a Yearly Meeting" - John Hunter



Casey Webber reading Prayer for Protection Against the Wicked at Occupy DC

To see the whole slideshow go here: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/occupy-wall-street-in-dc/2012/01/30/gIQAebz9cQ_gallery.html#photo=12

March 4 Forum

"The Parent of A Quaker Activist" - sharing with Buffie Webber

Buffie's son, Casey Webber, grew up in the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. He recently graduated from Earlham College with a degree in International Studies, and he is currently one of the remaining few standing strong in Freedom Plaza as a part of Occupy DC. As he has been holding silent worship in the midst of both protesters and police, his mother will be sharing on growing up Quaker and the core values that resonate out into our world.

March 11 Forum

“We need, in every community, a group of angelic trouble makers” – Bayard Rustin
Mandy Carter, an organizer for the Bayard Rustin 100th Anniversary Year Celebration, will be at CHFM presenting a forum on Bayard Rustin March 11. She'll be staying for Meeting for Worship, and will stay on for lunch in the School Building from 12 to 1 pm that day. Please feel free to join us for a continued discussion of Bayard Rustin and what CHFM might do to join in the celebratory year. (See page 7 for information on a relevant conference at Guilford College, and page 10 for background on Bayard Rustin.)

Monthly EnviroTip:

At a recent ECC film night we viewed, “The Last Mountain,” a film about mountain top removal, how it affects communities, and bright possibilities for our energy future. The film included a story about a Catholic boarding school in Rhode Island that installed an industrial size wind turbine to help power their school. Within 4 years the turbine had paid for itself and on windy days it generates enough energy to power the entire school. Seeing this success, the local town also installed turbines. In North Carolina, we have enough off shore wind potential to power our whole state, boasting the highest potential along the east coast. Currently the NC Offshore Wind Coalition is working to make this a reality. Cleaner air, water, and healthier communities; it’s all possible. Let’s make it happen! Learn more at www.ncoffshorewind.org.

In Peace, Your Environmental Committee

IFC Needs Bags

The IFC needs bags. Brown bags with handles are best, but they can use other types as well. They also use reusable cloth bags. Bring your extras to Meeting any Sunday.

Sign Up for NC Greenpower

Wishing there was a way for you to offset your home's energy usage with wind, solar, or other sources of renewable energy? At its August Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Meeting approved a plan to offset its energy usage by purchasing clean energy through the local non-profit, NC Greenpower, which has found a way to make it accessible. Now we are encouraging everyone to offset their home energy usage. Just sign up through your electric service provider and it will appear automatically on your monthly bill. \$4 a month = 100 kilowatt hours = 500 pounds of carbon dioxide mitigated.

Here is a link to clean energy for your home: <http://www.ncgreenpower.org/>.
AND, when you sign up, add a leaf to the tree at the Meeting that the middle and high school classes made to track the number of families who sign up.

Jimmy Creech Speaks on Faith & the Marriage Amendment

March 4, 3pm, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Road, Durham

Come here Reverend Jimmy Creech, a former United Methodist Minister who was put on trial by the United Methodist Church for blessing a "gay union," and author of *Adam's Gift*. Also speaking is Brent Childers, Executive Director of Faith in America, a lifelong conservative evangelical Christian who formerly derided gays and lesbians under the banner of Christianity and who now opposes religion-based bigotry.

PFF Annual Retreat

March 16-18, Carolina Friends School

The Piedmont Friends Fellowship Annual Retreat is March 16 to 18 at Carolina Friends School. It includes programs for Adults, Teens, and Children. The theme is "What Dost Thou Witness?"

Quakerism offers a long history of bearing "witness" to Truth. PFF formed in 1968 around common interests, including witness related to the war in Viet Nam. The program for the 2012 annual retreat will offer a non-judgmental setting to explore both our Meeting's and our own individual witness to our values.

CHFM will lead the children's program, the teen program, and registration. Please plan to attend! The registration form is on the PFF website and at Meeting. There is a PDF version for printing and mailing to Anne Filiaci and a WORD version that can be filled out and emailed to Anne (filibart2@gmail.com). (<http://www.rtpnet.org/friends/PFF.htm>)

Schedule in brief:

Friday, March 16: 6:00 potluck followed by parent/teen meeting and welcome/intergenerational activity and singing.

Saturday, March 17: 7:30 breakfast, 8:30 parents meeting, 9:00 Adult and Children's program, 12:00 lunch, 1:00 more programming, 3:00 free time, 4:30 meeting for worship, 5:30 dinner, 7:30 indoor and outdoor activities.

Sunday, March 18: 7:30 breakfast, 9:00 meeting for worship, 10:15 PFF annual business meeting, 12:30 lunch, 1:15 clean-up.

Parents of Teens: The Youth programs are not assigned to the Chapel Hill meeting so we know fewer details about the programming. But, they will be forthcoming as provided. I'm sure much bonding, laughing, exploring of serious issues, and fun will occur!

