

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: Ninth Month, 2024



Monthly Query: *Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?*

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *When taking in another's vocal ministry, take a moment to test your own reactions. Where do they come from? Are you listening through to the Light behind the message? If you find yourself struggling with another's words, search for the Love behind them.*

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## Upcoming Zoom Fora

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/forums.html>

**September 1:** Follow-Up on the Anti-Apartheid Pledge Listening Session: A follow up forum led by Peace and Justice to allow exploration of whether our Meeting wants to sign the Anti-Apartheid Pledge in support of Palestinian human rights.

**September 8:** Worship Sharing. Reflections and Leadings from your Summer. What spoke to you from Forums, Meetings for Worship, or Personal Experiences? Facilitated by Calaway

**September 15:** MFWAB

**September 22:** Carolina Friends School Chapel Hill Early School. A presentation from Caroline Carman, Head Teacher, about the Early School, its history, Quaker values, and more.

**September 29:** TBA

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## Upcoming Events

### Panel of Friends on Palestine-Israel, Tues, Sept. 3, 7-8:30 pm

How do we, as Quakers, face the challenge of living our values and principles as we respond to the violence in Palestine-Israel?"

In this Panel Presentation via Zoom, these Friends will share from their professional and personal experiences their perspectives on the complex situation in Palestine-Israel, including

thoughts on the historical influences contributing to the current war, their understanding of the personal costs and struggles of both Palestinians and Israelis, and their commitment to the potential for peace in the region.

Panelists: Vernie Davis (Raleigh Friends), moderator; Mark Davidson (Raleigh Friends); Jane & Max Carter (New Garden Friends); Kathy Kamphoefner & Paul Pierce (Raleigh Friends/Cairo, Egypt)

This initial conversation is an introduction to reflecting on the query for this panel and is hoped to be a recourse to individual Friends and monthly meetings in going deeper into their own discernment to the query.

Register Here: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/4SF1cccszq>

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## Palestinian Peace Discussion, Thurs. Sept 5, 7 pm

Wendy Michener shares with Friends

For your consideration as we discuss the Anti-Apartheid pledge with Meeting.



**PEACE**

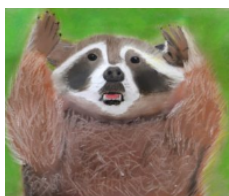
Panel Discussion, "Building a Just and Lasting Peace: Perspectives and Experiences of Palestinian Quakers," online, September 5th at 7 p.m. with Joyce Ajlouny and Walid Mosarsaa.

Email: [quakersforpeace@gmail.com](mailto:quakersforpeace@gmail.com) to register.

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## "Something to Say" Art Exhibit in Hillsborough, Sept. 18 - Oct. 13

"Something to Say" Exhibit, Displaying Work from Men Incarcerated at Orange Correctional Center (OCC)



Margaret Lane Art Gallery in Hillsborough (121 West Margaret Lane) is hosting an exhibit of visual art and poetry created by men incarcerated at Orange Correctional Center in Hillsborough. The exhibit, Something to Say, will open September 18 and close on October 13. The museum is open Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 am to 6:00 pm; Friday and Saturday,

11:30 am to 7:30 pm; and Sunday, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please visit and enjoy works in charcoal, colored pencil, watercolor and acrylics, as well as OCC residents' poetry.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Stuart at [stuartcarolyn95@gmail.com](mailto:stuartcarolyn95@gmail.com)

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## Piedmont Friends Fall Gathering Sat, Sept. 21, 11-3 pm



Join Piedmont Friends for fellowship, a BYO picnic lunch, tour of the historic Moravian Meetinghouse at [Bethabara Historic Park](#), exploring the grounds and walking trails, Moravian cookies and more.

Register Here: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/333179dDz58dVQ>

Piedmont Friends Website: <https://www.piedmontfriends.org/piedmont-friends-fall-gathering/>

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## Family and Friends Event, Orange County Public Library, Sat. Oct. 5, 1:30-4 pm

As part of the "Something to Say" exhibit, a special event is planned for October 5, 1:30 to 4:00 at the Orange County Public Library in Hillsborough (137 West Margaret Lane). All are invited for a poetry reading of poems written by men from Orange Correctional Center. In addition to the poetry, there will be music provided by returning citizens who were once residents of OCC. Delicious sweet and savory dishes will be served, and there's a possibility of a dog training exhibit in the outside space. This event will take place in the community room of the Orange County Public Library, which is adjacent to Margaret Lane Art Gallery, where the visual art and poems of men at OCC will be displayed September 18 through October 13.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Stuart at [stuartcarolyn95@gmail.com](mailto:stuartcarolyn95@gmail.com)

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## Calling all Committee Clerks!, Sunday, Oct. 6, 1-3pm

Save the date: Clerks Retreat, Sunday, October 6th, 1-3:00 in the Meeting House. Please mark your calendars now.. It's a potluck Sunday, so we will gather after the meal.

