

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
CITLALY MORA

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American Friends
Service Committee
Area Office of the Carolinas

"There is a crack in everything. That's how light gets in."

~Leonard Cohen

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GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK TO TONI ETHERIDGE!

It was more than three years ago when Toni Etheridge, as a Guilford College student, began a brief internship with our AFSC NC office. I had no idea at that time that Toni would become such an integral part of our AFSC work. Toni is leaving AFSC at the end of November to join her fiancé in South Carolina. We are so happy for her and will also miss her greatly.

Toni came on as full time AFSC staff in 2014 and has coordinated AFSC's NC Peace & Economic Justice Program for the last two years. She initiated many programs with youth, worked closely with the Elimu Empowerment Program, led many groups to visit policy makers at Greensboro City Council, at the state legislature in Raleigh, and in Washington to lift up issues of peace and economic justice.

Also while at AFSC, Toni served as a coordinator of the Greensboro City-Community Working Group and also on the Police Accountability, Community, Safety and Healing Initiative, registered hundreds of voters, served on the NC Peace Action board, and facilitated many youth in thinking about how the US military budget might be better spent. She had the opportunity to participate in a delegation to Israel/Palestine and made local connections upon returning. She was also a great ally to the NC Immigrant Rights Program.

Here's what some of her community partners have to say about her:

Toni has been an inspiration to me since we were Principled Problem Solving Scholars together at Guilford College. Her work at AFSC has been an innovative blend of community empowerment

across demographic divides and peacebuilding through justice advocacy. I'm sorry to see her leave AFSC but truly excited to see what she brings to the next step of her career!
—Tim Leisman, Former AFSC intern and Program Committee member

Toni was a great person to work with. Her work in advocacy for racial justice is what I will remember her for most. She was a great advocate for racial disparities and fair criminal justice system, bringing it home to Greensboro. Her involvement with community policing forums, PACHSI, and coordinating some of the marches and forms of protesting unfair policies such as policing, body cameras, and police brutality were brought to attention with her help. She was involved in the Social Justice Committee in High Point and her understanding of intersectionality really made her a great asset. She has shown time and time again she is passionate and open-minded when it comes to recognizing the rights of every community and finding a peaceful way to achieve it. I will miss Toni, her guidance, and the way she supported fellow organizations and made Greensboro move towards progress, at least from what she could do through her efforts.
—Citlaly Mora, YWCA High Point

While Toni had just gotten involved in NC Peace Action, her connection with young people was a real gift to us. She helped us connect in ways we would have missed. Her perspective was invaluable and we will miss her input.
—Anne Cassebaum, NC Peace Action

Toni, we appreciate you and we wish you all the best! We know your commitment to social justice will continue.

-Lori Khamala, AFSC Staff



GREENSBORO CITY COUNCIL PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST HATE SPEECH

On October 18th, three community leaders came together, Wasif Qureshi of the Islamic Center of Greensboro, Adamou Mohamed and Yacine Kout both representing the Greensboro International Advisory Committee, to receive a resolution that condemns violence and hate speech. The resolution was crafted to address the toxic language hurled during the presidential campaign and echoed in pockets of our city. The Greensboro city council passed the resolution on October 18, 2016. The resolution affirms Greensboro's commitment to a pluralistic society.

It is our hope that the passed resolution will be a reminder that council and citizens need to take concrete actions that go beyond important symbolic gestures. The greater calling is for us to nurture understanding, acceptance, and justice. In light of the new presidential administration to take office in January 2017, the city of Greensboro must continue to build a peaceful space for all to live and prosper.

-Yanice Kout, IAC Committee Member

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS BRINGS LATINX CULTURE TO GREENSBORO

Dia de los Muertos, or otherwise known as Day of the Dead, is a Latin American holiday celebrated from October 31 to November 2. This holiday is to commemorate friends and family who have died and to bless their spirit in the afterlife. The annual Dia de los Muertos celebration in Greensboro is hosted by Casa Azul, the non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Latin Art and Culture, created by Latinx professionals who aim to promote creative expression through community partnerships and collaborations. This year's event and *ofrenda* (altar) exhibition was held at the Greensboro Central Library.