Parents of K-5th (6th grade optional; they can go with the teens or stay with the tweens): Here are some of the planned activities for the two 3 hour blocks on Saturday and for children after the first 15 minutes of worship on Sunday: (Activities will be scrapped or utilized and liberally edited on the fly according to how many children we have, the group's desires, weather, etc.)

- 1) Crafts with Scrap Exchange Materials (asked to create an insect, real or imaginary)
- 2) Outside time with magnifying glasses
- 3) Pine-cone collection with possible bird feeders being made with same (soy butter and almond butter possibilities depending on allergies. If soy, peanut, and tree nut allergies are present, we will do an alternative craft with pinecones)
- 4) Free play time in gym and outside
- 5) Learning about pot-bellied pigs and visiting the local ones at the Friends school
- 6) Fellowship games: such as interviewing, Simon says, mother-may-I, trust circle (everyone sitting on one another's laps to form a stable ring), telephone, charades, etc.
- 7) "Tug-of-peace"
- 8) Cooking and food preparation including a baking project, homemade play-do, and lemonade making with plenty of lemon squeezing for all participants
- 9) Building an indoor paper campfire and enjoying some campfire activities around it
- 10) Singing

Volunteers Needed for PFF Children's Activities

March 16-18, Carolina Friends School

Submitted by Kathleen McNeil

As many of you have heard, there will be a PFF retreat on March 16th-18th. Our meeting is in charge of the children's programming. I am doing the planning, but I really need some volunteers just to join in the fun. There are three periods needing supervision:

9am-noon on Saturday the 17th

1pm-3pm on Saturday the 18th

9:15-11:00 on Sunday the 19th

They have requested that we have at least two adults, one of each gender, present at all times. I will be there for all three periods, but will need at least two volunteers (at least one man) for each section. Please email me at kamcneil@email.unc.edu to volunteer.

Electronics Recycling Drive

March 18

The time for Spring Cleaning is just around the corner! Have some old electronic gear you would like to donate or take to the dump? Your CHFM Environmental Committee is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Drive on March 18th at the rise of Meeting. Just look for a beige mini van in the parking lot and the smiling faces of the ECC folks, ready to help you properly dispose of your old electronic devices such as computers, cameras, batteries, small kitchen appliances, and more. Electronics contain heavy metals, which if thrown into a landfill, will over time leach these harmful elements into the soil and even further down, into the groundwater. Help us encourage clean water for our community, and all it's members!

Information on the CROP Walk

March 25, 2 pm, Chapel Hill

There will be a sign-up table in the lobby of the Meeting house for the Sundays leading up to the Crop Walk itself. Packets will be available for walkers to take and start signing up sponsors. Please register the number of your packet with the person at the table or on the sheet provided. There will also be a sign-up board by the entry door for walkers to sign up and sponsors to add their names to sponsor individual walkers. We want as many walkers as possible. If you can't walk, please consider sponsoring a walker.

T-shirts are available - attractive and bright - for a \$5 donation (or more), cash or check made out to IFC. Many sizes are available, and more can be obtained if we run out in any given size. Get one for yourself and for family and friends. T-shirt money goes directly to our own IFC. There will be a silent auction on the day of the walk, and 100% of those receipts stay with the IFC. Auction items include certificates for local restaurants, weekend get-aways, etc. Of the money raised through sponsoring walkers, 25% stays in the local community and the balance goes to support the work of Church World Services hunger projects around the country and the world.

Walkers can join the C.H. Friends Meeting team on line, and sponsors can contribute through the same site. Go to this website:

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR/2012SpringCROPHungerWalk/TR-Spring2012?team_id=62890&pg=team&fr_id=14322

(There is a link to this site on the CHFM website.) You'll see a link to "Join Us" and a red button to "Donate" to the team. To donate to a specific person, click on their name and then on the red donate button. Contact Asta Crowe for more information for the on-line signup (astacrowe@gmail.com, 933-4564).

Contact Karen Merrey for general information on the walk (klmerrey@gmail.com, 533-6756).

Newcomers' Lunch

March 25, Schoolhouse

If you are a relative newcomer or recent visitor to our Friends Meeting community, please come to the Newcomers' Lunch on Sunday, March 25th, at the rise of late meeting. The Hospitality Committee will provide a light lunch and beverages. All are welcome - new, old and in-between. The lunch will precede the Crop Walk, so we invite walkers to join us for sustenance. Old-timers, feel free to bring savory finger food to share!

