



## UNCG Guatemalan Genocide Exhibit

The University of North Carolina Greensboro held a photography exhibit in the Multicultural Resource Center from October 26th through November 6th. Thirty-five of the exhibited photographs cased in four oversized black wooden frames, that held eight to nine photos per frame, were taken by Roderico Yool Diaz, a Guatemalan photojournalist.

I had the good fortune of having Roderico give me a guided tour. His partner, Emily Rhyne, served as interpreter and worked collaboratively with local organizers to bring the exhibit to Greensboro. Emily, with the support of the UNCG, Latino Community Coalition and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), sponsored the exhibit. The theme is the Guatemalan government's repression of its people over 36 years of war (1960-1996), during which 200,000 lives were lost. The violence included over 600 massacres, 45,000 people forcibly detained and disappeared, and more than a million

displaced from their homes.

The purpose of the exhibit is to keep alive the stories of the survivors' struggle of justice for this genocide. The photographs include survivors holding pictures of a victimized loved one, (Diaz had a "disappeared" uncle and grandfather). There are pictures of remains, found years later, on display. I was impressed by the beauty and character of the faces in the photos, but it is their stories, told by my guide, that brought home to me the magnitude of the tragedy. The exhibit started here and will travel throughout the U.S.

-George Haeseler, AFSC Volunteer



## Flash Mob to Protest Police Brutality in Greensboro

On October 22, approximately 30 people from various local organizations joined AFSC'S Peace and Economic Justice program in Center City Park in downtown Greensboro to participate in a silent protest against police brutality. This was part of a larger call to action from the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation that has been mobilizing every year since the mid-nineties. Organizers from Raise Up, Interactive Resource Center, Central Carolina Justice Workers Center, and Artist 4 Justice carried banners and signs to bring awareness to the brutality and abuse of power happening across the country but also in our city.

We have seen national coverage on cases like Michael Brown, Samuel DuBose, and Sandra Bland and Tee Sampson. In our own city of Greensboro, Rufus and Devin Scales and many others have also had unpleasant encounters with the police. The Scales brothers' case received media attention from The New York Times in the recent front page article, *The Disproportionate Risks of Driving While Black: An examination of traffic stops and arrests in Greensboro, N.C.* The article uncovered wide racial differences in measure after measure of police conduct. The Beloved Community Center has had the Greensboro Police Department under its radar documenting incidents that demonstrate a lack of professionalism and accountability. PACSHI, the "Police Accountability, Community Safety and Healing Initiative" was formed to inform and liberate our young people and residents.

-Toni Etheridge, AFSC Economic Justice Program Associate



## Election Brings Candidates to Forum

On October 17th, Bethel AME church of the A&T community opened up its doors for a community forum for candidates running for local political positions of Guilford County. This program aimed to better inform the community of the persons running for office while advocating for the importance in being active in local government. Among the candidates that attended were Mayoral candidate Devin King, AT-Large candidates Marikay Abuzuaiter, Yvonne Johnson, and Sylvine Hill. Also, district 1 candidate Sharon Hightower and district 2 candidate Jamal Fox. This forum was created with the help from several organizations in the Greensboro community and the AFSC office of the Carolinas was a co-sponsor.

This was not the typical forum as the structure had a more grassroots structure as the forum was more of an open discussion between political candidates and the community. The forum served to be a platform for concerns around keeping money inside of Greensboro and the lack of development seen on the east side of Greensboro. "Its not that folks on the east side don't have money but that they have to travel to the west side to spend money" Marikay explained as she stressed her concerns about development in east side Greensboro. Sharon Hightower spoke on giving contract construction jobs to local contractors and businesses of color.

"We need to invest in smaller contractors" Hightower proclaimed. Everyone who was in attendance seemed to be very pleased with the more personal forum that seemed to break the barrier between politicians and the community.