Ministry and Worship is planning this retreat. We welcome all ideas from clerks about topics you may want included. Send your thoughts to [dottieheninger@gmail.com](mailto:dottieheninger@gmail.com) or to Carolyn White [chwhitenc@gmail.com](mailto:chwhitenc@gmail.com).

We look forward to having all committee clerks, or their representatives, attend. Lots to learn and share! Details will follow...

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## Announcements

### Did you Receive the New Directory?

On August 12, an updated version in .PDF format of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Directory was emailed to everyone in the Directory with an email address. Please email [directory@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:directory@chapelhillfriends.org) by September 6 if either you did not receive a copy or your information is incorrect.

We appreciate your cooperation in making the new directory as helpful as possible.

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### Ramallah Friends School Needs Your Help!!!!

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

Ramallah Friends School is a 155 year old Quaker school located in the West Bank of Palestine. They are currently experiencing significant loss of tuition from the 1600 student families who attend. Unemployment is at 60-80% due to the nearby war in Gaza. and the decision of Israel not to give back the West Bank government their share of tax revenues. We are looking to raise significant scholarship money to keep the school going.

I will be attending the 11 am Meeting for Worship for the next two weeks. If you wish to donate for Ramallah Friends School, please bring your checkbook to a meeting and if you like, I can help you fill it out. (Basically you make the check to Friends United Meeting but in the lower left line write Ramallah Friends School Scholarship Fund). I will take your check and get it to the right source. Checks to RFS are tax deductible. I am also happy to take your cash donation. If you have questions, please contact me at [betsybrinson422@gmail.com](mailto:betsybrinson422@gmail.com) or cell 804-836-2669.

You can also click here <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rfssolidarity> to read about and to contribute to the Solidarity Fund. And click [here](#) to learn more about Ramallah Friends School.

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## A Resource for Your Spiritual Growth

Matt Drake shares with Friends:

"God's Promise Fulfilled" Join a cohort of two dozen people willing to test the proposition that there is an Inner Teacher, called by many names in the Bible and throughout history, who promises us "Life more abundant" (John 10:10) if we commit. This is a sequence of two one-year courses offered by the School of the Spirit Ministry, beginning May 25, 2025.

More information available at: [www.schoolofthespirit.org/gpf](http://www.schoolofthespirit.org/gpf)

- Online or in person participation available
  - Financial support likely at [shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org)
  - See postcard-sized handouts on the sign-in table in the foyer
  - Local contact is Matt Drake: [matthiascdrake@gmail.com](mailto:matthiascdrake@gmail.com)
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## Anti-Apartheid Pledge

Dottie Heninger shares with Friends:

Learn about the Anti-Apartheid Pledge that Quaker meetings and church congregations, nationally and internationally, are signing to show support for Palestinian human rights. The Forum on August 25 explained the Pledge. Information posted in the foyer provides an introduction. A follow-up forum on September 1 will allow attenders to share our responses to the pledge. Please read the pledge and take the handouts to study. Visit [apartheid-free.org](http://apartheid-free.org) for more information. The AFSC is assisting with this initiative. Ask Dottie Heninger if you have questions.

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## Report from Quaker House

Curt Torell shares with Friends:

Wayne Finegar, QH Executive Director, finished many summer visits to monthly and yearly meetings, which helped renew support among our Friends fellowship. This report focuses on the G.I. Rights Hotline.

We've been pulling together all the reports from our G.I. Rights Hotline counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, since their start in January 2001. It is a fascinating story of their

legacy of answering roughly 200 calls each month for almost 25 years. In their first report, written in April 2001, they spoke poignantly and prophetically about their work and the damage military training and deployment does to ordinary people, saying:

A number of people told us how much they appreciated speaking with us, even in cases where our role has been more to listen than to give information. In such instances, the hotline becomes empowering for service members who otherwise don't have sympathetic people to listen to them and who are often blamed for their failure to adapt to an unhealthy military lifestyle. Often members feel humiliated by their failure.