75th Anniversary Events

The Ministry and Worship Committee invites all Members, Attenders, Teens, Youth, Carol Woods residents to participate in any or all of the following activities:

Meeting Time Line—will be available at all potlucks—please use Post-Its to add specific events that you think are relevant to the history of the meeting. Or, volunteer to read a bound volume in our library (there are some of meetings for business, some newsletters) and extract gems from our past to include in the time line. (Bound volumes are on the bottom shelf to the right of the door - please do NOT remove bound volumes!) Contact Dottie Heninger: timdothening@mindspring.com

Tapestry (Allie Scales: gingerbred@mindspring.com) and **Canvas Art** (Pam Schwingl: pschwingl@yahoo.com)—please contact to suggest themes or images that might be suitable for these creative projects or, better yet, volunteer to stitch or thread needles

Conversations on Liberal Quakerism—we are already off to a rousing start, but it's not too late to join us (Lloyd Kramer: lskramer@mindspring.com). Next session: March 11th from 1-3 p.m.

Hands-On Project—volunteer to coordinate or to participate or to suggest ideas for a building or renovation project that we hope will involve many people and reach completion by the end of 2012. Ideas suggested so far include renovating some part of the Meeting House, creating a meditation-prayer garden for either the new IFC Men's Shelter or Quaker House in Fayetteville, helping to construct a house in Chapel Hill through Habitat for Humanity, participating in a community vegetable garden for the homeless and recently released prisoners. We'd like to reach a decision by the end of March (Bonnie Raphael: Raphael@email.unc.edu)

Commemorative Meeting Photograph—to be taken on March 25th, between Forum and Late Meeting—we'd like to include as many folks as possible—if you own a camera that would serve well for this task, please let us know—don't forget film as well! (Bonnie Raphael: Raphael@email.unc.edu)

Community Picnic, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 28th from 3-6 on our grounds—for all those people who use our Meeting House so that we can get better acquainted—we need a coordinator for this event and volunteers as well, willing to take care of inviting, feeding and cleaning up after the participants. Contact Stuart Phillips: parklips@aol.com

Summer Outing(s)—to Quaker House, to Sword of Peace, to Pathway to Freedom—in order to reconnect with our ministries and history—sign up for a trip or trips on the back of the door to the Meeting House or, better yet, volunteer to research, schedule and organize trip(s). Contact Bonnie Raphael: Raphael@email.unc.edu.

Come one, come all! Bring your family! Make this a truly special year for CHFM!!

Guilford Conference on Bayard Rustin and Activism

March 16-18, Guilford College

A celebration to mark the birthday centennial of Bayard Rustin (a Quaker), who was active in movements for civil rights, socialism, pacifism and non-violence and gay rights during his life, will be held at Guilford March 16-18. Titled "A Centennial Celebration for Social

Justice,” the conference will be open to the public at no charge. Further information is available by calling Martha Lang, director of LGBTQA Resources at Guilford College, 336-316-2374. Online registration will be available at RustinCentennial@gmail.com. For more information on the conference go to: <http://www.guilford.edu/blog/2012/02/23/bayard-rustins-life-activism-to-be-conference-subject-march-16-18-at-guilford/#>

For a brief synopsis of Rustin, see Marnie Clark's book, *Lives that Speak*, in our CHFM library. See also page 10. Also, come hear Mandy Carter's forum on March 11.

Locavore Lunch

April 22, at rise of late Meeting, Schoolhouse

Join the Environmental Concerns Committee for a locavore lunch on Earth Day. We will gather in the multi-purpose room following the rise of late Meeting. Our Earth Day forum this year will be with Jennie Radcliffe from Durham Friends Meeting and author of the Pendle Hill pamphlet titled, "Integrity, Ecology, and Community: The Motion of Love." Come join us in fellowship and enjoy a meal made of locally grown foods. You do not need to bring any food, but it will be welcomed. Please let Jennifer Leeman or Emily Nelson know if you would like to contribute a dish.

Compassionate Listening Workshop

April 14-15, Chapel Hill

Submitted by Jan Hutton

“Compassionate Listening: Healing Our World from the Inside Out”

An experiential training (based on the work of the late Quaker peace activist, writer, and therapist, Gene Knudsen Hoffman)

In Compassionate Listening (<http://www.compassionatelistening.org/>), we focus on building cultures of peace, but how do we truly embody daily compassion when the times we live in are so tumultuous? "Getting angry with another person is like throwing hot coals with bare hands: both people get burned." (Buddha) Using the crucible of your daily life as raw material, explore Compassionate Listening as an act of personal, social and spiritual transformation. Strengthen your capacity to connect with the humanity of those whose paths you cross, whether or not you share the same values and behaviors. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said "It is futile to implement ideas in the public realm unless we practice them in our personal lives."

Saturday, April 14, 2012, 9am-5pm; Sunday, April 15, 1pm – 6pm,
8 Running Deer Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

<http://www.compassionatelistening.org/calendar/introductory-trainings/2250/chapel-hill-nc-jan-hutton>

Suggested donation is \$70 - \$150, based on your ability to pay (if money is a concern, please talk to me!) Contact Jan Hutton, MSW, for information: janhutton@earthlink.net, 919.967.1959.