-Femi Shittu, AFSC Intern



## Diploma Seal Of Endorsements

In 2013, the North Carolina legislature proposed Senate Bill 14 as a way to designate high school graduates as vocation/ career ready, college ready or both. These designations come in the form of seals that appear on high school diplomas, which are earned by successful completion of required courses and by meeting a grade point average requirement.

AFSC's Peace & Economic Justice program has taken on the research of this mandate to understand why the bill was adopted, how it could impact local students, and how the state plans to track the success of this program. Sources indicate that the NC Board of Education is expected to work with the State Board of Community Colleges to track more students into Career/Technical Education programs. However, apart from serving as an indicator of the completed requirements, it is unclear how the endorsements are meant to benefit the students, our local colleges and/or the local economy. There appear to be no plans for state-run assessment of the endorsements nor is there any indication for such tracking in the future. Information about the endorsements was disseminated in student handbooks and presented in town hall meetings. The findings on the issue will hopefully be presented to local stakeholders in the near future.

-Aleks Babic, AFSC Research Intern

## Scholarship Options for Undocumented Youth

On October 10th at the YWCA Latino Family Center, Let's Learn Triad held it's first Higher Education Forum to educate and provide resources to students that are undocumented or have DACA to facilitate their college process as well as making it possible.

Twenty-two students and families were present from all over the triad: Forsyth, Guilford and even as far as Clemmons took

advantage of this opportunity to connect and have a dialogue with our guest speaker of the day Donna Weaver of CFNC. An afternoon full of information and enrichment was rewarding in the end; Let's Learn Triad provided students with a 36 page scholarship packet which they would be able to apply to whether they'd be in high school, college, community college, or not in school presently.

If you were unable to attend the Higher Education Forum: you can still access the scholarship list at [www.tinyurl.com/lt2015scholarships](http://www.tinyurl.com/lt2015scholarships).

-Maria Cortez, AFSC Intern



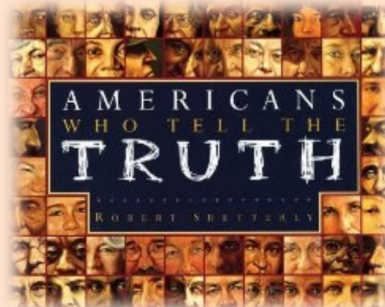
# Join Us for these Upcoming Events!

**NOV. 14 - FEB. 14:**

**“Americans Who Tell the Truth” Exhibit**

*A powerful exhibit of portraits of courageous Americans*

- The International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro, NC
- Guilford College Art Gallery (smaller selection of portraits, no charge)



**MON. NOV. 16, 11am, Greensboro**

**“I Make America Great” Walk March on Elm St**

- Tell Governor McCrory that Immigrants Make America Great!
- 11:00 am Rally & 12:00 pm March on Elm St
- Meet at Beloved Community Center, 417 Arlington St



**MON. NOV. 16, 8pm, Guilford College, Greensboro**

***Is Another World Possible? Beyond War, Sickness, and Environmental Catastrophe***

- Panel Discussion focusing on a world that benefits us all

**TUES. NOV. 17, 11:30am, Holy Trinity Church, G’boro**

***Immigrant Detention and the Incarceration Crisis***

- “Lunch with the League” League of Women Voters:
- 607 N. Greene St., Greensboro, NC. (Holy Trinity Church)
- RSVP Required: Contact Sara White at sarawhite27410@gmail.com



**THURS. Nov 19, 12pm, YWCA, High Point**

***Front Porch Conversations: In State Tuition***

- YWCA High Point, 112 Gatewood Ave
- Local groups from the community will be discussing the struggle undocumented students are facing with out of state costs for college and how they are addressing it through their work in the community.

**THURS, Nov. 19, 7pm, Shiloh Baptist Church**

- Large Community meeting on police/ community relations in Greensboro
- 210 S Eugene St, Greensboro, NC 27406

*For more information about our events and updates please follow our FB page: [www.facebook.com/afscnc](http://www.facebook.com/afscnc)*