We now know that one of the causes of suicide in the military is this sense of failure to conform to killing. The story Steve and Lynn told almost 25 years ago rings true today. They would be the first to thank everyone who supports Quaker House and saves lives.

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## A Message from the Finance Committee About Donating

This fiscal year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025), Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is operating with a total operating budget of about \$77,000. This money is used to pay the bills, support our committees, keep the building functioning, and pay benevolences to outside organizations. The great majority of this spending—94% or about \$72,000, must be covered by your donations (the rest coming from parking for sporting events.)

We recognize that folks in our Meeting have different preferences for how frequently they give and at what times during the year. In the last two fiscal years, the finance committee has been concerned that we were not going to meet our budget goals and then found ourselves in a fundraising crunch. In an attempt to avoid this, the Finance committee encourages folks to give more consistently throughout the year and start earlier giving during this first half of our fiscal year if that is possible in your own budgeting process. Thank you for your commitment to helping our Meeting run as smoothly as possible.

To donate there are several options. There is a box in the foyer for checks made out to CHFM, and cash. You can also send a check to the Treasurer, CHFM, 531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill 27514. If you prefer to donate online, please go to our website home page at [www.chapelhillfriends.org](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org) and click the "donate" button at the upper right corner. The donate button will also guide you to other ways you can give, including how the more "seasoned" (over-70 ½) folks among us can make fully tax-deductible gifts directly from an IRA.

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## Bequests to the CHFM

Many of you have likely heard pitches on PBS or other charitable organizations asking you to

include them in your estate plans. The Finance committee wants to remind folks that you can do the same thing for our Meeting!

Read the Finance Committee's complete, newly revised [estate planning guide](#).

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## Recurring Announcements

### InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers

We invite anyone interested in becoming, or knowing more about being an IFC Committee Member to please contact Carolyn White.

We welcome volunteers to help with food preparation and service at ICF every second Thursday for lunch: 10a - 1p, and/or every second Friday for dinner 4p-6:30p. Volunteers are welcome for part of the shift, or the full shift.

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### Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted

Support Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Zoom worship and forums by becoming a tech host. The role is much more simple than you would imagine. Trust us! We need your help and will train you. Please contact the Zoom Subcommittee if interested, or have questions: [zoom@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:zoom@chapelhillfriends.org).

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### Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items

Please consider IFC's needs when doing your shopping. There is a basket in the meetinghouse foyer for food donations. IFC has requested the following food items: coffee, hot chocolate, canned protein, canned pork and beans, canned soup (not vegetable), boxed cereal, cake mixes, instant foods, ramen noodles. Thank you!

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## FRIENDS, PLEASE LIMIT YOUR WEEKDAY MEETINGHOUSE VISITS.

The CFS Early School teachers, parents and guests have priority use of the meetinghouse parking lot from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday throughout the calendar year. If you must visit the meetinghouse during weekday hours, please alert John Hite, the Meetinghouse Resident, at least one day ahead. Email: [johnthequaker@gmail.com](mailto:johnthequaker@gmail.com) or call: 919-929-5377.

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## Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).

- The deadline for weekly eNews is *Wednesday* 6 pm.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last day of the month*.

To unsubscribe, email to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) with the subject line, Unsubscribe.

**Note:** If you think that you haven't received your weekly enews or monthly newsletter, it helps to add [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) to your contacts. Otherwise it might go to your Spam folder (and likewise for other chapelhillfriends.org mailing lists such as [pfym@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:pfym@chapelhillfriends.org)).

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## Recurring Events

### Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Join us when you can for as long as you wish - from your own home.

Do you have a name or a group of people to add to - or remove from - the list of those we will hold in our hearts and prayers? If so, please send to: [prayers@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:prayers@chapelhillfriends.org). The list of names to be held in the Light will be renewed each month. Names must be resubmitted each

month to be maintained on the list. We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

This virtual prayer service continues under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee and each week, a committee member will collect and post the names that are submitted and will read them aloud during the time of the service.

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## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine. Thursdays, 5:30pm

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

You are invited to join Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel at 5:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. PT. We will continue to meet weekly on Thursdays at this time, at least through the months of January and February, or until a permanent ceasefire is reached.

Join on Zoom:

<https://afsc-org.zoom.us/j/85831333364?pwd=VEtPTUZuYk5hTHV2OGs1VzRkY0ZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3133 3364

Passcode: 759311

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## Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am

Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center is now opening their daily morning worship to everyone, by way of Zoom or phone. A lovely opportunity for gathered worship every morning. "A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn – from 8:30am to 9:10am Eastern Time – expanding the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship here on campus. Beginning the week of March 16, 2020, we started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to YOU in your home. You can join us here via Zoom."

