

The New Garden Friend

Newsletter of New Garden Friends Meeting

July 17, 2019

2019-20 Upcoming Monthly

... from Tim Lindeman, Presiding Clerk

At last Monthly Meeting for Business, I neglected to include the following information.

- Welcome and thanks to Jim Lancaster, new Recording Clerk.
- Kudos to Tom Lassiter and the Communication Committee for our new signage.

- 2019-20 Upcoming Monthly Meetings for Business

August 4	December 1	April 5
September 1	January 5	May 3
October 6	February 2	June 7
November 3	March 1	July 5

Committee Update

From Finance and Stewardship ...

I wanted to report on our financial status as we reach the mid-point in our fiscal year. Our annual budget is about \$340,000. About two-thirds of that comes from contributions from members and attenders. We have received nearly half of those expected contributions during the first half of the year. But we are highly dependent on income from our invested fund and a single large bequest. We have also had several large unbudgeted expenses such as replacing the air-conditioning unit in Fellowship Hall, which have drawn on our reserves as well. So I ask you to continue to support the Meeting in the second half of the year.

In a quest for planning over the long term, we joined with Friends Homes, Guilford College, and New Garden Friends School this spring to explore ways Friends might support these organizations with bequests or annuities. If you would like more information about these, please contact the meeting office.

And a final reminder that for our older members, if you are required to make a withdrawal on your retirement account (RMD) you can make a charitable gift to the Meeting from that account with tax benefits.

Thanks for all you do.

Charlie White, Clerk, Finance and Stewardship

From the Grounds Committee ... The Rose Garden will soon be completely dug up. Rose Rosette disease has been confirmed for all (but one) the plants. The only treatment is to destroy the plants to prevent the spread of the mites to other gardens.

From the RE Committee Join us Saturday, August 17 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Come for whatever time you can spare We have a variety of jobs to take on, including organizing childcare materials and preparing space for the fall launch of activities.

Meetings

Wednesday: July 17

11 a.m. Healing Prayer Group / Friends Homes
7 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation / Meeting Room

Sunday: July 21

5 p.m. Diversified Task Force / Brotherhood Room

Tuesday: July 23

3 p.m. Ukestra Practice / Brotherhood Room

Birthdays

July 17	July 21	July 23
Susan Coble	Bryan Baker	James Ellis
July 18	Allie Corcoran	Teresa Henry
Virginia Driscoll	Michael Curtis	
David Raper	July 22	
Christopher Webb	Ann Macmaster	
July 19	Peer Plaut	
Paul Campbell	Megan Warrick	

Fall Flea Market Dates Set

Fall Flea Market - October 19 and 26

Norvell Hall is set up for this year's market. Please leave all donations and leave them in Norvell Hall.



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Deadlines

To be considered for publication in the next newsletter, items **must be received by noon Monday**. Please include your name, phone number and email address.

Items for the New Garden Sunday bulletin must be received by noon on Thursday.

Question? Call Sharon Burton, 336-292-5487.

Young Friends Leader Wanted!

New Garden Friends Meeting is searching for a Young Friends leader. This position is for a leader who will work with both Middle School and High School students, with a focus on the Middle School age group. The leader will collaborate with two other Young Friends leaders, as well as the NGFMeeting Religious Education Coordinator. Young Friends meeting times include Sunday afternoons/evenings, Wednesday evenings, and other times for additional activities, including one overnight trip. Applicants should have a background in Quakerism and experience working with pre-teens and teenagers. Contact Sharon Burton at 336-292-5487 or (office@ngfm.org) to inquire about the position and to get an application, Completed applications should be sent to Sharon Burton at (office@ngfm.org.)

Interviews will be held in late July or early August. The job will start in late August.

NCFE Yearly Meeting

Please register now for the NCFE Annual Gathering at Quaker Lake on August 9-11. It's free! (donations appreciated) and there will be childcare. Overnight stay is encouraged.

Activities on Saturday include worship sharing, discussion groups on the URR, Ramallah, Quaker Men and Women in NC, and a brief service project opportunity. Lunch will be provided, but attendees are asked to bring snacks.

