

JUSTICE SPEAKS

BLACK WORKERS FOR JUSTICE

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50c

NC workers fight cuts in jobs, services

When North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue mandated that all state workers would take 10 unpaid hours off to help balance the budget, many workers began discussing how they could collectively withhold their labor by coordinating their time off. When the legislature considered 20-day furloughs for all state workers, mass outrage forced the plan off the table.

Local governments began planning to cut costs on our backs as well. Durham announced layoffs of 35 workers and eliminating 78 jobs. Charlotte announced similar cuts and threatened to privatize the entire Recycling Department.

In May, a thousand teachers, members of the North Carolina Association of Educators, rallied against furloughs. Many rural teachers were at their first rally yet were resolved that mass action was the only way to stop teacher cuts.

Over 50 Durham city workers crowded into City Hall chambers as City Manager Tom Bonfield proposed a budget saving \$6.5 million with a big water utility hike, a \$1.8 million pay raise for police and fire, and cuts of 113 city worker jobs – yet maintains a \$19.8 million reserve fund that amounts to 12.1% of the general fund for “worse economic times to come.”

Unionists have calculated that the city could spend \$6.8 million of the reserve fund to save jobs, while only lowering the reserve to 8% and maintaining a maximum bond rating.

George McNeal, a UE member said, “It’s a rainy day now and those funds need to be released. ... If it wasn’t for us, this city wouldn’t run.”

State of Emergency Campaign

UE Local 150 has launched a State of Emergency Campaign around the state to give workers the tools to fight budget cuts. Workers are already circulating a petition demanding “No layoffs, furloughs, pay or service cuts” and “Tax the corporations and the wealthy.”

The state budget has a deficit of up to \$4.8 billion, yet the Senate revenue plan includes additional tax breaks to corporations that already receive over \$1 billion in tax breaks every year. The plan increases corporate tax breaks by as much as \$350 million per year!

Gwen Burwell, a Dorothea Dix Hospital worker and secretary of the Health and Human Services Council of UE Local 150, thinks “it is outrageous. It makes me sick that the state is lowering taxes for corporations. What about other people, who have children, who have to eat, pay light bills and car bills?”

“The big corporations’ taxes are cut, but what are they doing with that money? They aren’t giving it to us! We are the ones on the bottom, working hard; getting paid less as they sit on the throne getting richer and richer while our people are suffering.”

Multinational corporations’ hunger for profits and super-exploitation of workers knows no limits. They cannot be kept in North Carolina by lowering taxes, as politicians claim. NC already has low corporate tax rates.

Some workers who belong to the Carolina Auto, Aerospace and Machine Workers Union, a chapter of UE Local 150, are fighting for recall rights, through the State of Emergency Campaign. They are organized in a non-majority union without a collective bargaining agreement and have been rallying and petitioning since more than a quarter of the Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant workers were laid off in March.

At a Raleigh People’s Assembly, teachers, state workers, city workers and youth spoke out against budget cuts. Led by a powerful rank-and-file workers organization, this will be a crucial opportunity for other left and progressive forces to unite around building a statewide fight-back. The campaign also plans to launch similar actions in 10 NC cities.

The campaign demands collective bargaining rights for public sector workers, who are still denied that right by law. Two bills currently in the state General Assembly would repeal the ban, the first time such Senate support has existed. The Hear Our Public Employees, or HOPE coalition, convened a lobby day to repeal the ban on collective bargaining. The coalition includes UE Local 150, NCAE, Teamsters, the North Carolina AFL-CIO, Triangle Labor Group, the State Employees Association of North Carolina in Service Employees Union Local 2008, and others. Another statewide rally against budget cuts coming down on state workers and our communities was organized by the Historic Thousands on Jones St coalition lead by NAACP and UE150.