<https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/?bblinkid=210290749&bbemailid=19903873&bbejrid=1408822779>

**Note:** The above link takes you *not* to the meeting but to a page of general instructions. Look for the sentence "You can join us via Zoom **here**, or by clicking on the image below."

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## Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow, Daily

Link to the Daily Meeting for Worship for Peace sponsored by FHM/FHMSA: (Friends House Moscow)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4165005614?pwd=NUtieEtqbDBYbjBrcGdMMzBKQ3drQT09>

Meeting ID: 416 500 5614

Passcode: 182805

The room opens at 8:45am Pacific time (10:45 EST); worship begins on the hour and ends an hour later. After worship there will be time to share brief thoughts that did not rise to the level of ministry. You may also want to rename yourself indicating your geographic location. There will be no audible indicator when one enters or leaves, and everyone will be muted on entry. Please leave yourself muted unless giving ministry.

Ministry may also be shared in the chat, but it is not the place for private conversations. If you are new to Quaker unprogrammed worship and wish to talk with someone about it, send a message to the host and someone can join you in a breakout room.

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## Business Meeting Minutes

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting- Minutes for the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - 9:00 AM, 8/18/2024 online via Zoom

Attendance: Susan Newcomer, Betsy Brinson, Alice Carlton, Quaker Harmon, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, John Bell, Camp Larrick, Dottie Heninger, David Waterman, Peter Malone, John Hite, Calaway Rohloff, Monteze Snyder, Margaret Vimmersmidt, Wendy Michener, Tori Toles, Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Tracy Hjelt Sullivan, Julia Cleaver, Buzz Borchardt. Tom Munk, Ann Miller, Jennifer Leeman, Deborah Gibbs, Nancy Milio, Emilie Condon, Hank Elkins, Susan Inglis, Paul Munk, Carolyn Stuart, Kate Fitch

1. The Clerk opened with worship and the following query:

Query: How does worship deepen my relationship with God/Spirit/Light, increase my faithfulness and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?

2. The Clerk welcomed three first-time attenders: Lisa Lister and Walter and Tracy Hjelt Sullivan.

3. The minutes of the June 2024 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) were approved as written.

4. Betsy Brinson, our representative to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), provided an annual report on AFSC. Friends accepted the report. (Appendix A)

5. Susan Newcomer, one of our trustees to the Carolina Friends School (CFS) board, presented the CFS annual report. Friends accepted the report with the addition of Eric Graves as one of our trustees to the school. (Appendix B)

6. Dottie Heninger, corresponding clerk, presented a travel minute for Campo Larrick. The meeting approved the following travel minute:

The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting sends greetings and well wishes to the Quakers of Indiana. We happily and lovingly recommend to you our Friend Campo Larrick who will attend the Earlham School of Religion this fall. Campo is a beloved member of our Meeting and has provided remarkable Spirit-led leadership in his own loving, quiet manner to our Meeting's growth in becoming an anti-racist meeting and in loving each other more deeply. We will continue to hold Campo and his work in the Light as he pursues study at ESR. We ask for your loving care for Campo while he is with you.

7. Dottie Heninger, co-clerk of Ministry and Worship, presented a report on the Meeting's support for Bridging the Gap. (Appendix C). She also presented a minute requesting approval for Bridging the Gap to use the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting name when referring to the support of our Meeting. The Ministry and Worship Committee Came to unity on the minute in the meeting on July 1. The meeting approved the following minute:

Ministry and Worship affirmed their support for using the formal name of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting as the name Bridging the Gap should use in publicly attributing support to this organization. This group led part of our February retreat on anti-racism and Danita Mason-Hogans led a forum later in the spring on how to become more involved in anti-racism work. Our Meeting clearly has a relationship with this organization. Partnering with BTG means that our meeting will provide support by attending BTG presentations and participating in their events as appropriate.

