

Congratulations to our own Ann Lennon on being asked to serve as the interim Associate Regional Director of the South Region until Brooke Fritz of Baltimore returns from maternity leave.



in this issue >>> AFSC General Secretary's Visit, Immigration Reform, Organizing 101, Intern Bios, Words of Encouragement



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Quaker values in action

Area Office of the Carolinas

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May 2013 Newsletter Editor: Ashlee K. Williams

current topics >>>

Take Action For Humane Immigration Reform!

AFSC staff in NC and nationwide are working hard to push for the most inclusive and humane reform possible, as Congress finally turns its attention to immigration. Read AFSC's statement on page 2 and get involved in these efforts!

- Sign a postcard and get others to sign! (contact 336-854-0633 or LKhamala@afsc.org to get a stack)
- Contact your members of congress to urge humane reform
- Get email updates and see AFSC's full position on immigration policies at afsc.org/immigrantsrights.

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

Human beings can be beautiful or more beautiful,
they can be fat or skinny, they can be right or wrong, but illegal?
How can a human being be illegal?

- Elie Wiesel

AFSC's General Secretary and Friends Visit Our Office

On April 8-9, 2013, our local office enjoyed a visit from the AFSC General Secretary, Shan Cretin, and other staff and friends of AFSC, including Bonnie Horton (Southern Regional Director), and Richelle Ogle (Department of Development). During their stay, they visited Friends Homes, Guilford College, several area Friends Meetings, and the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program. In addition, our office hosted a series of events for our guests to attend on April 9th.

Some of the activities included a breakfast mixer with intern project presentations, a visit to the Newcomer's School (where an AFSC intern is working), and a luncheon that shared information on our local partnerships. During the breakfast, Bonnie Horton shared some information with our interns on obtaining jobs and life after college. Interns shared information on special projects such

as an upcoming peace and activism festival, personal digital stories, and work with immigrant youth.

At the conclusion of the panel, Mrs. Cretin shared a few words on the American Friends Service Committee's dedication to being on the frontlines of diversity tolerance and peaceful resolutions of conflict since its inception. She also gave some encouraging words to staff and friends of our office. We are grateful for Shan Cretin's, Bonnie Horton's, and Richelle Ogle's visit. We really enjoyed the opportunity to share our work, as we strive to uphold the values of AFSC.

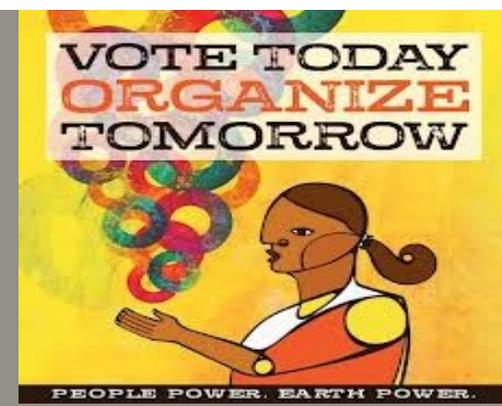


Organizing for a Future

Do you ever feel like it's getting harder and harder to catch people's attention or to positively influence people to want to support your cause? I know I have. But until now, I never questioned why. Why is it that I think to invite someone to create an event on Facebook for publicity or contact a blogger before I pass out handbills? It seems that more and more we are shifting our organizing efforts to unknown territory: online. The real question

is: Is this the best way to talk about important issues and make change happen? Answer: I'm not really sure. An online presence definitely has its place in organizing, but I think that there might be something lost in translation. There's something valuable in being able to physically go to a space and say, "I believe _____, and _____ is why what I think matters!"

However, I will admit that sometimes social media, blogs, etc. give us the opportunity to say the things that we can't say aloud without fear of persecution. Sometimes it might



reach more people. So what is the trade off? How do we build tangible communities and spaces where people can meet and agree while maintaining technological presence? Unfortunately, I'm not really sure how to answer that question, but my point is that it's something important for all of us to think about. The future and the quality of our organizing efforts depends on it! —Ashlee K. Williams



DREAM...big!

