

PRESENT

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person.” These quotations may suggest that his book is preachy. He does preach at times, but he writes from his heart and describes many difficult parts of his life. He describes turning points such as we have experienced or could experience such as gaining weight, needing to exercise, or experiencing relationship difficulties, all in the process of seeing more clearly into his life. Wayne worked continuously, at one point telling us that “the elevator to success is out of order. You’ll have to use the stairs... One step at a time.” One of the high points Wayne described was the time he spent in a cemetery when he finally discovered his father in his father’s gravesite. He was finally able to forgive this man who had wronged Wayne and his family so grievously. Wayne spent hours meditating and crying and finally sending his father love, peace, understanding and forgiveness.

Although Wayne Dyer spent a great deal of

time and energy in preparing and writing his books, as he moved throughout his life and saw more clearly into the issues of higher spirit, he became more and more attuned to the profound messages of life. At times he felt like he was producing “channeled writing. I was the instrument, and the words just magically appeared on the pad of paper. My hand moved effortlessly and very fast.” He felt like something “akin to real magic was taking place... Today I can see clearly that this was my introduction to the idea that all writing is really channeled from the world of the invisible... I know now that God writes all the books... It’s the spirit that gives life and words on a page appearing out of nowhere are a result of the dance of creation.”

If you love Saint Francis of Assisi, you will love Wayne’s relationship with this spiritual teacher. Wayne studied the work of St. Francis and visited Assisi several times, introducing the profound teachings of this beautiful man. After the first visit, Wayne released the book “There Is a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem” based on the famous Prayer of Saint

Francis. In this book Wayne concentrated upon the second verse of this prayer which reads, “O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.” During Wayne’s last tour of Assisi he uncharacteristically froze on stage, sobbing uncontrollably, feeling that he had merged with St. Francis. Wayne wrote, “My hands are outstretched, and the audience stands in the church and simply holds out their arms back to me. They stay with me and I feel their loving embrace even though there is no touching or even movement... I know something very dramatic and powerful just transpired. I have experienced the merging of my inner self with the spirit who has long played a dominant role in my personal and spiritual development.” Several years later, by 2015, Wayne had finished his autobiography and prepared for his final trip into spiritual existence.

Wayne closed this book offering advice to his readers to help all of us see “even more clearly in living your life from a place of passion and purpose. Love, I AM, Wayne.” Wayne Dyer died in his sleep, August 29, 2015, leaving the earth when his physical heart stopped beating. Earlier Wayne had conquered leukemia with the help of John of God from Brazil. It was reported that Wayne left us with no traces of cancer in his body. A talented medium, Cherie Lassiter, assisted in contacting Wayne’s spirit recently. He explained that he had studied and written all he could in his earthly life and now he had transitioned to an eternal life of pure love. He assured us that he will continue his teachings to mankind until each of us is able to join him in spirit. His words again, are “Love, I AM, Wayne.”

Need Advice? Send questions to BettyPhillips@BellSouth.net or 466 Eagle Point Road, Pittsboro 27312. Questions can be anonymous. Betty looks forward to hearing from you! Visit www.bettyphillipspsychology.com.

Resist Chatham Park if it hurts the environment

by Tim Keim

The first premise we must invoke when thinking about the scale of the Chatham Park development proposal is that the economy is a subset of the ecology. If the ecology is healthy, then the opportunity for a healthy economy exists. If, on the other hand, the ecology is degraded by destructive development on too large a scale, the economy will fail. We depend on the air, water, trees and other organisms in Chatham County to help keep our life support system in balance so we can drink clean water, breathe clean air and eat clean food. These are requirements that cannot be compromised. The biology of your child’s lungs does not understand compromise. They require clean air in order for your child to thrive. The same is true with our water. Our rivers, their tributaries and the lakes they feed are already polluted with chemicals, some of which are regulated, poorly I might add, and many of which are not. Our bodies do not understand the political compromises and outright criminal negligence that have led to the contamination of our water resources. Instead, we sustain the disease they inflict upon us in the name of progress or making a living. This is neo-feudalism whereby we passively accept the pollution of the commons by industries who buy our politicians. Industry is then free to defecate in our air, water and soil evading any moral responsibility to those they harm.