Contact: NCFE rep Kate Hood Seel (kateseel3@gmail.com)

If you haven't registered, you may now register online:

<https://www.ncfriends.org/2019yearlymeeting/>

From the Diversity Task Force

DTF meeting: Sunday, July 21 at 5 p.m. in the Brotherhood Room.

The Gathering: We are excited to announce our first open forum called the Gathering on August 11 at 4 p.m. Beverages will be provided. Our facilitators will be none other than the Rev. Nelson Johnson and his wife. We know many of you are familiar with his profound work as a pastor and activist.

We look forward to seeing you as we continue on this wonderful and important journey at NGFM.

See below: Another review on well-known literature, this one by Bob Mers.

The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man By James Weldon Johnson Reviewed by Robert Mers

The character was born in Georgia and had many early childhood memories of how blacks were treated there. His mother moved him to Connecticut. He thrived in school. His best friends were a mentally-retarded older boy named Redd and a dark skinned intellectual guy named "Shiner".

In high school our character learned to play the piano. He was very inward, not liking outdoor activities. He accompanied an older female violinist and had a crush on her. His father, who lived in New York, gave him a piano. His mother died just before his high school graduation.

Our character decided to go to Atlanta University. He was not impressed with Atlanta. The school was impressed. He stored the \$300 he had in his pants pocket in his trunk. The money was stolen. So our character could not afford to attend Atlanta. Friends told him there were no jobs in Atlanta. With financial help from a porter friend, he took a train to Jacksonville

The character thought things were better in Jacksonville than in Atlanta. He got a job at a cigar factory and worked there several years before the plant closed.

He taught piano at night. He classified blacks into 3 groups, dependent on their relationships to whites. The lower class were exploited laborers, who had nothing to do with whites. The second class were those who worked for whites. The upper class were those who learned a trade. They had nothing to do with whites. The cigar factory closed, and our character moved to New York. There he gambled successfully and hit the bars and clubs. When money ran low, he worked for a cigar factory. He also made money playing the piano. A millionaire heard him play and hired him to play for him.

Then he had our character accompany him on an extended trip to Paris and London. Our character was very impressed with Paris but not so much with London. He attended operas and violin recitals. He returned to the United States, having made good money. The millionaire wanted him to go with him to Egypt and Japan, but he said no.

On the ship voyage our character met a doctor. He was the most intelligent black man he ever knew, and they had much discussion about race and other matters. He stayed with the doctor in Washington, DC. Then he took a train to Richmond, Nashville, and Atlanta. There was much debate among a red neck Texan, a Union general, a Jew, and him. Our character goes to Macon, GA, and lives briefly with a rural school teacher. While there a Negro was burned alive!

Our character returns to New York and seeks employment as a white. He was into real estate and finance and made much money. He meets an elegant white lady, and they get serious. He struggles to tell her that he is really black and finally does. She is bitter and did not write him during a 3-month visit to New Hampshire. They make up and marry, having a boy and a girl. She dies and he is a single father.

Our character decides to pass as white for the rest of his life. He knows it is wrong, but he does not want to suffer as other blacks do.

10 Things You Can Do

Many New Gardeners are deeply concerned about the inhumane treatment of children held in detention camps near the Mexican border and the separation of families seeking asylum. Some of us who met after worship attended the July 12 Lights for Liberty Vigil where the following list of things we can do was distributed. We generated more ideas for action that concerned New Gardeners can take that will be circulated in upcoming Bulletins and Newsletters, including vigils on Friendly Avenue, visiting the offices of Rep. Mark Walker, Rep. Ted Budd and Sen. Thom Tillis, and supporting the work of Friends Meetings in TX, AZ, and CA.

If you want to add your voice, your ideas and your presence on the child detention issue, or other immigration issues, contact Patricia Gutzwiller (gutzwil@infionline.net) or Bill McNeil (mcneilplanning@gmail.com).