BWFJ Editorial

Fight against the Devastating Budget Cuts

Sisters and Brothers:

During past months, you have seen the NC Public Service Workers Union/ UE150- NC Public Service Workers Union Members, Black Workers for Justice and our allies at the City Halls across the State of NC, at the State Legislature on Jones St. in Raleigh...inside and out....struggling to get elected officials to tax the wealthy and Big Corporations and not cut "working and poor people" schools, services and jobs! In the streets ...on TV...in the news ...at the gate ...in the workplace ...we must continue to get our message out and our voice heard as we ready for more of the same in 2010!

The continued organizing and mobilizing by union, community organizations and workers like our UE150 workers at various state, local government and private workplaces under the banner of the State of Emergency campaign (no layoffs/no furloughs/no cuts) has helped to shape the thinking of our friends and allies connected to the Historic Thousands On Jones Street coalition (The HKOJ is convened and led by the timely and politically sharp NC NAACP.). This coalition has also moved the NC Senate and NC House of Representatives to slowly but surely consider the need to propose *new revenues* ...which force the wealthy and Big Corporations to pay their fair share.

We are getting "the powers that be" to shift some of this crisis off working peoples back. Recognizing the economic crisis as a State of Emergency and our organized efforts every week for NC legislators to be visited and pressured by our members and other state employees, reflects a sentiment to intensify struggles against balancing the budgets on the backs of workers and our communities.

We will continue mobilizing for actions and rallies by People's Assemblies and the Historic Thousands on Jones Street Coalition. They are a call to all of you ...your co-workers and families ...communities ...to stand up ...take action to deepen this struggle in our workplaces, churches and the local community areas. We highlight and focus on engaging our youth and workers as motive forces whose actions can bring forth a brigade of ambulances, filled with people who can't afford to stop for red lights -- not during this urgent economic crisis of layoffs and "cut to the bone"



budgets, not while our hard-earned money bails out the wealthy and corporations!

This is a State of Emergency!..It's an attack on everyone -- public service and private sector workers, retirees, youth and students, disabled and oppressed people. Our needs and our communities' needs *must be met*. Our fightback, our demands are -- **No more cuts! Jobs and services for our community NOW!**

Balancing the budget on our backs destroys *our* families and communities, *our* public schools and colleges, *our* youth and future generations.

Stand up ...speak out ...resist the powers that be. Remain silent and the weight of this political crisis of capitalism will be crushing.

OUR ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS?

ORGANIZE, AND FIGHT BACK!

Have Your Say in Justice Speaks

Story suggestions, event announcements, campaign reports, "letters to the editor," news, photos, articles and other material are welcome (subject to editing for clarity and space) and should be directed to:

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Justice Speaks News, PO Box 5574, Raleigh, NC 27650

NC. gov asked to address hog industry health impacts

Environmental advocates gathered at the North Carolina legislature yesterday for a press conference and prayer vigil asking the governor to take action on health problems associated with industrial hog farms. The 30 people gathered outside the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh announced they had sent a letter to Gov. Beverly Perdue (D) asking her to convene a task force examining the environmental, human health and economic impacts of industrial production

of swine and other livestock. But North Carolina lawmakers' reaction to the protest suggests it won't be easy to win change in a state where Boss Hog rules.

That same week new findings were published about the critical role hogs played in creating history's deadliest flu, as a respected science academy published new findings that hogs played a key role in the pandemic of 1918, which killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide. Their study of the genetic origins of the 1918 flu found pieces of the virus had been circulating in hogs and humans as far as 15 years before the pandemic broke out.

And the day before the vigil, the Obama administration announced its plan to curb the dangerous bacterial infections linked to hog farms by banning routine antibiotic use in farm animals. These infections kill 18,000 people annually in the U.S.