Social Workers: NASWNC has endorsed this program for Contact Education Hours

As a member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, I'm grateful to have a minute of support from the Meeting for my ministry with The Compassionate Listening Project.

In peace, Friends,
Jan Hutton

Chuck Fager Retiring as Director of Quaker House New Co-Directors Named

Quaker House Director Chuck Fager will be retiring as director of Quaker House in November 2012. Chuck has served as director for ten years, providing strong leadership, building relationships, and carrying out the mission of Quaker House.

After a careful recruiting and search effort, Lynn and Steve Newsom of Charlotte, NC, have been appointed as co-directors. They will begin November 1, 2012.

The Newsoms are both longtime members of the Society of Friends. Together they have been involved with Monthly Meetings in Chapel Hill NC, Cincinnati OH, Roanoke VA, and Charlotte. Since 2007, they together have served on the Quaker House board.

Steve has experience growing up in a military family, as a veteran, and as a volunteer with the Plowshares Peace Center in Roanoke and the Center for Peace Education in Cincinnati.

Lynn served on the early Quaker House board in the 1970's. She brings extensive classroom teaching experience and conflict resolution training, as well as her leadership skills in clerking Quaker meetings and committees.

Quaker House welcomes Lynn and Steve Newsom as our new co-directors. We are confident that they will enjoy the continuing support of the many loyal individuals and meetings to whom the mission of Quaker House is so important.

Discount for Friends from The Food Fairy Submitted by Terri McClernon

I am Annie DiLorenzo's guardian, or I call myself her God-mother as I feel Annie is my God-daughter. I would like to offer a complimentary 20% discount to this generous Quaker community for personal chef services from The Food Fairy, my business since 1996. We specialize in specialty diets with emphasis on delicious veggies and whole foods. I do a lot of gluten free, sugar free, low-carb, diabetic and heart healthy menus as well as decadent party-time fare. This discount is good throughout the spring, expiring on June 21st, 2012. We make love delicious! www.foodfairy.com 919-740-5856

Background on Bayard Rustin

March 11 Forum

Here is a piece written by Buzz Haughton, a librarian at Shields Library, University of California, Davis, and member of Davis Monthly Meeting in Pacific Yearly Meeting. This article appeared in print in the Fall 1999 issue of Quaker Studies and in 2000 in Afro-Americans in New York Life and History. It was taken from :

http://www.suite101.com/external_link.cfm?elink=http://www.quakerinfo.com/quak_br.shtml

Although Bayard Rustin was one of the most important leaders of the American civil rights movement from the advent of its modern period in the 1950s until well into the 1980s, his name was seldom mentioned; he received comparatively little press or media attention, and others' names were usually much more readily associated with the movement than his was. His was a behind-the-scenes role that, for all its importance, never garnered Rustin the public acclaim he deserved. Rustin's homosexuality and early communist affiliation probably meant that the importance of his contribution to the civil rights and peace movements would never be acknowledged. However, fairness demands that the extent of Rustin's work receive a fair public reception.

Bayard Taylor Rustin was born on March 17, 1912, to Florence Rustin, one of eight children of Julia and Janifer Rustin of West Chester, Pennsylvania. Florence's child had been born out of wedlock; the father was Archie Hopkins. Julia and Janifer decided to raise young Bayard as their son, the youngest of the large Rustin family. Julia Rustin had been raised a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers), and even though she attended the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the denomination of her husband, she impressed on the children she raised certain Quaker principles: the equality of all human beings before God, the vital need for nonviolence, the importance of dealing with everyone with love and respect.

Early Years. Rustin was a gifted and successful student in the schools of West Chester, both academically and on his high school track and football teams. It was during this period of his life that Bayard began to demonstrate his gift for singing with a beautiful tenor voice. He attended Wilberforce University and Cheyney State Teachers College. In 1937 he moved to New York City, where he was to live the rest of his life. He enrolled in the City College of New York, although he never received a degree. It was at this time that Rustin began to organize for the Young Communist League of City College. The communists' progressive stance on the issue of racial injustice appealed to him, although he began to be disillusioned with them after the Communist Party's abrupt about-face on the issue of segregation in the American military in the wake of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. He broke with the Young Communist League and soon found himself seeking out A. Philip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and at that time the leading articulator of the rights of Afro-Americans. He soon headed the youth wing of a march on Washington that Randolph envisioned. Randolph called off the demonstration when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802, forbidding racial discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries. Randolph's calling off of the projected march caused a temporary breach between him and Bayard Rustin, and Rustin transferred his organizing efforts to the peace movement, first in the Fellowship of

Reconciliation and later in the American Friends Service Committee, the Socialist Party, and the War Resisters League.