This year's celebration had many activities. They served champurrado (hot chocolate), Pan de Muerto, a customary bread seen during the altar offerings. Inside the library were 4-5 commemorative exhibitions of people from varying Latino backgrounds and cultures. These exhibitions included favorite

items and foods of those who have passed such as candies, foods and worn clothes. There were many performances and presentations celebrating Latinx heritage. Large puppets were visible as the floor was crowded with children dancing. A traditional ballet folklórico dance simulated a hunter and prey. You won't want to miss Dia de los Muertos—next year.



-Danny Tejeda, AFSC Intern

TEDX GUILFORD HIGHLIGHTS CHANGE-MAKERS

The first Sunday in November, Guilford College hosted its first ever student led Tedx-Guilford Talks event. The theme for this event was "Securing Our Future." I served as one of the Tedx- student coordinators and helped organize the event with the idea to connect with different speakers, who spoke on many diverse issues that are significant to students, and could affect millions of people across the globe. This Tedx event enabled guests to hear personal testimonials that aligned with the theme and the on-going social good work that reflects both the college and AFSC'S mission—the value and worth of all people. Several speakers touched on the embodiment of what AFSC and Guilford College stand for.

One contributor was Marnie Thompson. Dedicated to giving back, she used her family business fortune to re-invest in the community and support cooperatively owned businesses. She is the co-manager of the "Fund for Democratic Communities,"

also known as F4DC, an organization that helped build the new Renaissance Food Co-op located in Greensboro in a particular area known for the food desert it has experienced for well over 15 years. This resident invested grocery store secures its' residents inclusiveness through employment and ownership.

Another Tedx participant - Yves Dusenge, born in a Congolese refugee camp in Africa, talked about his arduous journey to the United States and his personal foundation for mutual respect and acceptance of all others regardless of race, culture, or religion. During intermission there was positive buzz feedback from the attendees about the program and the guest speakers. Tedx - Guilford appeared to be a success!

-Kathleen Herbst, AFSC Intern

YOUTH WORKSHOP TEACHES SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

A day of collaboration between AFSC and the Hayes-Taylor YMCA Achievers, proved an invaluable experience for nineteen youth participants. Students from local high schools, ranging from ages 15-18, participated in the group workshop called Social Leadership. The workshop was designed to encourage participants to sharpen their understanding of social consciousness—recognizing two intentions: economic and productive. AFSC and the YMCA celebrate over a year of collaborative youth centered programs. Both organizations are committed in supporting and developing the young leaders of tomorrow, locally and beyond. To meet this objective, participants are challenged to trust their untapped capabilities. The activity offered participants a chance to test what they've learned alongside the reality of their everyday lives.

AFSC interns assisted Toni Etheridge, AFSC staff, in creating and engaging students. The program included a presentation by Tina Bakayoko, an exceptional 15 year old, Smith High School student. Her made a video and recorded her poem titled "Lets Come to our Reality." Fellow peers watched and actively interacted with Tina and were amazed at Tina's tenacity in working to achieve her goals and lead other students to understand how they can impact the social consciousness in others. She expressed her own desire in making social change within her community and offered the opportunity for the students to join her mission.

After the students met with Tina, they participated in the main activity led by Toni. The activity directed students to

focus on listening, following instructions, using forms of communication other than words and work as a team. The activity tasked everyone to work toward a productive goal. Other attendees were able to encourage the YMCA Achievers to focus on exploring their own social awareness. Also, how they could make changes within their community, amongst each other, as well as within themselves. The activity helped guide some students to recognize their unique leadership style.



At the end of the program, AFSC staff and interns made several connections with students. A few participants are considering the possibility of future AFSC internships. Kelis Johnson, one of the YMCA Achievers said, "Today I learned many different things about how people view the world and what happens when simple things are taken away."

-Joy Stokes, AFSC Intern

SAVE THE DATE!: IMMIGRANT DETENTION IN THE NC TRIAD

WHEN? Friday, Dec. 2., 2016: 4pm Tour of States of Incarceration exhibit & 5pm Program on Immigrant Detention

WHERE? International Civil Rights Center & Museum (134 S. Elm St., Greensboro, 27401)

Limited Space. MUST RSVP: Lori Khamala, LKhamala@afsc.org

WHERE IS GREENSBORO'S POLICE REFORM?