8. Jennifer Leeman reported on Hart Pillow's clearness committee for membership. Carolyn White clerked the committee, which also included Jennifer Leeman, Lynn Drake, and Alice Carlton. The committee achieved clearness on recommending Hart Pillow for membership in the Chapel Hill Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Friends approved Hart's membership and created a welcoming committee that includes John Bell, Alice Carlton, and Carolyn Stuart. Jennifer also read a brief biography. (Appendix D)

9. Kate Fitch, Clerk of Adult Religious Education (ARE) Committee, introduced the 2024-25 theme for ARE forums: "What makes you come alive?" Building on Friends positive response to this past year's forum on birds, ARE we will plan forums where individuals present on the activities, practices, and interests that sustain them and make them spiritually come alive. Kate and the ARE committee invite ideas for forums.

10. Ann Miller, Clerk, reported that she received a request for membership from Quaker Harmon. She has referred the request to Ministry and Worship to form a clearness committee.

11. Wendy provided some background on the the Day of Action for Gaza workgroup, which is working for policy change to promote peace in Gaza. If interested joining this workgroup, contact Tom Munk or Wendy Michener.

12. Dottie Heninger, corresponding clerk, read a memorial minute for Betsy Fenhagen. Friends accepted the minute. (Appendix E)

13. Dottie Heninger, corresponding clerk, read a memorial minute for Bob and Winnie Simmons. Friends accepted the minute. (Appendix F)

14. Announcements:

- The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 9/15/2024.

- A memorial service for Betsy Fenhagen will be held today at 2:00 pm in the Meeting house. Memorial service for Joyce Munk will be 8/25/24 at 2:00 pm at Carol Woods. Clerks' retreat will be Sunday, 10/6/24 from 1:30-3 pm, following potluck.
- Next week's forum will be about the AFSC Anti-apartheid pledge (8/25/24 at 930 am).
- Please limit visits to the Meeting House during the week during school hours (M-F 730 am-600 pm) and notify John Hite 1 day prior if you plan to visit.
- Betsy Brinson invited donations to the Ramallah Friends School, which may be donated directly to her or through Friends United Meeting.

Ann Miller, Clerk, and Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk

## Appendix A

### AFSC Annual Report: September 2023-August 2024

**Background:** In 1917, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was founded in Philadelphia as an urgent need for conscientious objectors to find alternatives to military service in WW1. Throughout the years, AFSC has been known for its work of relief and rehabilitation for the victims of war worldwide. In 1947 AFSC was a Nobel Prize Peace honoree.

**CHFM Program:** I began my role as CHFM AFSC liaison in September, 2023. It is my responsibility to help keep the meeting informed of AFSC activity and to encourage individual and meeting advocacy on behalf of AFSC.

Since October 7 and the beginnings of war and genocide in Israel, most of our activity has been based on keeping readers up to date on AFSC activities in that part of the world. This has required me to attend several weekly AFSC zoom meetings and read hundreds of emails.

Our meeting education on Gaza truly has been a team effort.

Buzz Borchardt and I have offered weekly AFSC information to members in the enewsletter and the monthly newsletter. We have included additional links to educational resources for greater understanding, including films and books.

On March 31 RE Forum hosted Brian Blackmore, AFSC Director of Quaker Engagement, who spoke on the Middle East crisis and the role of AFSC.

Tom Munk and others organized a policy team and have visited with Senator Tom Tillis to ask for a ceasefire. The second scheduled meeting for August 6 was cancelled by Senator Tillis.

On June 16, 2024, CHFM joined with Piedmont Yearly Meeting to adopt a minute, "Immediate action is needed so that killings and suffering can end. That starts with a permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages and prisoners, and unrestricted humanitarian access in Gaza."

On October 29, 2023 the Meeting approved a minute concerning the conflict, “We urge our government not to add to the violence; we deplore sending military supplies and weapons to the region. We urge our government to call for an immediate ceasefire, immediate and adequate humanitarian aid, and negotiations for a long-term peace.”

Dottie Heninger and I attended a Saturday event at Binkley Baptist Church to hear Allison Tanner, AFSC staff, who is organizing a worldwide Apartheid-Free effort. RE has invited Allison to offer a Sunday Forum that will take place on August 25 zoom.

**AFSC in Gaza:** To date, Gaza has 4 staff and additional volunteers inside Gaza offering humanitarian aid and support. They are safe but have had some close calls and are deeply saddened by the loss of life around them. The team thus far has provided aid to more than 935,000 displaced people. That includes food for more than 583,000 people, water for 302,000, and mattresses and blankets for nearly 2,000. They have given out more than 28,000 hygiene kits, with special attention to the needs of women and girls, seniors, pregnant women, and babies. They have also facilitated recreational activities for more than 19,000 children.