Lights For Liberty - Greensboro Vigil :: 10 Things You Can do to Keep Families Together

1. CALL Legislators: Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121. Demand an end to family separation and the criminalization of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees; close the camps holding children, defund ICE. Several of the organizations listed below have excellent talking points. Handwritten notes are also effective! Make contact regularly, not just once. Call state legislators and oppose state anti-immigrant bills as well: ncleg.gov; 919-733-4111.

2. LEARN the history of US involvement in Central America and Mexico, the history of ICE and DHS. Stay updated. Good resources include:

- Church World Service – cws.org, aclu.org, sanctuarynotdeportation.org
- The NC Justice Center – ncjustice.org
- National Immigration Law Center – nilc.org;
- Human Rights First – humanrightsfirst.org.
- The Washington Post, NPR, The New York Times among others

3. STAY INVOLVED locally:

● Latino Community Coalition of Guilford County and the Center for New North Carolinians - <https://cnnc.uncg.edu/latino-community-coalition-of-guilford/>

- Faith Action International House – faihouse.org
- Siembra NC– Siembranc.org
- American Friends Service Committee – afsc.org
- NC Sanctuary Coalition – sanctuarync.org
- Church World Service in Greensboro – cwsgreensboro.org

4. ASSIST our local immigrant community: host a Know Your Rights Workshop, participate in a Rapid Response/Court Accompaniment/ICE Verifier Training or a Volunteer/Advocacy Training. Upcoming dates:

● Siembra NC's Solidarity Committee Meeting, Monday July 15, 7:30 pm - 9 pm, Congregational UCC, 400 Radiance Dr. RSVP: <http://tiny.cc/SiembraSolidarityMeeting>.

● Attend Siembra NC's ICE Verifier training, Monday July 22, 6:30 pm - 8 pm Congregational UCC, 400 Radiance Dr. RSVP: <http://tiny.cc/VerifierTraining>.

● Faith Action is hosting two upcoming trainings: Volunteer Training at Faith Action (705 N. Greene Street) on July 15 from 5:30 - 7 pm, and an upcoming Serving, Loving, and Protecting our Neighbors education and advocacy meeting on Tuesday, July 23 at 5:30 pm at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 607 N. Greene Street. Watch for Faith Action ID Drives.

5. DONATE to help support local families impacted by detention to help pay for basic needs, attorney fees, court bonds, transportation to Stewart Detention Center in Georgia.

- Donate to the Immigrant Solidarity Fund: tiny.cc/TriadFund
- The Immigrant Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater GSO: go to the donate page at: cfigg.org.
- Support one of the reputable national organizations working with children and adults being held in detention centers.

Included: The Florence Project, denominational efforts, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), El Refugio, RAICES, Helping Hands.

6. SUPPORT THE WORK of sanctuary. Volunteer with one of the churches in NC currently offering sanctuary to an immigrant. Donate. Speak with your faith community about becoming a sanctuary/sanctuary supporting congregation. Sanctuarync.org

7. BRING OTHERS on board. Talk with your family, friends, congregation, Sunday School class, book club members, neighbors, on social media – wherever you can encourage more people to get involved. Speakers are available for groups wanting a program on this. Remember to always center the voices of immigrants themselves.

8. CONTACT businesses and tech companies that profit from detention, and tell them you will not do business with or purchase from them unless they divest.

9. VISIT one of the for-profit detention centers. Faith Action sponsors visits to Stewart Detention Center; consider participating in one.

10. PRAY If you pray or meditate, please remember those suffering on the border, in for-profit detention centers, the children, families living in constant fear. Pray for all working with them. Pray for all involved in sanctuary work. Pray for our elected leaders that they will be guided by wisdom and compassion over profit and power.

More Resources:

● Busting the myths about immigration | The Atlantic, article and video: "I Am an Undocumented Citizen of this Country." August 2018. Jose Antonio Vargas

- YES Magazine – "20 Ways You Can Help Immigrants Now." June 25, 2019 - Julia Travers
- Good messaging when talking with friends, co-workers, and family: www.familiesbelongtogether.org