

GCRO CAW

Guilford Council of Religious Organizations

College Activities of Worship

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A Newsletter of Guilford College Campus Ministry

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Celebration Days

Coming Soon...

- September 23 On this day, **Ullambana**, Buddhists make offerings to the Triple Gem (the Buddha, the Dharma/Teachings, & the Sangha-the monastic community) on behalf of ancestors. Chinese and Korean Buddhists call it Happy Buddha Day. **Fall Ohigon**, which celebrates the September equinox, is of special importance to Japanese, Korean and Tibetan Buddhists.
- September 23 In Shinto, **Shukisorei-sai**, the September equinox memorial service is observed. Its observances are similar to March 20.
- September 23 Within the Wiccan faith, **Mabon** (or Harvest Home) celebrates life's encapsulation as a seed to survive the cold, barren winter. It also celebrates the Harvest of the Vine, which as wine symbolizes the Goddess' power to transform youth's sweet nectar into old age wisdom and spiritual maturity.
- September 29 **Simbat Torah**, (Rejoicing of the Law) is the beginning of the synagogue's annual Torah reading cycle. Reform Jews celebrate it with **Shimini Atzeret**.
- October 3 Within the Islamic faith, **Mi'raj al Nabi**, commemorates the ascension (al-Mi'ra) of the Prophet to heaven (Qur'an, Surs 17:1). Muslims interpret the event literally or symbolically. The festival begins in the evening.

CONCORDANCE CAPER!

Joan Mansfield returned to her pre-eminent position as caper queen with the first response to the question about where "In all things give thanks" appears in the Bible. She correctly identified I Thessalonians 5:18 as the source, but incorrectly predicted that Guilford would beat football foe Carson-Newman, on whose media guides the quotation appeared.

Dave Walters, Guilford's Sports Information Director, also called in with the correct answer and reported that there were many other biblical allusions in the game, lost by the long-suffering Quakers to the Baptists of CN 44-0. As Dave watched the game, he saw the Guilford defensive line "parting like the Red Sea and CN ball carriers passing

through like Israelites on the way to the Promised Land."

Ouch!

This issue's caper comes from the pages of the September 16 *News & Record*. In the regular Monday "Thinking Out Loud" section, the paper cites U.S. District Court Judge James Fox and his comment upon ruling that Misty Clymer would be the Miss America Pageant representative for NC instead of Rebekah Revels: "The court sees no way to split the baby."

What biblical passage was the judge alluding to in choosing between the two claimants to the title of "Miss NC?"

And, no; no off-color comments about "cleavage" in your responses! Call the Campus Ministry Office at 316-2445 with the answer.

Report from Burundi

Crystal Waitekus '03 will give a "Report from the Field" on her experience this past summer with Friends Peace Teams in Burundi, Africa, Thursday, September 27, 7:30 p.m. in Founders Gallery. Crystal worked with Quaker

peace activists in applying principles of the Alternatives to Violence Program to the peace and reconciliation efforts between Hutus and Tutsis. The program is sponsored by Peace and Conflict Studies.



From the Back Bench...

One of my favorite readings in the FYE "Plain People" course I teach is "Look Who's Talking" from *Wired* magazine, January, 1999. The article examines the unusual issue of how the Amish "negotiated" the use of the cell phone in their communities. After a lengthy probationary period, the decision was reached that the cell phone had no place in Amish society, even though regular phones had already been allowed in carefully prescribed circumstances. The reason for the prohibition: the phone, though convenient for the individual, was not beneficial to the community. Community came first.

At the end of the article, the author, a confessed technophile himself, noted how impressed he had been by the process through which the Amish went to make their decision. "How much better off would we be," he asked, "if we had a similar conversation with our tools?"

I think it is time to have such a conversation at Guilford with the cell phone. Not a conversation with each other *by* cell phone – that is the problem! A conversation *about* the proliferation of cell phone use on campus!

I know that there are many reasons why student use of cell phones has spiked recently: college policy about long distance servers; aggressive cell phone advertising; acculturation to usage before coming to college; convenience; desire to stay in touch after 9/11. Some would argue that cell

phones build community by facilitating staying in touch. Others note the safety factor of having a cell phone handy.