**CHFM contributed a financial contribution of \$1,231.25 to AFSC in 2023.**

**AFSC Eviction Court Support:** In other activity, I have attended several zoom sessions with Cecile Crawford, AFSC staff in Greensboro. Cecile is building a faith coalition in Greensboro to monitor eviction court proceedings. I have not asked CHFM to participate on account of distance to the Greensboro court.

**Ramallah Friends School in Palestine:** While not officially part of AFSC, there is overlap of work and staff. (AFSC General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny was previously head of Ramallah Friends School.) Several of us from CHFM are raising money for a Scholarship Solidarity Fund to keep the 155 year old school operating. CHFM members have been invited to contribute financial gifts.

Submitted by Betsy Brinson  
CHFM Representative to AFSC  
August, 2024

## Appendix B

### Trustees 2024 report to CHFM on Carolina Friends School

With support from the Chapel Hill and Durham Friends Meetings CFS was founded in 1962 by Quaker parents and others distressed at the ubiquitous racial segregation in North Carolina's public schools.

CFS continues to use Quaker teaching methods and content. The mission statement describes the school as a “vibrant and inclusive learning community empowering students to think critically, creatively and independently...inspired by Quaker values – pursuit of truth, respect for all, peaceful resolution of conflict, simplicity, the call to service...”

CFS includes students from ages 3-18, in early school, lower, middle and upper school units. At Carolina Friends' School in the 2023-2024 school year there were 118 full time staff and 7 part-time staff for the 513 students. Student numbers in the school year ending June 2024 were as follows:

- \* 64 in Early School, of whom 24 are at the CHFM schoolhouse
- \* 128 in Lower School grades 1-4
- \* 151 in Middle School grades 5-8
- \* 170 in Upper School, grades 9-12

Of the current enrolled students, 14 self-identify as Quakers.

All 2024 graduating seniors intend to pursue higher education. Many of CFS's students attend from early school through graduation. The school enrollment has varied over time, and must be carefully monitored. For the up-coming school year '24-'25 there have been 680 inquiries; the admissions process is ongoing. Admissions, at the time of this report, are slightly below the expected level for 2024-2025.

CFS staff believe students do well when sitting for the AP exams. Over the years CFS graduates have been accepted and attended vocational schools, local and national private colleges, many public universities, exclusive and highly regarded schools and Quaker Colleges.

There are three early schools, each with about 20 students. Most of the children continue on to CFS. There are early schools on the main campus, at Durham Friends Meeting and at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. The schoolhouse on the CHFM meeting is used by CFS under a 10 year contract, recently renegotiated and approved by the School and Meeting.

Total CFS revenue for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is estimated to be around \$13,000,000 and total expenses about the same. Of this, about \$11,000,000 is personnel cost. Trustees believe the School has a remarkable, dedicated teaching staff and administration, including some who are Quakers. However teachers as a whole earn less than local public schools, which has made hiring a challenge. There has recently been turn-over of teaching and administrative staff. We are pleased to welcome Julie LaPorte as Director of Enrollment and Anna Faatiliga as Director of Finance and Human Resources.



A year's tuition for full-time attendance ranges from a low of \$22,610 for the Early School to a high of \$29,560 for the Upper School. For comparison nearby Emerson Waldorf School tuition ranges from \$18,385 to \$24,535; New Garden Friends School from \$12,500 to \$26,500; Durham Academy from \$24,175 to \$34,050; and Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, the oldest Quaker school in the world. \$47,200 for Upper School attendance.

Without subsidies CFS is estimated to be affordable to less than 5% of Orange and Durham County households. This has been a subject of considerable discussion over many years and a threshing session in March 2024 was held to discuss this. Full tuition is paid by approximately 60% of families. The remaining 40% of students, including some children of faculty and staff, attend with varying levels of tuition assistance for which the school uses about \$2,400,000. The school has multiple endowments totaling about \$16M. This year a lower than expected enrollment led to the decision to draw down on that endowment which had not been done for several years. Staff believe that this will be a one or two year event. Recruitment for students is an ongoing effort. The CHFMs' benevolences to CFS have been on the order of \$6,000 per year, about .04% of the school's budget.

CFS accepts no federal funding, and the only State money accepted supports children with disabilities. The Head of School, Karen Cumberbatch, explained that this decision reflects the School not wishing to use money that otherwise could go to public schools. She pointed out that the current NC legislature provides over \$133M/per year for Opportunity Scholarships to students in 544 private schools in the state, and that roughly 150 students in Orange County use such scholarships, as do about 1,000 students in Durham County.