Although as a member of one of the government-recognized peace churches--he had been a member of the Fifteenth Street Friends Meeting since shortly after moving to New York--he was entitled to do alternative service rather than serve in the armed services, Rustin found himself unable to accept this easy way out, given the fact that many young men who were not members of the recognized peace churches were receiving harsh prison sentences for refusing to serve. In 1944, Rustin was found guilty of violating the Selective Service Act and was sentenced to three years in a federal prison. In March 1944 Rustin was sent to the federal penitentiary in Ashland, Kentucky. He then set about to resist the pervasive segregation then the norm in prisons in the United States. Although faced with vicious racism from some of the prison guards and white prisoners, Rustin faced frequent cruelty with courage and completely nonviolent resistance.

The Post-World War II Period. On release from prison, Rustin got involved again with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, which staged a journey of reconciliation through four Southern and border states in 1947 to test the application of the Supreme Court's recent ruling that discrimination in seating in interstate transportation was illegal. Rustin's resistance to North Carolina's Jim Crow law against integration in transportation earned him twenty-eight days' hard labor on a chain gang, where he met with the usual racist taunts and tortures on the part of his prisoners.

Between 1947 and 1952, Rustin traveled first to India and then to Africa under the aegis of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, exploring the nonviolent dimensions of the Indian and Ghanaian independence movements.

In 1953 Rustin was arrested for public indecency in Pasadena, California, while lecturing under the auspices of the American Association of University Women. It was the first time that Rustin's homosexuality had come into public attention, and at that time homosexual behavior in all states was a criminal offense. Although the gay rights movement in the United States was still many years in the future, Rustin's conviction and his relatively open attitude about his homosexuality set the stage for him to become an elder gay icon in the decades to come. As the years went on, gay rights became of a piece with his belief in the inherent dignity of Afro-Americans and other oppressed people. As a consequence of his arrest, Rustin was released from his position on the staff of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

It was at this low point in his life that Bayard Rustin began a twelve-year stint as executive secretary of the War Resisters League. Rustin also contributed greatly to a compilation of pacifist strategy, published in *The Progressive* and also as a monograph in 1959 by the American Friends Service Committee and entitled *Speak Truth to Power*.

In 1956 Rustin was approached by Lillian Smith, the celebrated Southern novelist who authored *Strange Fruit*, to provide Dr. Martin Luther King with some practical advice on how to apply Gandhian principles of nonviolence to the boycott of public transportation then taking shape in Montgomery, Alabama. On leave from the War Resisters League, Rustin spent time in Montgomery and Birmingham advising King, who had not yet completely embraced principles of nonviolence in his struggle. By 1957, Rustin was busy playing a large role in the birth of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and in the Prayer Pilgrimage to Washington that took place on May 17, 1957 to urge President Eisenhower to enforce the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling that the nation's schools be

desegregated. Rustin was also instrumental in organizing two Youth Marches for Integrated Schools in 1958 and 1959.

The 1960's. Arguably the high point of Bayard Rustin's political career was the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom which took place on August 28, 1963, the place of Dr. Martin Luther King's stirring "I Have a Dream" speech. Rustin was by all accounts the March's chief architect. To devise a march of at least one-quarter of a million participants and to coordinate the various sometimes fractious civil rights organizations that played a part in it was a herculean feat of mobilization.

By 1965 Rustin had come to believe that the period for militant street action had come to an end; the legal foundation for segregation had been irrevocably shattered. Now came the larger, more difficult task of forging an alliance of dispossessed groups in American society into a progressive force. Rustin saw this coalition encompassing Afro-Americans and other minorities, trade unions, liberals, and religious groups. That Rustin's plan of action did not go further was, in the opinion of several political analysts, because of the war in Vietnam, whose enormous monetary, psychological, and spiritual cost managed to subsume any progressive movement. Rustin's steadfast opposition to identity politics also came under criticism by exponents of the developing Black Power movement. His critical stance toward affirmative action programs and black studies departments in American universities was not a popular viewpoint among many of his fellow Afro-Americans, and as at various other times of his life Rustin found himself to a certain extent isolated.

Another viewpoint which did not endear Bayard Rustin to many leftists or radical Black Power adherents was his consistent support of Israel. In the wake of the Holocaust, Rustin believed very strongly that the Jews needed their own state. While further believing that the state of Israel had been guilty of injustices against Palestinians, he nonetheless contended that the vituperative clamor on the part of Middle Eastern states to destroy Israel had provoked many of the excesses of the Israeli government.

Later Years. In the late 1970s and 1980s, Rustin worked as a delegate for the organization Freedom House, monitoring elections and the status of human rights in countries like Chile, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Poland, and Zimbabwe. In all his efforts Rustin evinced a lifelong, unwavering conviction in behalf of the value of democratic principles.

It was Rustin's human rights expedition to Haiti in 1987 that drew the final curtain on his remarkable life. After his visit, under the aegis of Freedom House, to study prospects for democratic elections in that unhappy country, Rustin began to feel unwell. His symptoms were initially misdiagnosed as intestinal parasites, but on August 21, 1987, Rustin was admitted to Lenox Hill Hospital and diagnosed with a perforated appendix. He died of cardiac arrest on August 24.