But what of some of the negative aspects of use on campus? One complaint might be that it challenges the Quaker testimony of simplicity. That's not the one I'm worried about, though. The *peace* testimony is the one I fear for! Pacifist that I am, I want to strangle the ones whose phones go off in silent worship, in class, at convocation, during choir numbers, and while I am talking with them.

I believe the cell phone also has a negative impact on community. While intent on a conversation with someone, many pass right by people on campus – no "heys," "how are yous," smiles, or eye contact. They are ships passing in the night. At times, it looks like automatons are walking around Guilford.

There is a spiritual issue here, too. Thich Nhat Hanh, the Buddhist author of *The Miracle of Mindfulness*, encourages us to be attentive to each thing we do, to appreciate each activity and moment to the fullest. Yet we in the West love to multi-task. We try to accomplish many things at the same time, often doing each less than well and not fully appreciating each fully.

Enlightenment, Zen tells us, comes in being fully present in each moment. Quakers would talk about treating each moment as sac-

ramental, infused with the divine.

A walk across campus, besides serving the utilitarian function of getting us to class, the dorm, or the cafeteria, can be an exercise in enjoying the beauty of God's creation; engaging with our fellow community members; appreciation of, well, *exercise!*

Perhaps it is time to have a conversation with ourselves, if not within the community, about appropriate use of the cell phone. If we fear being seen as odd – talking with ourselves! – it can't be any stranger than talking into our hands...while missing the joy of being totally mindful of nature, each other,...or a concert!

In our wired – and wireless – world, this will be a hard sell, but it may be time to enter into a negotiation with the cell phone at Guilford. If for no other reason than to prevent loss of tuition-paying students to collisions with each other as they walk across campus, intent on disembodied conversation. Let's leave the public conversations with voices in our heads to delusions of divine revelations! - Max L. Carter



Peace and Conflict Studies Begins Fall Colloquy Series

Max Carter will give the first Peace Studies Colloquy program on Tuesday, September 24, 3:30 p.m. in King 129. He will speak on "Paradoxes in Peacemaking," addressing the challenges of trying to remain neutral while "speaking truth" in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Max will draw on 32 years' experience in the Middle East, most recently in the summer of 2002 with an international Quaker Working

Party on the conflict.

Speaking of Which....

Max will speak at St. Mary's House, the Episcopal campus ministry for Guilford and UNCG, on Wednesday, September 24. After worship and supper at 6:00 p.m., Max will share his insights into the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. St. Mary's House is located at 930 Walker Ave., just off Tate Street at the UNCG campus.

Informational Session on Proposed Bolivia Workcamp

Plans are being made for a Guilford College workcamp in Bolivia during May, 2003. Come learn about the possibilities at an informational tea, 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, in the Hut. In cooperation with Quaker/Bolivia Link, the Guilford work team would assist with projects in Aymara Indian Quaker communities. For additional information, contact the Office of Campus Ministry, 316-2445.

Alumna Environmental Advocate to Speak September 23

Jayne Mardock '85, Director of the Children's Health and the Environment program of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, will visit Guilford September 22-24. In addition to class visits, she will give a 4:00 p.m. "Tea & Talk" on Monday, September 23, in King 126, sponsored by Women's Studies and Campus Ministry.

Jayne works with a coalition of women's religious groups, including Catholics, Reform Jews, and Evangelical Christians on advocacy programs related to the environment and children's health issues. She lives and works in Washington, D.C.

Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics

All full-time Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to write thought-provoking, personal essays and submit them to the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest. Suggested topics range from the exploration of ethical responses to fanaticism, hate and violence to reflections on the most profound moral dilemma that you have encountered and what it has taught you about ethics. Essays are to be 3,000 to 4,000 words long with a December 2, 2002 deadline. There are five cash prizes, ranging from \$5,000 to \$500. Guidelines and entry forms are available on-line at: www.eliewieselfoundation.org

Africa Work Team Members Report

Participants in the Guilford College/Friends United Meeting/North Carolina Friends workcamp in Kenya this summer will share their experiences on Thursday, October 10, 7:30 pm in Founders Gallery. Betsy Blake '99, Eva Shaw '02, Bryson McKinney '02, Katrina Weintraub '05, and Max Carter spent three weeks on projects in the Samburu and Western provinces of Kenya and attending an international gathering of Quakers in Nairobi. Kara Price '03 attended the gathering, taking a break from her Ghana semester. A video of the experience, pictures, and stories will be shared.