Carolina Friends' School aspires for, but struggles to achieve, a greater diversity in students, staff and trustees. The challenge of reaching a balance between paying the staff a competitive wage and maintaining the desired diversity in income and race among all members of the community is ongoing. A DEI workshop was held for trustees in March, organized and led by three Trustees. The focus was on creating a culture of belonging on the board community and consciously moving away from a dominant white-centered culture.

Typically each year new CHFMs' trustees are added to the Board at the start of the school year, as openings occur. Other trustees are nominated by a naming committee of the school. In 2023-'24 the CHFMs' trustees were: John Bell, Julia Cleaver, Susan Newcomer and Laura Young. Bell, Cleaver and Newcomer are no longer in those positions. Rob Jones has been approved to replace Susan Newcomer.

Over the last few years, in part as a result of needs identified during the pandemic, there has been an increased desire to improve the physical plant of the upper school. Specifically, some leaders expressed the opinion that the upper schools should be replaced, or at a minimum, renovated. After thoughtful deliberation, at the April Board meeting, held at the Chapel Hill Early School 4/28, the decision was made to begin submitting planning documents to obtain permission from Orange County to build a new Upper School, and to implement a significant fundraising plan that will be necessary. Construction and renovation costs are still being

estimated but are believed to be not less than \$20M. The timeline for completion is around four years.

Numerous CHFMs members and attenders have been deeply involved with CFS as Board, staff, parents of students, and students themselves. When asked their opinion of CFS one parent said: “At CFS, our children experience an educational environment that is nurturing, disciplined, and based on Quaker values. As a Quaker parent and former teacher, I could not ask for more—I’m grateful every single day.” Another parent said “I appreciate that CFS sees my kids for who they are and meets them where they are. I appreciate that as a parent I can come and join settling-in with my child each morning. It gives me a chance to be a part of [the] classroom community and center myself for the day.”

Because of its Quaker origins and influence in the State and local community, its practices, the quality of its educational offerings, and the many on-going relationships with the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, the Trustees lovingly endorse the Meeting’s continued engagement and support.

Submitted by:

John Bell, Julia Cleaver, Eric Graves, Susan Newcomer, and Laura Young

2 August 2024

## Appendix C

Bridging the Gap  
Report to MWAB and request for approval of minute  
August 18, 2024

We remind friends that representatives from Bridging the Gap (BTG) led part of the Meeting's February 17, 2024 retreat on anti-racism and that its founder, Danita Mason-Hogans, a few Sundays later led a forum on how our Meeting might become involved in anti-racism work in Chapel Hill.

We learned that the BTG mission "...is to cultivate our capacities and brighten our communities through educational opportunities for the descendants of the enslaved in Chapel Hill." "We study history. With equality in mind. We are youth-led, elder informed, and dedicated to centering, exploring and sharing marginalized Black history in Chapel Hill. We range in age from middle school, high school, college, and beyond." A large majority of the participants are descendants of enslaved people in Orange County.

An informal fund-raising effort took place among Friends in June 2024 to support three James Cates Scholarships and other BTG enrichment opportunities. Contributions totaled approximately \$12,000 (with some Friends sending their contributions directly to BTG). A wonderful outpouring of support for this opportunity to support anti-racism activities in our community.

On July 2, several members/attenders attended the event at CHPL on the anniversary of the passage of the Civil rights Act in which young Cates Scholars participated. More recently, the Meeting was invited to attend the high school Cates Scholars' presentations of their summer projects which focused on their trips to the Mason Plantation in Chatham County, The US House of Representatives, The DC African-American Museum, and the International Civil Rights Museum in Charleston, SC. In Washington the Scholars stayed in a Quaker meeting. At this event, Danita recognized the support of CH Quakers and announced that Cates future summer trips would be named the Quaker Freedmen Trips, acknowledging the Quaker school in Carrboro after the Civil War and our current support. The 10-15 Meeting members attending this event were moved by her thoughtful recognition and the association she drew with the earlier school Ministry and Worship recommends that that the Meeting approve informing Bridging the Gap that they may use the formal name of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting when publicly identifying their supporters.

## **Appendix D**

### Hart Pillow's Brief Biography

Hart Pillow grew up in Greenwood, Mississippi, in the heart of the "Mississippi Delta".

She and her 3 siblings received gentle religious schooling in the Presbyterian Church.

The Pillow-Gillespie family counted 20 first cousins living in this small town, half of which attended this church.