Although Bayard Rustin lived in the shadow of more charismatic civil rights leaders, he can lay real claim to have been an indispensable unsung force behind the movement toward equality for America's black citizens, and more largely for the rights of humans around the globe, in the twentieth century. Throughout his life, Rustin's Quakerism was a unifying force in his life and a strong plank in his personal philosophy, incorporating beliefs that were of central importance to him: that there is that of God in every person, that all are entitled to a decent life, and that a life of service to others is the way to happiness and true fulfillment.

Etty: a Play at Beth El Synagogue

The Beth El Sisterhood is sponsoring *Etty: One Woman's Struggle to Sustain Humanity in the Face of the Nazi's Unspeakable Brutality*. The story has been adapted for the stage and will be performed by Susan Stein. The performance is at the Beth El Synagogue in Durham on March 24 at 8:30 PM. It is \$5. For more information and to RSVP (by March 17), email aposs@usa.net. Read about the play at www.ettyplay.org.

Directory Updates

Ruth Zalph's new email: ragingrannieruth@yahoo.com
Please note that her old address, ruthcz@bellsouth.net, has been hacked.

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Carolyn White, clerk; Robin Harper, recording clerk
February 19, 2012**

Worship and query: How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

One member expressed appreciation to the Meeting for nurturing her gifts and nudging her to use these gifts for the Meeting. She expressed appreciation for John Hite for his ability to help Meeting youth discover their special gifts.

1. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, review of agenda

We welcomed first-time attenders Jane Harwell, Quentin Steele, Paul Munk, and Melvin E. Martin.

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

3. Request for membership—Andrea Wuerth and Herbert Struemper

Andrea Wuerth and Herbert Struemper sent a letter to the Meeting requesting membership. After reading the letter, the clerk referred the matter to Ministry & Worship. Several members spoke with appreciation about Andrea and Herbert's involvement with First Day School and expressed joy that they are requesting membership.

4. Annual Report of Environmental Concerns Committee—Tom Munk (Attached)

After reading the report, Tom encouraged Meeting members to sign up for NC Greenpower.

Tom displayed the tree made by members of First Day School, and leaves that families could write their names on and pin to the tree, to show their participation in NC Greenpower. All are urged to join in!

The report was accepted with thanks for all of the committee's good work.

Perry Martin reminded the meeting that there is a box for attenders to place spent fluorescent bulbs, so they may be disposed of properly, and Emilie Condon shared a way for Friends to have subsidized home energy audits, which may possibly be used as an ECC envirotip.

5. Finance Committee report—Matt Drake

Contributions are a little over the 90% mark of the \$64,000 goal. The Finance Committee will be in touch with committee clerks, to find out how their spending plans are falling out for the year, and perhaps caution them to not quite spend all they have, yet. There are often committees who do not spend their entire budget, so we may not actually have to raise the full \$64,000. Half of our Benevolences have been paid. Assuming the money is raised, we will pay the other half at the end of the FY.

6. Proposal to join Religious Coalition of Orange–Durham Against Amendment One—Sarah Grimme, for Peace & Social Concerns

This group was organized to address legal issues affecting families. It is a group of religious organizations coming together to coordinate opposition against Amendment One, which will be on the ballot May 8 and would strike down all recognized unions except for one man and one woman. It would also include removing some protections for single parents. P&SC would like to draft a minute to propose going forward with this group.

Friends commented that our minute should reflect our history of opposition to restrictions attempting to define who can marry whom, and what constitutes a family. This is not a new stance for us. Suggestion was also made that we should express our position in positive terms, e.g., support for such populations, rather than opposition to this amendment.

The Meeting approved joining the Religious Coalition of Orange–Durham Against Amendment One, and requests P&SC to draft a minute articulating our historical stand on this issue, effectively opposing Amendment One. The Meeting approved Sarah Grimme, Judy Purvis, Ann Miller, and Deborah Gibbs serving as our representatives to the Coalition.

7. Consideration of the Ban the Box petition approved by P&SC committee—Hank Elkins, for the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (Attached)

“The box” is the box that appears on most employment applications, asking about convictions for misdemeanors and felonies. It often prohibits applicants from getting beyond the first step in applying for jobs after release from prison, and disproportionately affects African Americans. The Ban the Box petition recommends the question about convictions be asked later in the application process. The Partnership is asking other faith communities to be signatories to this petition as well.

The Meeting approved signing the petition.

One Friend suggested “The New Jim Crow” as recommended reading.

8. Report on PFF and upcoming retreat—Jeff Brown

This year’s retreat will be March 16–18 at Carolina Friends School. The Children’s Religious Ed Committee of CHFM is playing a large role in the planning of the youth activities. Registration forms will soon be on PFF website and our website. The theme of the adult program is “What Dost Thou Witness?” If anyone is led to open their homes to distant participants, please let Jeff know.