"We're here today to elevate the concerns we have, outside the legislative building where people have the power to change things in our state," said Lower Neuse Riverkeeper Larry Baldwin. The waste from these operations is handled by piping it into "lagoons." These stinking,



Naeema Muhammad, NC Environmental Justice Network, speaking at July press conference in Raleigh, NC Photo by Sue Sturgis

open-air cesspools hold the animals' feces and are frequently sited within smelling range people's homes, schools and churches. They are concentrated in rural eastern North Carolina, part of the Black Belt region with a high percentage of African-American residents.

"People are eating cheap because North Carolina communities are getting dumped on," the N.C. Environmental Justice Network's Naeema Muhammad said at the press conference. "It's time for North Carolina officials to listen to the people. We must no longer be a sacrifice zone."

Organizers handed out copies of the letter asking for Task Force study of hog farms' relationship to asthma, chronic respiratory conditions, certain resistant staphylococci, swine flu and emerging diseases and called for a Task Force to examine groundwater contamination as well water is often used for their household use and the health/economic impacts of animal waste on water quality and fishery habitat. The protest comes amidst growing attention to the link between hog farms and human disease.

University of North Carolina epidemiologist Dr. Steve Wing noted that industrial hog farms encourage antibiotic-resistant infections by routinely administering the drugs to promote animal growth. He recognized that the role industrial hog operations played in the current pandemic is still unclear -- but pointed out that their damaging impact on human health and the

environment is well known. These include air and water pollution

as well as dangerous microbial contamination that can be spread by workers, birds and insects. His research has found that greater likelihood of in-school exposure to air pollution from swine operations in North Carolina occurs in schools with higher concentrations of low-income and nonwhite students.

Consumers who handle contaminated meat can spread antibiotic-resistant infections, with five of 90 retail pork samples in Louisiana testing positive for certain staph infections. "In North Carolina, migratory geese land on lagoons, become colonized with antibiotic-resistant bacteria and carry it great distances," Wing said, and Maryland researchers discovered chicken-farm bacteria in cars following livestock transport trucks on the roads.

Advocates are trying to counter pork power with people power: They've launched an online petition encouraging Gov. Perdue to launch the proposed Task Force and are asking supporters to sign it.

Union, Smithfield Agree to Contract at Tarheel Plant

Employees will (finally) have a voice at work

Nearly 17 years since the world's largest hog processing plant opened its doors, the 5,000 workers at Smithfield Foods in Tarheel, NC, who voted to form a union late last year, have now approved a collective bargaining agreement with the company. Members of UFCW Local 1208 join more than 10,000 other Smithfield workers, and more than 240,000 others who work in the meat packing and food processing industry who have a UFCW union contract. Key contract provisions include a pay raise, sick leave, holiday pay, seniority system, controlled health care costs, and a grievance procedure and safety committee to give workers a say in their working conditions.

"This is the biggest four-year wage increase Smithfield workers have ever had and it will make a real difference for our families and in this community. We could never have gotten that increase without a chance to bargain with the company. We will finally have a sense of security on the job because through our union we can make sure we have a safe place to work, and that everyone's treated fairly," said Orlando Williams. "We really did accomplish something with this union," said Mattie Fulcher, a 10-year employee who helps usher pigs to their deaths. "We might not have gotten the raise that we wanted, but that will come in time. This is our first contract, and it is a start."



Radio Stations Coughing Up Cash

by Angaza Mayo-Laughinghouse

Radio stations may soon be forced to "pay to play" if congress passes legislation requiring fees to performers and musicians. The bill, known as the Performance Rights Tax, is being pushed by the musicFIRST Coalition which is supported by a number of entertainers including [will.i.am](http://www.will.i.am), Sheryl Crow, and Pattie LaBelle. Satellite radio, internet radio, and cable TV currently pay a similar fee, but AM and FM radio stations have never had to pay such royalties.

Commercial radio stations would pay \$5,000 per year, while public, college, and non-commercial stations would pay \$1,000. The money would be distributed to labels and artists. Advocates of the bill claim that it is "just wrong for stations to rake in profit off the hard work of artist."

