



Gulf Coast Update

Desire/Florida Town Hall Meeting

Malcolm Suber, the AFSC New Orleans Project Director has been meeting with Gordon Plaza residents since March. AFSC helped residents get organized to begin fighting to get their quality of life issues resolved. We mapped an organizing strategy to confront the decision makers in New Orleans to address the general neglect this area in the upper 9th Ward has suffered. We made plans to call a town hall meeting with elected and appointed officials and to invite other neighborhood residents to come out and join the fight for better living conditions. Forty residents came out on July 8th to the first town hall meeting held in their neighborhood in over 3 years. They came to hear from newly elected Councilman Jon Johnson and other elected and appointed officials on how they would address quality of life issues in the Desire/Florida neighborhood. Councilman Johnson pledged his support to work with the Gordon Plaza Residents Association to address neighborhood problems. "I acknowledge that this area has suffered from governmental neglect. I pledge the services of my office to help resolve your issues" declared Councilman Johnson.

He then introduced and assigned a member of his staff as liaison with the Gordon Plaza residents. A major resident complaint was about the lack of police patrols in their area. Captain Kelly of the filth district promised action and assigned her quality of life officer to begin attending neighborhood meetings.

Representatives from US congressman Joseph Cao's office promised to assist in getting government action on cleaning up or demolishing two blighted apartment complexes which are owned by HUD.



Alice Lovelace

The condition of housing and streets in the Florida neighborhood of New Orleans has not changed much in the 5 years since Katrina

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1917-2010: The American Friends Service Committee turns 93

James Reeb (1927-1965)



Reverend James Reeb

A social worker and Unitarian Universalist minister, Reverend James Reeb (1927-1965) was severely beaten by a group of white men in Selma on March 9, 1965. Reeb died of head trauma two days later in a Birmingham hospital.

Leaving the pulpit to pursue social ministry, Reeb moved to Boston to work for the Quaker-run American Friends Service Committee, settling with his wife and four children in a poor black neighborhood in Dorchester against the advice of his contemporaries. There he took up the cause of low-income housing, launching a public campaign for new safety and building codes in early 1965.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s delivered Reeb's eulogy.

Read the excerpt on page 5.



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HIGH POINT, NC

AFSC's Distribution Center in High Point is now open every Wed.
Friends Humanitarian Response Project Distribution Center
606 E. Springfield Rd.
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New Orleans Area Project

Malcolm Suber, Project Director
Ahmane' Glover, Community Activist

Miami AFSC in Collaboration with Consulates of El Salvador and Mexico keep the Community Informed

Herman Martinez, in collaboration with Official Consulates from El Salvador and Mexico in Miami, is training and informing visitors to their Consulates on how to get national IDs and/or passports. While they are there, Herman talks to them about their rights and responsibilities in the workplace, on the streets, and in public spaces. He helps them to be prepared in case of an immigration raid at a workplace, at homes, and at public places like bus stops, trains stops, and informal worker pick up sites. This work is very important because Florida Law Enforcement and some county and sheriff's offices have embraced the Federal Program of Secure Communities.

The intention of the Program of Secure Communities is supposedly to arrest and to remove criminals; however, the consequences are different because ICE's intention is to remove everyone that does not have U.S. documents. For instance, one is more likely than not to be removed for a minor traffic stop. Some counties in Florida have removed more people than the in Maricopa County, Arizona.

In Miami-Dade County, FL 66 percent of Secure Community removals are of non-criminals. This shows the County's local law enforcement in conjunction with ICE use minor traffic and other offenses as pretext for arresting and removing immigrants. Also, ICE is going after those that have orders of deportation and removal without remorse leaving spouses, children, and relatives behind. The separation of families is a consequence that cannot be forgiven and forgotten. Herman's work is vital to prevent the inhumane removal of immigrants.

Between April and June of 2010, Herman talked to at least 610 nationals from El Salvador and Mexico. The presentations at Official Consulates are unique in that each Country sometimes has unique issues. Since July, Herman has been informing Salvadorans that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) re-registration began from July 9 to September 7 of 2010. TPS has been extended for 18 months through March 9,

2012 to at least 240,000 Salvadorans who are currently under this Status nationwide. Also, Herman has been using the media to keep people aware of their TPS. The Salvadoran Consulate is a place where many people have gone to re-register.