Organizing isn't always easy. But you have to start somewhere. Here are some pointers we got from our friends at RAFI-USA to consider when thinking about starting a project.

- **Problem/Issue**— Think about what the actual problem or issue you have is, and what is causing/fueling it.
- **Goals**- Think about what kind of change you want to create.
- **Tactics**- First think big. Then focus on smaller projects to make it happen.
- **Constituents, Allies, Stakeholders**—Think about who the issue directly affects, who will help, and what resources these people have available to them.
- **Opponents**- Think about your opponents in terms of counterarguments/counter-movements. This can help you further develop effective tactics.

what we're doing >>>

New Immigration Bill Includes Good and Bad:

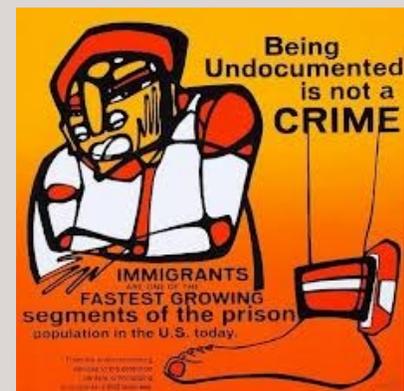
AFSC continues to uplift humane policy principles

A federal bill to reform our nation's immigration policy was released on April 17, 2013 in the US Senate. AFSC finds the bill a modest start on reform, due to provisions that address family unification and workers' rights and create a narrow path to citizenship for some immigrants. But much of the bill reproduces many of the current failed policies – making the overall bill a far cry from the just and humane reforms that immigrant communities, faith, labor and advocacy groups have been calling for.

"The Senate bill makes meaningful improvements for undocumented immigrants and youth, and agricultural workers by providing a path to legal permanent residency. However, it would not end the current cruel, costly and inefficient system of detention and deportation, or the militarization of the border that has devastated communities on both sides of the border," said Lori Fernald Khamala of AFSC's NC Immigrant Rights Program.

The bill not only doubles down on some failed policies, it also elevates them to the status of mandatory measurable triggers, including universal E-Verify, a 90 percent border 'security' metric, and a new entry-exit port system. It would waste billions on drones, costly high-tech gadgetry, additional fencing, and personnel. We continue to advocate for the positive features of the bill while working to oppose the parts that concern us.

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/AFSCncapril17>, and see AFSC's full policy recommendations at afsc.org/newpath.



Finding Your Place Film Series

An education and activism series that will be inviting members of all faiths, cultures, and perspectives to engage in each other and building community.

Finding Your Place, is an open invitation to a six session education and activism series, kicking off in September 2013, in Celebration of International Peace Day. The series promises to be a unique exploration for any who are curious about, want to be a part of, engaging in the cultivation of a culture of peace.

The films (shorts and full length), have been intentionally selected to incite courageous exploration of important, relevant and timely social justice and human rights topics. In addition to film, topic-related activist groups and resources will be available. *Finding Your Place* will bring together diverse community members to dialogue, find their passions, and connect with others, who will support them in developing their knowledge, skills and activist voices.

Finding Your Place will kick off with indy award winning documentary film (2012), "Five Broken Cameras," co-directed by Palestinian and an Israeli film makers. Issues such as identity and justice will be explored.

Students from UNCG, Guilford, and High Point University, with the support of the Greensboro AFSC office are organizing the series.

Kickoff Date: Sunday, September 22, 2013
Time and Location: TBA



Selected Art/Readings:

- *The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom* by Don Miguel Ruiz
- *Corregidora* by Gayl Jones
- *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict* by Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan

*Our featured artist for the month is **Favianna Rodriguez** (pictured above, on pages 1-2, and in the collage of art on this page to the right)

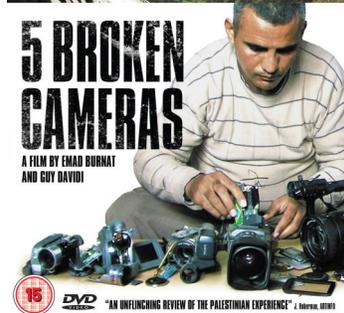
Miriam Davis-Rosenbaum

Miriam is a student at High Point University and Guilford College. Miriam is currently working on a digital story about her experience as a Jewish American with interest in Palestinian rights. In addition, Miriam has been working with Ellie and Daphne on securing community leaders as participants, interviewing, and editing to create a trailer for the *Finding Your Place* film series.