Also, PFF is exploring yearly meeting status. Representatives from Charlotte and Durham meetings have offered to meet with us to explain and explore PFF becoming a yearly Meeting. Friends expressed enthusiasm for hearing from these representatives. Jeff agreed to contact ARE to see about finding a forum time for these visitors.

The Meeting expressed appreciation for the strong membership on our PFF representatives committee, in effect strengthening our relationship with PFF.

Carolyn asked M&W to discuss the laid–aside ad hoc committee to explore yearly meeting membership.

9. Update on renovations—Carolyn White for Buildings & Grounds

The addition to the Education Building is now three weeks old and looks to finish in another four weeks. The finished height on the ceiling, and the desire for more bookcases led to the ditching of the transom idea. The contractor is looking into the cost built into the job to see if they could cover the installation of a solar tube in the conference room. The electrical is all roughed in, the sheetrock is hung, and the HVAC is hooked up. Things have gone along smoothly vis–a–vis the early school students and teachers.

Please note the new climbing structure in the playground. The old structure was dismantled and donated to a school in eastern NC.

10. Messages and Announcements:

- ECC Movie night: “The Last Mountain,” Feb. 25, 6:30 PM, Schoolhouse
- Town Hall Meeting in Raleigh: Walter Jones, David Price, Brad Miller, and now Matthew Hough added as a speaker to the meeting on Feb. 20, 11:00 AM, Legislative Building in Raleigh, bus leaving from Carol Woods. There will be a proposal to use diplomacy in Iran.

Worship and greeting

Attending: Marilyn Dyer, Bill Flash, Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, Lloyd Kramer, James Harper, Bettie Flash, Carolyn Stuart, Richard Miller, Judy Purvis, Melvin E. Martin, Paul Munk, Quentin Steele, Emilie Condon, Jane Harwell, Rodney Burrell, Brian Stuhlmuller, Sarah Grimme, Ann Miller, Ruth Zalph, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Jeff Brown, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Deborah Gibbs, Thomas McQuiston, Muqtadir Hakeem, Reginald Thomas, Francis Coyle

Environmental Concerns Committee Annual Report April 2011 – January 2012

We start each meeting with the following query:

"As the Meeting's Environmental Concerns Committee, how can we work together in harmonious spirit to encourage appreciation for, and care of, the natural world around us and share that with the rest of the Meeting community?"

The committee's current priorities are educating and greening the Meeting.

The committees' education efforts over the past year included:

We sponsored three forums:

- April 24, 2011 – Lauren Carreto and Andy Nelson led an Earth Day Forum on the current energy crisis and drew parallels to the history of Quaker response to crises, specifically their response to slavery.
- May 8, 2011 – Ruth Hamilton and Andy and Emily Nelson led a forum on Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- January 1, 2012 – Dirk Spruyt and Perry Martin led us in the elm dance, a community celebration to recognize the sacredness of the natural world and ask for its healing

We sponsored two movie nights:

- "Kilowatt Ours" – members of the high school First Day class joined us.
- "Gas Land," which is a documentary about fracking.

Information in the library – We have a shelf in the library devoted to environmental concerns and organic gardening. You are encouraged to check out books and DVDs from this growing collection.

We provide a monthly envirotip for inclusion in each month's meeting newsletter. We appreciate Emily Nelson's work on this as she most frequently writes the tip.

We keep each other current on the latest action items and judiciously select action items to pass on to the meeting.

The committee's efforts to green the Meeting include

At the committee's request, the Meeting approved purchasing blocks of cleanly and sustainably produced energy from NC Green Power, on the Meeting's monthly power bill, in an amount that offsets our average monthly kilowatt hour usage

We explored solar panels for meeting. We get full sun on one of three roofs of the new building. The cost-benefit analysis at this time does not warrant placing panels on that roof but we will continue to keep our eye on it.

Two members of the environmental concerns committee are participating on the renovation sub-committee to provide support for exploring sustainable approaches. They are Emily Nelson and Tom Smith.

We continue to monitor and maintain the animal-resistant compost container next to the new building and thank Hospitality for composting after our potlucks.

We continue to monitor and maintain the "Nibble Garden" designed in consultation with the Early School.

Our plans for the future include the following:

- An electronics recycling drive in March.
- A drive to encourage members to participate in NC Green Power.
- Beginning to explore transition congregations.
- Earth Day Forum with Ginny Ratcliffe from Durham Friends Meeting who wrote "Integrity, Ecology, and Community: the Motion of Love."
- Upcoming movie night, February 25th - "The Last Mountain"

We look forward to the coming year as the Meeting celebrates its 75th anniversary. We are hoping that our contribution can include encouraging us, as community, to support each other as we joyfully reduce our impact on the earth and celebrate the natural world.

We are an open committee and welcome attendance by anyone interested. We meet at the rise of meeting on the fourth Sunday.