Oh, and we have yet another recently discovered pollutant, 1,4Dioxane, a petroleum solvent and probable carcinogen, polluting the Haw River and flowing into Jordan Reservoir. How does that make you feel when you head to the tap to quench your thirst?

When thousands of acres of trees that produce oxygen and clean our air for free are cut, will Chatham Park do anything to restore that ecological service? Unlikely. We will bear the consequences as our air, water and soil lose their capacity to keep us healthy.

The primary question that is not being asked in the debate about Chatham Park’s massive proposal to develop 7,000 acres in our county is: will building this development and adding tens of thousands of people to Chatham exceed the capacity of our air, water and land to support us all in health and prosperity? Carrying capacity is simply the number of people that can safely inhabit a finite space and live prudently within the ecological resource budget dictated by that locality. We don’t know the answer to that question because we’ve never asked it. Every time I bring this up, even among self-professed progressives, they look at me as if I’d suddenly begun speaking in a foreign tongue.

This is a fairly simple computation. You figure out how much water, land and

air are available and divide it between a theoretical number of people given the way they use and treat their resources. Well, given the way we treat our resources to provide the outward appearances of the American Dream in Chatham County, we have already surpassed the amount of waste our water, land and air can accommodate. No political body in the state has seriously attempted to remedy our already polluted water resources in any meaningful way.

The unreasonable and totally inadequate notion that simply rallying around Chatham Park’s massive development will make it better, and we will all live happily ever after, is false. This glib sales job ignores the nuts and bolts of the massive destruction of the systems that help keep us healthy.

If, what Chatham Park proposes does not enhance our health and well-being by leaving our air, water and soil in better condition than currently exists, then we cannot accept their proposal. Continuing to allow the slow, grinding degradation of our resources, and the health they once conferred, will violate our obligations to the future.

Even John Locke, the patron saint of the libertarian ideal of sacred property rights condemned property use that damaged one’s neighbors and their enjoyment of their property. But you’ll never hear those who would so ill-liberally squander our resources for their profit quoting this passage of Mr. Locke’s work.

Yes, how we grow is important. Whether we grow is a discussion that we must ever keep fresh with argument, evidence and good will. Further growth will require more intensive management of our resources, something that our poor political leadership continues to neglect. Prosperity can be built and maintained without massive growth. Slow, limited growth that is constantly weighing the care of our resources and health as the first consideration will be the only formula that will produce a first class community that is healthy, prosperous and sustainable.

Chatham Park must agree to an independent environmental impact statement. Thousands of acres of contiguous wildlife corridor and riparian buffers must be included in their proposal. Chatham Park must also incorporate biological systems like constructed wetlands to compensate for the loss of the free environmental services provided by thousands of trees and other organisms. Until then, we must continue to resist Chatham Park. Profit over people, and the natural systems that make our lives possible, are no longer an acceptable way to do business.

Tim Keim, a Chatham resident, is an environmentalist, journalist and therapeutic Yoga teacher.

Is another world possible?

By John Heuer

On November 16, I participated in a panel discussion at Guilford College on the topic, “Is Another World Possible? Ending War, Sickness, and Environmental Catastrophe.” Other participants were Dr. Jonathan Kotch, Healthcare for All NC; Tony Ndege, Hands Up/Black Lives Matter; and Dr. Jill Stein, Green Party candidate for US president. My presence on this panel came as a result of my position as a national director of Veterans For Peace.

Independent journalist Allison Stalberg invited my reflections on the event for an article she intended to send to *Yes Magazine*. Here are her questions and my responses.

Allison Stalberg (AS): *During the Q&A period, you mentioned the segregation of Medicare and how our system today is based on a Jim Crow law. Could you repeat what you said during the Q&A or elaborate? I thought that was fascinating.*

John Heuer (JH): After WWII, every developed nation instituted national health care as the most efficient health care delivery system, when nations and economies were rebuilding after a devastating war. In the USA, Southern Congress members were unanimous in their opposition to a national health care plan which would have required the racial desegregation of hospitals in the South. In a similar scenario, JFK proposed a major Civil Defense project of building bomb shelters when he became president in 1961. When Southern Congress members asked if there would be sufficient funds to build segregated bomb shelters, JFK put his Civil Defense project in the proverbial ‘Round File.’