Walk for Peace and Simplicity

On Saturday, October 5th, at 9:00 a.m., Ehren Nagel will begin a walk that will end in Richmond, Indiana. His route will follow the old migration trails that were used prior to the Civil War by Friends seeking to live in "free" states. This walk will help Ehren prepare for his intended trek across the United States. Both walks will be a witness for peace and simplicity. Ehren would appreciate your thoughts and prayers as he travels or your presence at his 9:00 a.m. departure, or your company for a mile or more!

WEEKLY PEACE VIGIL

The Greensboro Peace Coalition holds a vigil downtown each Monday, 5:00-6:00 p.m., on Friendly Ave. behind the old courthouse. For information or rides, contact the Campus Ministry Office, 316-2445.

Fall Break Work Trips

Willing workers on an organic farm in the NC mountains are needed over fall break! Pat Tompkins again hopes to welcome students to help her with fall harvest, preparation of garden beds, splitting and stacking firewood, and enjoying the fall at 3,000 feet above sea level. Call the Campus Ministry Office at 316-2445 if interested.

Groups and Activities

Daily: 8:05 – 8:20 a.m. Unprogrammed worship in the manner of Friends, the Hut.

Monday: 5 p.m. Peace Vigil behind the old court house downtown.
8:00 p.m. GCRO meeting, the Hut.

Wednesday: 5:30 p.m., midweek meeting for worship (unprogrammed worship in the manner of Friends), the Hut.

6 p.m. Worship and supper at St. Mary's House (Episcopal).

7 p.m. Rhema Triumphant Bible Study, Moon Room.

8 p.m. Quaker Concerns, the Hut.

Thursday: 6 p.m. Engaged Buddhist meditation, the Hut.

9 p.m. Guilford Christian Fellowship prayer meeting. Founders Commons.

Sunday: 9:45 a.m. Rhema Triumphant Sunday School, Choir Room.

11 a.m. Rhema Triumphant Ministries. Choir Room in Dana.

1 p.m. College Meeting for Worship, led by a variety of students, staff and visiting speakers.

3:30 p.m. French-speaking African Christian worship. Moon Room.

7 p.m. Hillel meeting, the Hut.

Please notify us if there are other ongoing religious activities on campus that should be listed in this space. Dshaw@guilford.edu

College Meeting for Worship

Guilford College's President, Kent Chabotar, will lead the worship on Sunday, September 22nd, for our homecoming weekend. On Sunday, September 29th, Kathy Coe, Friends minister and Guilford College trustee, will bring the message. College Meeting for Worship is sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry and the Guilford Council of Religious Organizations.

All are welcome. For more information call x2326.

Hillel Ice Cream Social

You are cordially invited to the Triad Hillel ice cream social at High Point University. The event will take place on Thursday, September 26 from 8-11 p.m. at the indigo club at High Point University. Please RSVP to Yolanda by Sept. 23rd: 334-4500 or yolanda@nchillel.org. Bring a Jewish friend, make a Jewish friend.

Catholic Mass on Campus

The Catholic Student Fellowship will hold Mass on campus Monday, September 23, 5:00 pm in Founders Gallery. This will be the first of what the Fellowship hopes will be a twice-monthly practice. For more information, contact Doug Campbell, Catholic campus minister, at 334-4264.

Looking Ahead...

Josh Ruebner, co-founder of Jews for Peace in Palestine and Israel, will speak on campus Monday, October 21, 7:30 p.m., in Founders Gallery. This summer, Ruebner led a Jewish-Muslim sponsored U.S. congressional delegation to the Middle East, the first of its kind. Josh Ruebner's visit to Guilford is sponsored by Campus Ministry.

Stephen Zunes, a professor of politics at San Francisco State University and foreign policy analyst with expertise in the Middle East, will present an analysis of U.S. policy on Iraq, Monday, October 28, 7:30 p.m., at New Garden Friends Meeting. His visit is co-sponsored by Peace & Conflict Studies, Political Science, and Campus Ministry.