Many community and national groups oppose the bill, including the National Association of Broadcasters, fearing the bill would risk thousands of radio jobs at small, local stations. Others worry the tax would take money away from struggling communities served by small, minority-owned stations and funnel it to large record labels.

WHERE WE STAND

- ✓ **FOR** workers control of the wealth from their labor and for fighting, democratic unions of rank and file workers
- ✗ **AGAINST** the exploitation of all workers
- ✓ **FOR** democratic rights and equality of all races, nationalities and sexes
- ✗ **AGAINST** racism, white supremacy, homophobia and sexism
- ✓ **FOR** social programs for working people, youth, women and physically challenged workers
- ✗ **AGAINST** unemployment, plant closings, and "runaway shops"

Black Workers For Justice

is an organization of

Black Workers organizing to build the

African American workers' movement

as a central force in the struggle

for Black Liberation and Worker Power.

- ✓ **FOR** health and safety on the job and in the community
- ✗ **AGAINST** wars and military spending to make the rich richer

- ✓ **FOR** jobs, income, training for the unemployed, affirmative action for Blacks, oppressed nationalities, the elderly, physically challenged and poor
- ✗ **AGAINST** dangerous conditions and "killer shops"
- ✓ **FOR** the political empowerment of all working people, and the freedom and national liberation of Blacks and oppressed nationalities
- ✗ **AGAINST** political powerlessness of all working people and against racist national oppression of Blacks and all oppressed nationalities

Union Workers Take Rocky Mount "Job Recall" Fight to Elected Officials

Workers of the UE Local 150 CAAMWU chapter of Rocky Mount Engine Plant/Consolidated Diesel Engine and their Nash County Community Empowerment Alliance mobilized for the Whitakers Town Council held in July to demand passage of a "job recall rights" resolution.

This chapter of UE 150 NC Public Service Workers Union has no collective bargaining rights because of NC's anti-union environment. After more the 70 workers in this high unemployment rural region were laid off due to the U.S. economic crisis, it organized meetings with union and non-union workers to fight to win back their jobs when the economy improves. County Commissioner Lou Richardson, who attended the union's last CEA meeting, committed to support job recall rights.

At the Town Hall, the UE 150 workers made pro-labor presentations on the importance of the Town Council passing a Job Recall Support Resolution. Although union members are numerically in the minority and have no collective bargaining contract, they have some political organization and power. After presentations and much discussion, Whitaker's Town Council tabled action on the workers' recall rights resolution to the following month, planning a work session with the town attorney beforehand. Cummins management reps came with laptops and kept detailed notes on what was said by workers and council members.

This struggle for workplace democracy has valuable lessons for all workers as we continue to develop People's Assemblies and a People's Agenda during this crisis. We must educate and persuade elected officials to support a People's Agenda, and hold them all accountable to our political platform – and not let them get bought out by big corporations.

Our turnout and powerful presentation kept this issue alive. We need to work hard to build for the next meeting. We thank the following union activists and

allies for their leadership in this effort: CAAMWU UE 150 members Mavis Stith, Carolyn Covington Beale, Ray Modlin, Marvin Arrington, Jim Wrenn, Chuck Yoak, Ethel Jones, Rodney Wright, Hazel Harris, and Harry Johnson;

and supporters Janice Bellamy, Milton Pitt, Rev. Glenn Silver, Rev. Doris Lindsey, Commissioner Evelyn Powell, Clara Solomon, Lloyd Solomon, Jonina Stith Wrenn, Rev. Eugene Lyons, and Shafeah M'Bali.