Ellie Richard

Ellie is working on her master's in Peace and Conflict Studies at UNCG. Ellie has just recently joined our team and is currently spearheading our newest film series, *Finding Your Place*. Ellie is interested in using film to help community members from all walks of life to discuss social ills, diversity, tolerance, peace, and ways to build common bonds and goals. Ellie plans to continue her work with AFSC through the next school year.

Featured are three of the nine Spring 2013 interns/volunteers in our office.



meet our interns >>>

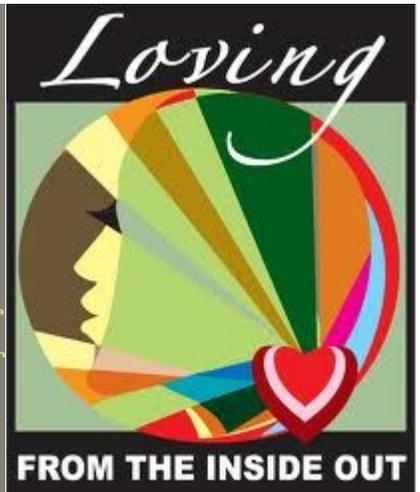
Daphne Hines

Daphne is a student at UNCG who has interned with us for two semesters. During her first semester, she worked with ELIMU Empowerment Services and on a video for the campaign, "If I Had a Trillion Dollars." This campaign served as a contest to raise awareness about the United States' overblown defense budget and how the money used to fund this budget could better be used on other programs. The video that Daphne submitted was chosen as a finalist for the final round at a conference in Washington, D.C. that she and director, Ann Lennon attended this April. Currently, Daphne is working with Miriam and Ellie on conducting interviews for the trailer for the *Finding Your Place* film series the Area Office of the Carolinas will sponsor in the fall.



INSPIRE thoughts...

The members of AFSC would like to provide some thoughts and suggestions from our staff, as well as things we've found online on how to maintain positive energy. Sometimes it can be hard to maintain a sense of agency and hope. We hope this helps, and let us know if there's a tip we missed, so we can put it in our next issue!



Keep Calm and Help Yourself... So You Can Help Others!

- *Make something.* Creating something allows you to regain a sense of control over things in times when maybe you are less sure. It also helps you tap into your creative side. Try making it a small project or an ongoing project that you work on once weekly so you don't get overwhelmed. (i.e. a new gourmet dish, a scrapbook of good times, paint a room in your home, etc.)
- *Spend time with family and friends.* Surrounding yourself with positive people who care about you can often help you to remember what makes you great and what fuels your purpose. It can also provide some much needed leisure.
- *Enjoy the moment.* The little things provide simple and quick ways to brighten your mood when you're on the run. So roll around in the yard with your dog, dress up in your favorite clothes, have an ice cream without considering the calories, etc.
- *Take a deep breathe.* Take a walk around your neighborhood or local park. Engage in ten minutes of quiet, guided meditation everyday. **And don't forget... you can't do everything and honestly that's okay because you were never meant to!!!**

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 ELIMU Activity Spotting Human Rights Violations	4 Unity Walk for Immigration 5 PM at Faith Ac- tion
5 Peaceful Means Film Series Durham 3 PM	6	7	8 Immigrant Rights Working Mtg. 6 PM	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Peaceful Means Film Series Durham 3 PM	20	21	22	23 Immigrant Solidarity Com- mittee Mtg.	24	25
26	27	28 Immigrant. Rights Mtg.	29	30	31	