The Miami AFSC Office has assisted a few Salvadorans with their re-registration and is currently representing 4 to 6 TPS court cases because TPS grantees have been placed in removal proceedings for different reasons such as not filing the case properly, traffic violations, county ordinance violations, or statute violations. In addition, our office has represented some individuals in the Miami Immigration Court.

Our work is more effective in collaboration with the Consulates of El Salvador and Mexico.

When you call the Atlanta office you will probably speak with Margie Rece, a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting and our loyal volunteer. Margie is a local activist and the Georgia coordinator for HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

SPECIAL THANKS...



New Orleans Youth Say “Yes” to Nonviolence

Ahmane’ Glover, youth organizer at the AFSC New Orleans Project took four youth of color on a trip to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center in Atlanta to receive training in Kingian Nonviolence July 25-29, 2010. All four participants received full scholarships from the King Center and became certified youth mentors. Each youth was tested on the six principles of Kingian Nonviolence through a written and oral examination and all four passed both the written and verbal exams. They are now certified to teach four hours worth of Kingian Nonviolence material to high school and middle school aged youth in the New Orleans community. Lasand Mansion, Domonique Triggs, Briana O’Neal, and Rose Gilliam will use their personal triumphs to influence the lives of their community. Please read more about their experiences below.

Domonique Triggs, age 16, on the impact of the Kingian Nonviolence Training:

When I first visited Atlanta I didn’t know what to expect. For once in my life I was nervous! When I arrived it was beautiful. I saw the tombstones of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife, and the “Flame of Eternity” next to their graves and written on top of it “In memory of the beloved community.” I was amazed after seeing this and meeting the people at the King Center because everyone seemed so jolly. I then started to learn about the way that Martin Luther King operated his missions and it started to change the way I thought. I literally started apologizing to my once so called enemies! Then our time at the hotel gave the group time to bond with each other and with other groups. I even got to get some great networking done.

I give my trip a score of 20 out of 10. I’m really glad I went.

Briana O’Neal, age 20, on the impact of the Kingian Nonviolence Training:

My trip to Atlanta was fun, powerful, hard work and eye opening. I thought I was going to be with the other young people that I saw when I got to the King Center, but “No,” I was put in a room with adults that were all graduates of some college and had good jobs. I was scared and nervous but everything turned out great. I learned a lot and I would do this again. I cried, I laughed, and I lost sleep but if I had to do it all over again I would. I think that this is just the kind of training we need at schools in New Orleans to make our city a better place to live. I met people I would have never dreamt of meeting like: Dr. King’s son, daughter, and his close friends. I found out that Dr. King was a regular guy just like anybody else. Also, one thing that stood out to me was that, Dr. King didn’t know he was going to have such a great impact on so many people.

He also didn’t know that he was going to lead such a big movement. They called him and asked him to lead the people and he did.

Rose Gilliam, age 17, on the impact of the Kingian Nonviolence Training:

My experience at the Kingian Nonviolence training was very educational. I learned a lot about love and it gave me a better understanding of my different relationships. The training taught me that instead of reacting aggressively to a conflict, I could find an alternative to resolve the cause of the conflict. I’m so happy that I attended the training because I got so used to people telling me “not to worry about it,” but I couldn’t understand why I shouldn’t worry about it when it might happen again. So now I’m able to share with other kids who have the same questions that I did. Now I can tell them that instead of responding violently they can find an alternative because Kingian nonviolence is a peaceful way of life and a better way of living.



Miami Wage Theft

**Stop the wage theft!!!
Stop abusing the workers!!!!**

Maria from Guatemala started to work in a Dollar Store and the employer refused to pay her wages. When Maria asked for the money she worked for the employer called the police and accused her of stealing money and merchandise from the store.

Maria was stripped naked in front of the male employer and “searched for merchandise.” The police placed her under custody; then, the police officer found out that Maria was the victim of abuses from the employer. The police released her.

Maria attended the Farm Workers Association Office in Homestead, Florida for meetings, where she learned about labor and immigrant rights.