NC Organizations Push Congressional Delegation on Health Care Reform

Sen. Kay Hagan pushed...stands up to insurance companies

Raleigh/Durham: Organizing Works! After weeks of relentless pressure, including busloads of her North Carolina constituents coming to Washington, D.C., Democratic Senator Kay Hagan was pushed into endorsing a strong public option. Organizers know there can be no compromise – reform won't be true reform without a good public alternative to private insurers. They will continue fighting to bring their elected officials on board and **call on the entire NC congressional delegation to show new political leadership by standing up with Senator Hagan in support of real health reform with the public option.**

North Carolinians voted for change in 2008 – to put people over profits and to end "business-as-usual" in Washington. We shudder at knowing our delegation is part of the lobbyist-developed "No We Can't Coalition," which supports "business-as-usual" reform. The "stiff silence" or "middle of the road" comments of some of the NC show they did not get the voters' message.

"We are pleased that Sen. Hagan is so receptive now to not only the voices of her constituents, but to the country's voice," said Lynice Williams, executive director of North Carolina Fair Share. "America wants a strong public option that will finally make quality health care accessible and affordable to everyone. And each one of us has to continue working every day to make sure our elected officials understand this."

NC Fair Share helps North Carolinians work for a fairer share of economic and political power, building local and state campaigns to win concrete improvements and greater influence. The Health Care for America Now Campaign is a national coalition representing more than 33 million people in 46 states dedicated to winning quality, affordable health care for all in 2009.

People's Assembly Report: Health Care for ALL!

At our July People's Assembly in Raleigh, youth, community members, workers and union activists reported on their agenda. BWFJ activist Linda Suggs had traveled with a delegation that included NC Fair Share, AFL-CIO and church members, and many others to a Washington Town Hall meeting and Capitol Hill visits to legislators coordinated by the DC-based Center for Community Change.

Linda said US Senator Kay Hagan, a Greensboro Democrat, remained unopposed of the Obama Administration's plan to cover all despite pressure. Hagan sits on the Senate committee that is helping write the bill and her vote could get the measure out of committee. The "public option" would be managed by the US government and open to all to join. [Ed. note: Sen. Hagan later changed her position to support a public option.]

"We need to stabilize costs and make sure your health care will not be taken away if you change your job or have a pre-existing condition. Hagan's covered! Meanwhile she gives us....who put her in office, double talk," said Linda.

Some activists attended at a huge Capitol Hill rally of activists gathered by the grass-root coalition Health Care for America Now. Afterwards, 150 North Carolinians heard more speakers -- many of them criticizing the new Democratic senator. "We need to say to all of the senators -- especially to Sen. Kay Hagan -- 'Can you hear us now?'" shouted Lynice Williams, of NC Fair Share, a community organization.

Kay Zwan, a mother from Wilmington, talked about her son's terminal illness and her husband's cancer. She could not get insurance for the two after losing her job. "The health-care system has destroyed my family in many ways," Zwan said. "We must protect our children."



Community/Labor Protest at Blue Cross Blue Shield

by Jovannie Nicholson
Summer Youth Intern

One July morning, I went to my first rally, instead of my summer job. The Chapel Hill City Hall rally of about 80 community, labor, and youth protestors held outside Blue Cross/Blue Shield offices was a great educational experience for this 16-year-old high school student. We wanted to tell the public how Blue Cross/Blue Shield was undermining our people's movement to win a national health care plan with a public option, one that would cover even more young and working people and their families. Union leaders from across the state came to show their support. NC Public Service Workers Union UE 150, which has endorsed a stronger model -- Universal Single Payer Healthcare, attended to support the "public option" fight. This social activist union helped protest the demand for health care for all!

People had a great time, with signs that demanded "health care for all." We educated the public about who's opposing the effort to make sure all working and poor people get health care. Two out of three North Carolinians have absolutely none! Local reporters and stations filmed the protest and horn-honkers provided great feedback!

Lumumba Election a Victory

A genuine people's victory was won in mid-May, the 84th Birthday of Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz). Attorney Chokwe Lumumba, the people's lawyer, was elected to the City Council in Jackson, Mississippi.

Lumumba, the New Afrikan People's Organization, and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement have engaged in decades of dedicated community service and organizing in Jackson. Broad mobilization and fund-raising in Jackson and throughout the United States delivered this victory.