Respectfully submitted:

Ryan Jarrell, Emily Harper, Perry Martin, Andy Nelson, Tom Smith, Robin Harper, Marolyn McDiarmid, Emily Nelson, Dirk Spruyt, Lauren Carreto, Tom Munk, Pam Schwingl, Jennifer Leeman, Clerk

Ban the Box
A Petition for More Open Employment Opportunity for those with Criminal Convictions
Employment Group, Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness

Introduction:

In the tradition of providing employment opportunities open to those of all races, ethnic backgrounds, gender, sexual orientation, and age, this petition seeks to broaden the opportunity for the homeless in Orange County, many of whom have criminal convictions. The initial application forms for Orange County and the three town governments of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough all contain a question regarding prior criminal convictions. (See Appendix A for the wording of the question in the four

applications.) This petition calls for delaying that question, termed the box, until a later stage in the employment process, to a time when applicants have a chance to present their skills, experience, and express their personality relating to a job opening.

Petition:

- **Whereas the box affects many potential job applicants** since about one of every four adults in the U.S. has a criminal record; and
- **Whereas removing the box sends a message of openness and hope** and thereby encourages all well-qualified candidates to apply;
- **Whereas** by not using a box preemptively to screen candidates the employer gains a larger pool of candidates from which to select; and
- **Whereas banning the box can help employers find some of the most eager, highly-motivated, and well-qualified applicants**, applicants who bring tangible benefits such as free federal bonding along with their enthusiasm and hard work; and
- **Whereas banning the box can cut employers' costs** as it did in Minneapolis by eliminating background checks for unqualified candidates, by reducing the amount of transactional work for staff, and not slowing the hiring process, even when reviewing convictions at the job offer stage (Minneapolis, 2008); and
- **Whereas the box discriminates particularly against African-Americans and other minorities** because those with convictions may never get a chance to demonstrate their skills, to expound on their experience or explain their conviction; African-Americans suffer more because they are more liable to have criminal convictions; and even among applicants with criminal convictions, employers are less likely to interview blacks or call them back (Pager 2003; Tanaka 2011; Stoll 2007; Western 2000); and
- **Whereas removing the box decreases discrimination:** The three-year experience of Minneapolis showed that for hiring those candidates with "problems," banning the box increased the hiring of those with criminal convictions from 6% to 60% (Minneapolis 2008; Cooper 2010); and
- **Whereas removing the box maintains employer autonomy:** Delaying the question on criminal conviction does not force an employer to hire convicted applicants. Employers can still evaluate a prior conviction as a factor and can still restrict certain types of jobs to those without convictions; and
- **Whereas removing the box in Orange County town and county government applications sets an example of openness and fairness for all employers, both public and private;** and
- **Whereas banning the box can increase public safety and reduce costs of police, court, social services and prisons** when the homeless obtain employment, stay out of prison, and pay taxes;

Be it therefore resolved that governments of Orange County and the towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough remove the question on prior convictions from the initial employment application and if appropriate for the job, ask that question at a later stage in the employment process.

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

- Sun. 3/4** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: The Parent of a Quaker Activist - Buffie Webber
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
12:30pm Potluck & IFC donations
- Tue. 3/6 7-8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
- Wed. 3/7 10am-12pm Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
- Fri. 3/9 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
-
- Sun. 3/11** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: The Light & Movement of Bayard Rustin - Mandy Carter
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
12:30pm Peace & Social Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
1-3pm Conversations on Liberal Quakerism (see page 7)
- Tue. 3/13 7-8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
- Fri. 3/16 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Fri. 3/16-18 6pm PFF Annual Retreat - Carolina Friends School (see page 4)
- Fri. 3/16-18 Guilford Conference on Bayard Rustin (see page 7)
- Sun. 3/18 12:30pm Electronics Recycling - Parking Lot (see page 5)
-
- Sun. 3/18** 8am Meetinghouse open for worship
8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:00am Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
- Tue. 3/20 7-8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
- Wed. 3/21 10am-12pm Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
- Fri. 3/23 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sat. 3/24 8:30pm Ety, a play - Beth El Synagogue (see page 13)
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- Sun. 3/25** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: 75th Anniversary
10:45 Commemorative Meeting Photo Shoot (see page 7)
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
12:30pm Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
12:30pm Newcomers' Lunch - Schoolhouse (see page 6)
2pm CROP Walk - Chapel Hill (see page 6)
10pm Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
- Fri. 3/30 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 4/1	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: PFF Considers Becoming an Annual Meeting
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse
Tue. 4/3	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 4/4	10am-12pm	Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
Thur. 4/5	9am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 4/6	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 (919) 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 (919) 967-4926
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. The deadline for submissions is 10pm on the last Sunday of the month. Email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org or call Emily Buehler, (919) 475-5756.
- To send news on the Meeting Listserv or as an In The Light announcement, or to receive the Listserv announcements, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org.
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- To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.