This time she came to denounce what happened to her. The team at the office of FWA and AFSC along with the Human Right Commission of Miami Dade County advocated for her right to be paid.

Maria received all salary owed to her by the employer. The employer apologized to her.

To learn how to document wage theft abuses call 305) 247 0072 or 305) 600-5441 ext 104.

The Florida Farm Workers Association in Coordination with American Friends Service Committee and The Human Right Commission of Miami Dade County

**Let's work together to make the
workplace a safe place to be.**

Office of the Carolinas



*AFSC's Friends
Humanitarian
Response Program
Volunteer Highlight:
Julie Bauer*

Nobel Peace Prize recipient Bishop Carlos Belo once said “Under your shoulders. Dear young people of the entire world, weigh the responsibility to transform tomorrow’s world into a society where peace, harmony and fraternity reign”. Julie Bauer, a senior at High Point University, is one such young person who is taking on the responsibility to transform the world with a smile and positive attitude.

Julie first started volunteering with the Friends Humanitarian Response Program (FHRP) in the fall of 2008 where she assisted in packing kits at the office in High Point, NC. Last spring Julie’s Social Ethics class asked her to commit to volunteering at a local non-profit. With her previous positive experiences with AFSC in mind, Julie decided to come back and volunteer in the spring semester from January to May.

She says that she “really likes the work that AFSC does” and she must as Julie is the newest intern at the Friends Humanitarian Response Program office this fall. Her graduation from High Point University looms on the spring horizon, leaving her with a degree in non-profit leadership and the desire to transform the world for the better; we can only thank Julie for the commitment and energy she has given to AFSC these past few years.

We also continue to hope that many young people will follow in her footsteps in becoming active members of their community and volunteering with the Friends Humanitarian Response Program. Not everyone has the time to commit to FHRP that Julie does, but there are various opportunities to contribute to the program. One could donate items for one of our kits or participate in our regular volunteer days with our partner organization. Volunteering with FHRP can take many shapes but has the same ultimate result; it is a step towards a world “where peace, harmony, and fraternity reign”.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions please contact us at (336)854-0633 or by email at carolinas@afsc.org.

Keep up with **AFSC's Peace work in Atlanta** through the Peacebuilding Program's blog: afscatlanta.blogspot.com<<http://afscatlanta.blogspot.com>>. The blog is updated regularly with stories, photos, and videos about a variety of projects coming out of the Atlanta office. Guest writers doing related work in the area sometimes appear on the blog to give our readers a wide perspective on the exciting peace and justice work coming out of the city. Keep up with the excitement by bookmarking our page or scrolling to the bottom and clicking “Follow” to get notified when we update the blog with a new story.

GULF COAST

Continued from page 1

The mayor's office of community development promised to get volunteers to the neighborhood to cut down tall grass at intersections throughout the neighborhood.

Grass is so overgrown that residents fear kids who are forced to walk in the streets might get hit by a car.

Representatives from the EPA reported on 2009 soil samplings on the Agricultural Street Landfill. They reported the all tests came back negative- meaning no additional contamination was found seeping from the landfill.

Jewel Jones, speaking on behalf of the residents stated, "we will hold you accountable for the promises made tonight. This is our neighborhood and we vow to make it livable once again".



The residents have continued to meet and are indeed following up on the promises. Grass cutters appeared in their neighborhood one week after the town hall meeting.

Excerpts from James Reeb's Eulogy delivered by Dr. M. L. King, Jr.

A WITNESS TO TRUTH

In March 1965, The Reverend James Reeb, traveled to Selma in order to protest for voters rights. He had been in Alabama less than a day when he was attacked on a Selma sidewalk by white supremacist thugs who fatally injured him. He died on March 11, 1965.

"And if he should die, take his body, and cut it into little stars. He will make the face of heaven so fine that all the world will be in love with night"

These beautiful words from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet so eloquently describe the radiant life of James Reeb. He entered the stage of history just 38 years ago, and in the brief years that he was privileged to act on this mortal stage, he played his part exceedingly well. James Reeb was martyred in the Judeo-Christian faith that all men are brothers. His death was a result of a sensitive religious spirit. His crime was that he dared to live his faith; he placed himself alongside the disinherited black brethren of this community.