Ward 2 residents declared they want a leadership committed to their social and economic interests with a proven ability to organize, motivate, and educate for change. Organizing themselves into People's Assemblies, they began building and using the power to address solve the problems of their ward. Through the People's Assembly, Ward 2 residents determined the People's Platform is THEIR Platform.

This potentially transformative force is being built in Jackson through the combined power of the Council Office and the People's Assembly and will not be confined by the two-party system. Building this force will advance a genuine participatory democracy and help our people fulfill their human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights so often denied in the United States.

We hope this model -- and this victory -- will inspire a new force in Black and progressive politics. The victory was the first step. Now begins the work of using its limited political power to transform Ward 2, Jackson, and beyond. We hope everyone will share the news and join the work of building viable alternatives for the people of Ward 2, Jackson, the South and entire country *by any means necessary!* Building People's Assemblies -- as in Atlanta, Ga.; Southwest Texas, and NC -- is crucial to organizing worker and oppressed people's power to transform our communities and society.

Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble – at 25 Years***Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present,
Inspiring Hope for Future.***

The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble, their songs and music were born in the struggle to organize African American workers in the “Black Belt” of North Carolina and the South. More than 22 workers, at various times, have participated in this dynamic worker’s cultural organization. Recruited from workplace and community struggles, they capture the oppressed people and working class history of community and workplace struggles in music.

In song, the Ensemble documents the tragic Hamlet Imperial Food Company fire that killed 25 workers in 1991, the Black community of Shiloh’s fight against toxic terrorism during the late 1980’s until 2007, along with the Workers Want Fairness/Organize the South tours from 1989 to 1991, which sought to get international unions to use resources to organize southern workers. “Organize the South” was the call for justice. The United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers, the Union of Needlepoint Industrial Textile Employees (UNITE), the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), and others responded.

From the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and Azanian liberation to workers solidarity, women’s oppression and liberation, the anti-war movement, black-brown/African American-Latino unity, globalization, run-away corporations, justice and jails, youth and hip-hop, the Fruit of Labor’s music and songs speak to the bitter and sweet struggles of the oppressed. Their music beautifully celebrates the fruitful victories of oppressed people and workers’ glorious history, sorrow and joy!

Some of their more than 60 songs are on their four CD’s (*Workers Want Fairness, Weapons of Mass Construction, Your Silence Won’t Save You* and *Workers Stimulus Package*) and have been performed before countless rallies, picket lines and marches; heard in concert halls, schools,



colleges, workplaces, churches, Juneteenth and Kwanzaa celebrations; and broadcast on radio nationally and internationally. They have performed throughout North Carolina, and in Maine, Connecticut, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Illinois, Louisiana, Tennessee and Washington, DC.

The powerful political messaging of their lyrics could be bound up in soul stirring and gut wrenching blues, bouncing to a hip-hop or reggae beat, or sliding in and out of a jazz melody with a little scat included. The Fruit of Labor’s songs and music touches all because it is rooted in our people’s ageless traditions of chants, call and response, spirituals, reggae, jazz, blues, R&B, soul, folk, hip-hop and spoken word.

Check out the Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble live at www.fruitoflabor.org. To inquire about performing and to buy their music, e-mail fruitoflaborwcc@netscape.com or call (919) 876-7187. Check out the Community Calendar of Events for upcoming performances and events at the Fruit of Labor World Cultural Center.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS**South Africa: Shop Stewards Sacked For Safety Strike**

At the Enstra paper mill, 19 shop stewards were suspended from work and now await discipline. They are charged with inciting workers to strike after a worker refused to do unsafe work. Defending our members from unsafe working conditions is one of the most basic tasks of union representatives and this employer is clearly in the wrong.