AS: *You also mentioned the “Americans Who Tell the Truth” exhibit at the Civil Rights Museum [Greensboro]. How was your visit there? What were your thoughts about the exhibit?*

JH: I had been wanting to visit the museum ever since it opened. The “Americans Who Tell the Truth: Models of Courageous Citizenship” exhibit at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum was a compelling reason to come to Greensboro early enough to visit the museum and see the exhibit before the Guilford event. I had first met the artist, Rob Shetterly, and had seen his work in Portland, Maine in 2010, on the occasion of the Veterans For Peace 25th annual convention. The 52 new portraits were commissioned by North Carolinians who contributed \$250 for each one, including a portrait of Rev. William J. Barber II, which features the following quotation:

“Our concern is the moral fabric of our society. It’s about a deep vision of society that says we must look at two guiding stars. The first is our state and national Constitutions, with their insistence on the common good, the good of the whole, and establishing equal justice under the law. And the second guiding star comes from the best of all our moral and ethical traditions, loving your neighbor and doing justice. It is from these two perspectives that public policy ought to be developed. We should ask, are policies constitutionally consistent, morally defensible, and economically sane.”

The exhibit was curated for display in Asheville and Greensboro by Ellie Richard, who has launched a new endeavor, “Education for Engaged Activism.” Both the Exhibit and the

Museum are “must-sees.” (Note: the exhibit lasts through February 14.)

The Museum itself is a treasure, with extraordinary photography and wonderful video presentations of historical re-enactments, particularly the Greensboro sit-ins and the courageous actions of students at NC A&T University and other area schools.

The reference to NC A&T reminded me of the presentation by the Hip Hop Caucus during its 2007 national tour. Tour leader the Rev. Lennox Yearwood celebrated the historical significance of NC A&T and Greensboro, NC, and made the connection with our current circumstances. “This is our ‘Lunch Counter Moment’” Rev. Yearwood told his audience.

AS: *What were your thoughts of the other speakers and their topics?*

JH: Tony Ndege’s opening presentation was excellent. He has a wonderful grasp of related socio-demographic issues that need to be better understood. I look forward to learning more about Tony’s research, and how all of these issues are related.

Jonathan Kotch was solid. Donald Trump might call him “low energy” compared to Tony and Jill, but he covered the possible transition from our current ‘for profit’ health care system to one that serves everyone, like the one I enjoyed when I lived in Canada, very well.

Now I’m not very steady on my feet these days, recovering as I am from recent spine surgery. But when Jill Stein walked into the auditorium lobby, she liked to knock me down with her smile. She is a radiant woman. I have great respect for Jill’s perspective on a whole range of national and international issues. She is an effective advocate for a quick conversion to renewables as our sources of energy, and to address the epidemic of producing poisons causing so much sickness in the US and around the world. Her transition from physician to Green Party political activist is reminiscent of Norman Bethune. In the early 1930’s, Bethune, himself recovered from tuberculosis, became the chief thoracic surgeon at St. Mary’s hospital in Montreal. He finally began to despair that his medical profession was just treating symptoms of a larger, social disorder, namely poverty, malnutrition and the obscene inequality that prevailed in his time, as well as our own. Bethune dedicated the rest of his life to challenging that political order, just as Dr. Jill Stein is doing today. Jill suggested that it would take 200 volunteers, each getting 500 petition signatures to allow the Green Party on the ballot in NC.

John Kiriakou, the former CIA officer who was imprisoned for blowing the whistle on the CIA torture program, had a recent speaking tour in NC. When asked his views on candidates for president, Kiriakou said “I love Jill Stein.”

AS: *Anything else you would like to add?*

JH: Thanks to Toni Etheridge, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); Tony Ndege, Hands Up/Black Lives Matter; and Guilford College for organizing this event. And thanks, particularly, for the inspiration of Jill Stein. Her sense of urgency brings to mind the old saying: “There is time enough, but none to spare.”

John Heuer, a Pittsboro resident, is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line.

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