After University and travel in Europe, she settled in New Orleans where she discovered the Unitarian-Universalists. Her journey took her to Okinawa, Japan, where she served as a speech therapist in the dependent schools of the Department of Defense. She married, moved to San Antonio, and gave birth to her only son, Andrew Pillow Barker.

She was one of the original members of the Community Unitarian-Universalist Church in San Antonio.

While attending a family wedding in Chapel Hill, she read literature from Carolina Friends School. She thought this was the kind of education she wanted for Andrew.

Andrew did finally attend CFS in his junior and senior years of high school.

Having sat with Quakers once in San Antonio, she visited CHFM upon arrival to find out more about sitting in silence. After 31 years of sitting in silence, she is moved to become a member and to deepen connections to the community.

## Appendix E

### **Betsy Young Fenhagen May 4, 1930 – May 31, 2024**

Betsy was a most remarkable person! She was bungee jumping in New Zealand at 75, skydiving at 81. But her life was not all fun and adventure. She became what we call a “woman of substance.”

Betsy’s life began in the Roland Park area of Baltimore where she grew up with three younger brothers and her parents in her grandfather’s home. Soon after graduation from Miss Hall’s Boarding School in the Berkshires, she eloped with her first husband.

They moved to Baltimore where Betsy became one of the only female journalists at the Baltimore Sun, covering the social scene and the arts. Following the death of her second child, the family moved to St. Thomas, VI, where she became the manager at Bluebeard’s Castle. Betsy’s career trajectory evolved after she married her second husband in 1962. Weston was a journalist who became a diplomat working around the globe and she immersed herself in the life of diplomat’s wife. In Morocco, Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Cyprus, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

After 25 years in the Foreign Service, Betsy and her family moved to Chapel Hill in 1984 where she put down roots and embraced her life-long calling for social justice. She helped to establish the AIDS House in Carrboro and continued to serve on the Board of AIDS House, joined the boards of the Campus Y, the Alternative Sentencing Program, and Club Nova. She also volunteered as a Guardian *ad Litem* and at the Rape Crisis Center. Formerly incarcerated women were also an abiding concern in her life. In 2011, Betsy was recognized as a Town Treasure by the Chapel Hill Historical Society. At her award ceremony she stated, “My hope for the future of Chapel Hill is that it will never abandon its history of social reform and compassionate concern for justice.”

Betsy joined Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in October 2019. She attended faithfully as long as she could. Only when she was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease did her attendance wane. She faced this disease with resilience, humor, kindness for others, and without anger or self-pity. Betsy is survived by her children Darby Carstarphen, Caitlan Fenhagen, and James Fenhagen, grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and numerous F/friends.

Her children recounted her life. “It was a life filled with love, adventure, music, art, travel, activism and a passion for helping others.” Surely, a “woman of substance.” Her memorial service was held at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting on August 18, 2024.

## **Appendix F**

**Winifred Antoinette Jordan Simmons**  
**September 26, 1936 – July 4, 2024**

**Robert Leo Simmons**  
**July 8, 1937 – April 28, 2022**

Winnie and Bob transferred their membership from Honolulu Friends Meeting to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in February 2018. They attended our Meeting over many years, though finding transportation from Pittsboro made it difficult to attend Meeting for Worship on a regular basis. Their children, Karen, Elizabeth and Robert David, have helped fill in their parents' life story. Winnie's father was a physician, and she, too, became a medical doctor, a psychiatrist. She received her degree from Howard University Medical School. Her earlier schooling included Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, NY, and she stayed in the area to attend Vassar College. In 1964, she married Robert Simmons, an orthopedic surgeon, from Pittsburgh, PA. He received his medical training at Georgetown University where he also obtained his undergraduate degree. Bob and Winnie welcomed their three children during the six years they lived in the Washington, DC area. During this busy time, Bob continued his lifelong passion for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Pirates.

Six years after they married, the family moved to Kailua, Hawaii on the southeastern shore of Oahu. Here the family made their home. Both doctors opened private practices, and the kids took root in this sleepy town nestled between the Ko'olau Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. After forty-three years of living and working in Kailua, Winnie and Bob moved to Galloway Ridge Retirement Community in Pittsboro, North Carolina. They were warmly welcomed and became beloved members of that community.

We say to both Winnie and Bob, "mahalo." We were grateful for the times they joined our worship which provided them "comfort and inspiration" as reported by their children. We will continue to hold them in the Light.

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