USA: Defeated Stella D’oro closes plant

The Stella D’oro Biscuit Company has been found guilty of labor law violations by a federal administrative law judge. The judge ordered the company to reinstate the strikers at pay and benefit levels in effect before the strike began and to bargain in good faith with the union. Workers still need us to continue to flood Stella D’Oro with messages of protest as the company has announced it is closing the factory and laying off the workforce-The world is watching US workers respond with an organized fight back.

Honduras: Unions React To Coup

The international trade union movement expressed solidarity with the Honduran trade union movement and the struggle for democracy there by supporting the reinstatement of the democratically elected but overthrown President Manuel Zalaya.

JS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

4200 Lake Ridge Drive Raleigh, NC 27650 919-876-7187 fruitoflaborwcc@netscape.com.

All events take place at the FOLWCC unless otherwise listed

August

Thursdays at 1pm; World Cultural Cinema. Join community youth as we view thought-provoking progressive films and follow it with a lively discussion & trivia Q&A with great prizes! Snacks and drinks available for purchase. Free and open to the public but any donation is greatly appreciated. Call 818-876-7187 for more information.

11th - 16th, Alternate Roots 33rd Annual Meeting; Arden, NC; Theme: *Rebirth of a Nation - Using Art to Navigate the Intersections of Oppression*; contact Carlton Turner, director, at 404-577-1079 or register at alternateroots.org.

14th - Friday; FOLWCC presents a Community Youth Progressive Hip-Hop with a Message and Spoken Word Show. Do you have something to say? Well then, step up to the open mic and spit fire! \$5 donation. Food available for purchase. Call Angaza or Stephanie at 919-876-7187.

22nd, Saturday, noon; Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble performs at the Shiloh Community Health Fair; Luther Green Community Center, 922 Church St., Morrisville, NC. Contact Rita Ballentine, 919-941-5039, for more information.

September

4th - First Fridays Wine & Cheese Networking Social; 6:00pm; Free, but donations are welcome; sponsored by Focus Realty Ad-

visors; contact Tonya Debnam at 919-676-2046 for more information.

6th - Sunday, Highlander Research and Education Center Homecoming and Apple Fair; 2 -9:00pm; 1959 Highlander Way, New Market, TN; 865-933-3443 for more info.

19th - Saturday, Clean Water for North Carolina Annual Meeting (daytime) and 25th Anniversary Celebration (evening); Barton St. Community Center, Asheville. Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble to perform. info@cwfn.org for more information.

October

2nd - First Fridays Wine & Cheese Networking Social; 6:00-7:30pm; Free, but donations are welcome; sponsored by Focus Realty Advisors; contact Tonya Debnam at 919-676-2046 for more information.

2nd - 8pm; FOLWCC celebrates Latin Heritage Month; Delicious Latin American food, sizzling music and great people! Donation: \$7 for 1, \$12 for 2, \$20 for 4. 919-876-7187 for info.

16th & 17th The North Carolina Environmental Justice Network 11th Community Environmental Summit; The Historic Franklinton Center at Bricks; Whitakers, NC. Call 252-826-3017 or email ncejn1@aol.com for registration info.

November

6th - First Fridays Wine & Cheese Networking Social; 6:00-7:30pm; Free, but donations are welcome; sponsored by Focus Realty Advisors; contact Tonya Debnam at 919-676-2046 for more information.

December

4th - First Fridays Wine & Cheese Networking Social; 6:00pm-7:30pm; Free, but donations are welcome; sponsored by Focus Realty Advisors; contact Tonya Debnam at 919-676-2046 for more information.

27th - Sunday; 3-6pm; Community Kwanzaa Celebration at the FOLWCC! As always, bring family, friends, co-workers & neighbors and a big dish of your best culinary creation for our Community Karamu - feast. *(At least bring some ice, plates, forks, napkins or drinks if it's advisable that real people not share in your cooking genius! Just making a donation is also an option!)* Call 919-8786-7187 or e-mail fruitoflaborwcc@netscape.com for more info.

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