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## American Friends Service Committee

Area Office of the Carolinas

MARCH 2016

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
CITLALY MORA

## MARCH IS Women's History Month

### Author of *The New Jim Crow* speaks in Greensboro

## March Quote:

“There right to  
vote is the right  
upon which all of  
our rights are  
leveraged-and  
without which  
none can be  
protected”

-Benjamin  
Jealous

See inside for  
the  
Voting Edition  
of our  
newsletter!

Last month, Michelle Alexander, author of the *New Jim Crow*, graced a full house at The Carolina Theater in Greensboro.

Ms. Alexander was joined by Master of Ceremony Tim Tyson, Mayor Nancy Vaughan and Reverend Nelson Johnson. The occasion was a community discussion on race and policing in Greensboro. If you missed the program, you can find a link to the recording at [www.FusionFilms.org](http://www.FusionFilms.org).

Ms. Alexander helped to facilitate talks on police reform and shared insight from a national perspective. Within the first fifteen minutes of the program, she shared that candid talks must first acknowledge, “Policing is just one part of a larger system of racial and social control that has been born in America,” before Ms. Alexander could add on to her statement a thunder of applause roared across the theater.

In the 2016 presidential elections, we have seen

criminal justice reform and mass incarceration play a central role in some of the political debate platforms.

The rest of the evening’s conversations addressed national social issues like war on drugs and affirmed that real power rests with the people. People have the power to change and create real significant newness in how communities are governed, and how people are treated.

“People are waking up,” voiced Ms. Alexander.

“What kind of Greensboro can we have?,” Reverend Johnson asked. He shared, “A Greensboro that is striving to become a beloved community, to affirm the dignity and worth and the unrealized potential of all the people in the community, where none are abused, profiled or arrested on frivolous charges and all have the economic opportunity to live a decent life.”

Reverend Johnson then

added, “We have a lot of work to do.” The event was an initiative by the Community-City Working Group to galvanize residents, continue the conversation and develop community action plans.

AFSC staff, Toni Etheridge serves on the Working Group, which is sponsoring a series of community meetings on policing. The meetings will be held in each of Greensboro’s districts with AFSC’S youth participants exchanging ideas and leading some of the discussions.

The first - two community meetings will be held on March 17th (6:30pm-8:30pm) at two locations: Trinity A.M.E. 631 E. Florida St. and Congregational United Church of Christ 400 W. Radiance Drive.

Hope to see you there!

-Toni Etheridge, AFSC  
Program Associate



## AFSC GETS OUT THE VOTE IN THE TRIAD

It is election year. Soon we will be electing a new President, members of US Congress, Governor, and other elected officials. As we prepare to vote, AFSC continues to work in the grassroots level to assure everybody has an equal opportunity to vote.



*Emerging immigrant community leaders learn to register people to vote*

## IMMIGRANT LEADERS TRAINED TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS

AFSC has also been encouraging new U.S. citizens to vote. This year we launched a Community Leaders Learning Program to empower and lift up members of the immigrant community. As part of the program we facilitated a workshop about how to register people to vote, and the power of the immigrant vote. We encouraged community leaders to go into their community and register people, as well teach them how to register others. As we approach the general election, AFSC will continue to partner with others to engage the community in the political process to make sure all citizens have the opportunity to vote despite their background.

*-Jose Oliva, AFSC Intern*

## VOTER IDs PLAY ROLE IN 2016

New voting ID laws in North Carolina have recently been enacted. Beginning in 2016, voters will need to present a specific form of government photo identification at the polls in order to vote. Accepted forms of identification include an NC driver's license, NC ID card issued by the DMV, veterans ID, or military ID, among a few others. While many say ID laws protect against voter fraud, others argue that such measures prevent those without easy access to identification (particularly young people, those of lower socioeconomic classes, and populations experiencing homelessness) from exercising their right to vote. In order to support voters who might be turned away from the polls on the basis of inaccurate photo ID, AFSC interns attended a training hosted by the organization Ignite NC which has formed an election protection task force. Standing outside many polling places across central North Carolina, election protection advocates will offer help via a voting ID hotline, and through completing incident report forms and exit surveys for those interested in giving feedback on their experience with the new voting laws.

*-Naomi Madaras, AFSC Intern*

**To learn more visit : [www.VoterID.nc.gov](http://www.VoterID.nc.gov)**



## REFLECTIONS ON VOTER REGISTRATION

As a Peace and Economic Justice intern, for two weeks this February I facilitated voter registration workshops at Greensboro Urban Ministry (GUM), a center which strives "to meet guests where poverty has created a crisis in their lives." I often worked at GUM's dining center, Potter's House, assisting guests with voter registration and scheduling rides to the polls. While the number of registrations rarely rose above seven or eight per day, each application has significant impact for our community and for the individual. Additionally, the conversations and interactions with guests at GUM inspired me to think critically about local politics, community care, and accountability.