In Greensboro, many voiced their frustration during city council meetings on the lengthy wait for a police reform. There are over 277,080 residents that live in the city, according to the 2012 U.S Census. Broken down, 48 percent of the population is white, while 50 percent is identified as non-white. The police department has about 513 sworn white officers leaving roughly 171 officers of color. Certainly, the numbers calculate a necessity for progressive change.

We do not simply need to place people in visible spaces to reflect society accurately but we need to go beyond the surface and change the implementation of racist policies in our institutions. Nevertheless, it is crucial to have a police department that reflects the diversity of our population. Is it too much to expect that the numbers of sworn officers on the police force swell to resemble the growing cultural communities in Greensboro?

Greensboro police department should seek external advice from other law enforcement agencies. For example, the U.S. border patrol commissioner Gil Kerlikowsk, although far from running a perfect agency, is making internal changes on matters of transparency, transformation and accountability, reported NPR back in October 2016. If such changes were to happen in Greensboro, then maybe there would be a reduction in reported incidents of excessive force and fatalities of unarmed people of color. The names of Devin and Rufus Scales, Dejuan Yourse, Wynton Vines and countless others with black skin could live their lives in peace with a sense of normality and security, like the 48 percent of the white population in Greensboro.

-Toni Etheridge, AFSC Staff

HONORING LETICIA'S WORK WITH AFSC

Last month, we had to say goodbye to Leticia Benitez, whose Immigrant Rights Fellowship ended after nearly two years. Leticia had become a beloved member of our AFSC NC team and her absence has left a hole in our office. Some of the hallmarks of her work included her deep commitment to immigrant rights, her support of other social justice issues and the intersection of various issues, her dedication to high quality work, her willingness to take risks, and her creativity and ability to take initiative. Because of her great work, her Fellowship was actually extended a year longer than originally intended!

While at AFSC, Leticia helped to develop the African American – Latinx Bridge Building and Awareness (AALBBA) curriculum for young people and the Community Leaders Learning Program, a 6-month training program for emerging immigrant leaders of diverse nationalities. She also helped with our Ending Detention & Deportation project, supported families in deportation proceedings, and helped to coordinate Let's Learn Triad, a group working for tuition equality for undocumented students. We are so grateful for all her fantastic work with AFSC and we wish her the very best!

-Lori Khamala, AFSC Staff



When Leticia first suggested a community leadership training program for newcomer communities I knew that her approach would reflect AFSC values. More importantly, I knew community values and perspectives would be honored and respected. The nominal goals of the program were to introduce emerging leaders to ways of thinking and doing (voter registration, lobbying, workers' rights, etc) that most communities experience in a hodge-podge sort of way. But the bigger effect of Leticia's program was to demonstrate the role of community activists as change agents. To this end Leticia has inspired me to incorporate her program into our youth training at the Bonner Center.

Did I say what a pleasure it has been to work with her? She is a great advocate!

--Andrew Young, Guilford College Bonner Center

WE ARE TURNING 100! GET INVOLVED IN OUR CENTENNIAL!

First Day School Curriculum on AFSC History: Our colleagues in our Philadelphia headquarters, with help from a Quaker Voluntary Service member, are developing a 4-5 session First Day School curriculum focused on AFSC history for all ages. We expect the curriculum to be ready in January 2017. We hope that your meeting will incorporate it into your First Day School!

Events at local Meetings: After youth learn more about AFSC's history, we encourage them to present on what they have learned to the full meeting. If they choose, the youth could also organize an accompanying Spaghetti Supper or Stone Soup fund-raiser to support the next 100 years of peace and justice work at AFSC.

Waging Peace Exhibit: *Waging Peace 100 years of Action* is a new traveling exhibition honoring AFSC's Centennial. The exhibit will come to Guilford College in Greensboro from late August to late October 2017, and we will plan programming around it. The exhibit demonstrates the effectiveness of nonviolence to build justice, overcome oppression and prevent violence.

Mark your calendar for September 9, 2017 for a big exhibit event!

Share Your AFSC Story: www.peaceworks.afsc.org. We are collecting stories of people who worked for, volunteered at, or participated with AFSC over the decades to document our history. Dozens of people have already shared their stories on AFSC's new website, "Peace Works" (peaceworks.afsc.org), where anyone can share their experiences with AFSC.

Contact Lori Khamala for more information about any of the above, LKhamala@afsc.org.