The world is aroused over the murder of James Reeb. For he symbolizes the forces of good will in our nation. He demonstrated the conscience of the nation. He was an attorney for the defense of the innocent in the court of world opinion. He was a witness to the truth that men of different races and classes might live, eat, and work together as brothers. James Reeb could not be accused of being only concerned about justice for Negroes away from home. He and his family live in Roxbury, Massachusetts, a predominantly Negro community. [They] devoted their lives to aiding families in low-income housing areas. Again, we must ask the question: Why must good men die for doing good? "O Jerusalem, why did you murder the prophets and persecute those who come to preach your salvation?" So the Reverend James Reeb has something to say to all of us in his death.

Naturally, we are compelled to ask the question, Who killed James Reeb? The answer is simple and rather limited, when we think of the who. He was murdered by a few sick, demented, and misguided men who have the strange notion that you express dissent through

murder. There is another haunting, poignant, desperate question we are forced to ask this afternoon, that I asked a few days ago as we funeralized James Jackson. It is the question, What killed James Reeb? When we move from the who to the what, the blame is wide and the responsibility grows.

James Reeb was murdered by the indifference of every minister of the gospel who has remained silent behind the safe security of stained glass windows. He was murdered by the irrelevancy of a church that will stand amid social evil and serve as a taillight rather than a headlight, an echo rather than a voice. He was murdered by the irresponsibility of every politician who has moved down the path of demagoguery, who has fed his constituents the stale bread of hatred and the spoiled meat of racism. He was murdered by the brutality of every sheriff and law enforcement agent who practices lawlessness in the name of law. He was murdered by the timidity of a federal government that can spend millions of dollars a day to keep troops in South Vietnam, yet cannot protect the lives of its own citizens seeking constitutional rights. Yes, he was even murdered by the cowardice of every Negro who tacitly accepts the evil system of segregation, who stands on the sidelines in the midst of a mighty struggle for justice.

So in his death, James Reeb says something to each of us, black and white alike-says that we must substitute courage for caution, says to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered him, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murder. His death says to us that we must work passionately, unrelentingly, to make the American dream a reality, so he did not die in vain....

One day the history of this great period of social change will be written in all of its completeness. On that bright day our nation will recognize its real heroes. They will be thousands of dedicated men and women with a noble sense of purpose that enables them to face fury and hostile mobs with the agonizing loneliness that characterizes the life of the pioneers...When this glorious story is written, the name of James Reeb will stand as a shining example of manhood at its best.

COMMUNITY & RESISTANCE TOUR

Featuring New Orleans activists
**Jesse Muhammad, Victoria Law
and Jordan Flaherty**

* Current struggles for justice and liberation

* From nooses hung in the northern Louisiana town of Jena to women organizing inside prisons

* From resistance to school privatization to post-Katrina community organizing and cultural resistance.

* Connecting communities of liberation, and building relationships between grassroots activists and independent media.

DATE: Tuesday September 28, 2010

TIME: 7pm-9:30pm

**PLACE: AFSC Atlanta Regional
Office at 60 Walton Street, NE in
Downtown Atlanta**

For directions and information:

404-586-0460 ext. 17

American Friends Service Committee, Georgia WAND, Alternate ROOTS, Amnesty Atlanta, Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America, Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, MA in American Studies at Kennesaw State University, Movement to End Israeli Apartheid – GA, and Atlanta International Action Center, Solidarity

You are cordially invited to an

Open House

Hosted by the AFSC's Southeast
Regional Office

Please join the regional office staff and friends as we celebrate moving into our new home in downtown Atlanta. The building houses a Caribbean restaurant, event and meeting space, and AFSC and community partner offices.

There will be fellowship, stories, food, and music.

Date: October 1st

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Place: AFSC-SERO
60 Walton Street, NW**

We suggest you take MARTA, exit at the Five Points Station Plaza, walk to Marietta Street, turn left and go one block to Forsyth Street, turn left and walk one block to Walton Street, turn left and continue to our building.

Paid Street and Garage Parking is available on and close to Walton Street.

RSVP appreciated by email or phone
404-586-0460 ext. 17
alovelace@afsc.org



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