One of my favorite moments from working at GUM was when I asked a guest if he would like to register to vote, and he declined saying he had never voted and never would. I understood, and offered that if he changed his mind, I would be there until the end of the lunch shift. Just before 12:30, he approached me and declared he had changed his mind. Encounters like these are what I cherish and hold deeply meaningful to my experience interning at AFSC.

-Naomi Madaras, AFSC Intern



Adamou Mohamed of AFSC partner Church World Service Registering young people to vote

## THE IMMIGRANT VOTE MATTERS

North Carolina demographics are changing at a fast pace. It is expected that by 2040 more than 40% of the population will be people of color, for which immigrants will account a large part. The Latino vote is become more and more relevant for those seeking elected office. Latinos already make up 9% of the total population in North Carolina, 58% of them are US citizens. In counties such as Guilford, Latinos have enough voters to decide who would represent them in some districts. In the state house sixteenth district (59% Democratic, 24% Republican, 17% unaffiliated), there are 1,516 Latinos registered to vote. Based on previous elections those are enough voters to elect a house representative. In 2012, 7,448 people voted in that district. The winning candidate won by only 2,408 votes. In 2014, 4,171 people voted in that district, and the winning candidate won by only 740 votes above its opponent. The Latino and immigrant vote have become key for those seeking to elected office.

-Jose Oliva, AFSC Intern



**Ready to vote?**  
 Find your precinct here:  
[http://enr.ncsbe.gov/pollingplace\\_search/](http://enr.ncsbe.gov/pollingplace_search/)

NC Primary Voting will be  
 Tuesday March 15th.  
 Make your vote count!

## EVENTO FAMILIAR: A SUCCESS

On February 13th, Let's Learn Triad (LLT, which AFSC sponsors) partnered with UNCG, Alianza, Latino Family Center, and the Latino Community Coalition of Guilford to have the third annual Evento Familiar. There were about 70 families that attended the Evento Familiar and there were also 13 different departments of UNCG, and four non-profit organizations that also came out to support the youth. The event was bilingual so that parents, youth, and monolingual families understood what was going on at all times. The topics that were discussed at the event consisted of how to prepare for college, Financial aid, admissions, campus resources, choosing a major, *Say Yes to Education* and much more. The turn out was a success and high school youth along with college young adults, that helped at the event, were very excited to become part of the event.

LLT also hosted a workshop for students who needed one-on-one assistance on how to fill out the FAFSA application for those eligible to receive FAFSA. Besides assisting with the FAFSA application LLT members also helped the youth answer questions regarding scholarship applications.

-Yubi Sandoval, AFSC Intern

## Mark Your Calendars!

Free Program & Film Screening: No Way to Treat a Child

Learn and discuss how Palestinian children are prosecuted in two Israeli military courts operating in the West Bank. From the arrest to the encounter of ill-treatment and even cases of torture.

Presenter Jennifer Bing, AFSC Chicago Staff

Location: New Garden Friends Meeting (Greensboro, NC)

Date: Monday, April 4, 2016 7pm-8:30pm



## AFSC welcomes all our new interns!

### Mick Brewer

### Kahlil Perine

Kahlil Perine was born in San Diego, California, and raised in the small town of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. He is the oldest of five siblings, and is currently a senior at Guilford College double majoring in Political Science and Criminal Justice. He will be working with the Peace and Economic Justice task force, with a focus toward addressing police accountability, police violence, and criminal justice reform. Kahlil hopes to enroll in law school as a student able to apply his experiences with the AFSC towards a career in public service.



Mick Brewer grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and moved to Greensboro in 2010. He's currently a senior at Guilford College, studying Philosophy and Sociology. He's working with AFSC in both the Peace and Economic Justice Program, doing voter registration and the Immigrants Rights Program, interviewing people about immigrant detention.



### Merrill Daniels

Merrill Daniels is from Severna Park, Maryland and moved to Greensboro to attend Guilford College. She is a junior and majoring in Community and Justice Studies. She is volunteering with the Peace and Economic Justice program to register students and adults to vote in North Carolina. Merrill will also be working with AFSC-NC's Immigrant Rights Program, interviewing immigrants and immigration lawyers to learn more about the experiences of immigrants who have been detained in the United States. Merrill is involved in Guilford's Quaker Leadership Scholars Program and also volunteers for the SPCA of The Triad in her free time!

