

News from:

# THE PAUL GREEN FOUNDATION

www.paulgreen.org

Spring 2008

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## IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Lay Green

Sam Ragan

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Abbott Van Nostrand

## Changes at the Foundation

The year 2007 was one of change for the Paul Green Foundation. Laurence Avery stepped down from the presidency of the Paul Green Foundation after nearly twenty years at its helm and stepped up to assume the Treasurer position, vacated by Glenn Johnson, who retired from the PGF board after serving ten years in that position. The Foundation welcomes long-time trustee James W. Clark, Jr. as its new president. Other changes include the resignation of trustee Ann Hunt Smith, who moved to Atlanta, and Charles Blackburn taking over the responsibilities of the Publications Committee from Betsy Green Moyer, who will remain as chair of the Friends Committee. We welcomed Jaki Shelton Green back to the board of trustees of the Paul Green Foundation after a two-year hiatus. Joining the board this year are the following trustees: McKay Coble, Chair of UNC's Center for Dramatic Arts; Rob Fox, new director of the Institute for Outdoor Drama; Tim West, director of the Southern Historical Collection at UNC; and Edith Wiggins, former Chapel Hill Town Council Member and Student Affairs Administrator at UNC.

In 2007 the Paul Green Foundation made an irrevocable gift to the Triangle Community Foundation to establish



Laurence Avery and Jim Exum at a celebration in Laurence's honor after the 2007 Annual Meeting

two donor-advised funds, the Paul Green Foundation Growth Fund and the Paul Green Foundation Endowment Fund, through which the PGF will now carry out most of its grant-making functions. The PGF shut down its office in the basement of the Chapel Hill Museum and moved its scaled-back operations into the home of current Executive Director Alexandra Lightfoot. Former Executive Director Marsha Warren continues to serve the Foundation as trustee and as its Literary

Executor. Lori O'Keefe is the grants manager at the Triangle Community Foundation for the PGF's two funds. She has a background in the theatre and grew up in Ohio, attending *Trumpet in the Land* many a summer.



## The Mission of the Paul Green Foundation

The Paul Green Foundation exists to advance the ideals of human rights to which Paul Green was committed; to own, preserve and promote his literary works; and to encourage dramatic art with special emphasis on symphonic outdoor drama.

## Upcoming Events

### “A Tribute to Maxine Swalin”

April 27, 2 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Free admission; donations will be taken for the Arts Common. For directions or parking information, call 919-843-3333 or visit [www.carolinaperformingarts.org](http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org).

The event is co-sponsored by the Committee for Friends of Maxine Swalin and the Office of the Executive Director for the Arts, UNC-Chapel Hill.

### More about

## A TRIBUTE TO MAXINE SWALIN

### *A concert upon turning 105*

For each of her triple-digit birthdays, the wish of Maxine Swalin, the “Grande Dame” of the North Carolina Symphony, has been for reassurance that the Arts Common on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will continue to completion. The Arts Common project is expected to cost \$165 million or more and take as long as 50 years to complete. It is a reflection of Chancellor James Moeser’s vision for a new approach to the study and practice of the arts at Carolina, drawing the fine-arts departments together in one common place, including an outdoor area that can be approached from Franklin Street through Porthole Alley.

Swalin has experience with wishing big. Soon after she and her late husband Benjamin arrived in Chapel Hill as newlyweds in 1935, as he began teaching in UNC’s music department, they learned of the defunct North Carolina Symphony Orchestra. New friends, like Paul Green, supported their wishes and efforts at resurrecting it — a grassroots effort that involved yearly tours to all 100 counties of their adopted state — which, ultimately led to North Carolina supporting the full-time 68-member professional orchestra it is today. With Benjamin as director and Maxine as his executive assistant, education coordinator and keyboard artist (playing the piano, harpsichord and celeste), they took the music to the people from 1939-1972, providing free concerts for children, exposing many to a culture they otherwise might have missed, while encouraging musicianship.

Paul and Elizabeth Lay Green enjoyed many musical evenings with their neighbors, the Swalins. Betsy Green Moyer, chair of the Paul Green Foundation’s Friends Committee, is leading the Friends of Maxine Swalin Committee and organizing the tribute concert. Green will further be represented by two of his grandchildren, the accomplished Nancy Green and Frederick Moyer ([www.frederickmoyer.com](http://www.frederickmoyer.com)), performing two of Swalin’s favorite sonatas for cello and piano by Rachmaninoff and Franck. The cousins have performed together for over 20 years and recordings of their collaborations have musically sustained Swalin through the years.



Paul M. Green, Maxine Swalin, Paul E. Green Jr., bust of Paul Green, Skip Green, and Marsha Warren

## Richard Wright Centennial Celebration

The 100th anniversary of novelist, essayist, and poet Richard Wright’s birth is being celebrated at UNC the weekend of April 12th – 13th, 2008. The Celebration will include a staged reading on April 12th of Paul Green’s adaptation of *Native Son*, a collaboration between Green and Wright undertaken in Chapel Hill during the summer of 1940. There will be a colloquium on April 13th, which will include Julia Wright, the writer’s daughter, Laurence Avery, PGF Trustee and Paul Green Scholar, and Margaret Bauer, editor of *Watering the Sahara*, followed by a commemorative performance that evening at UNC’s Memorial Hall.

### In Memoriam

**Rhoda Wynn**, first Executive Director and former Trustee of the Paul Green Foundation, passed away on January 26, 2007. She was honored at a memorial service held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Earl Wynn Theater at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, an organization that she helped to found. Scott Parker, vice president of the PGF board, served as the master of ceremonies. The finale of the service was a communal read of Paul Green’s poem, “What is the Soul of Man?”

# Grants & Awards 2007 and 2008

\*Awarded through the Paul Green Foundation Funds at the Triangle Community Foundation

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### **Paul Green Award for Efforts to Abolish the Death Penalty in North Carolina: \$1,000**

Awarded in 2007 to Cynthia "Cas" Shearin, who has been very involved in the North Carolina Coalition for a Moratorium and played a key leadership role in the efforts to win passage of a moratorium on executions in North Carolina over the last several years.

Awarded in 2008\* (through the ACLU) to Gerda Stein, former mitigation investigator and consultant for the Center for Death Penalty Litigation and currently its Public Information Coordinator. Passionate advocate for the abolition cause and relentless pursuer of justice in the criminal justice system.

### **Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities \$5,500**

For continuation and expansion of the research project Institutionalizing Discrimination in Education: Addressing Segregation in Wayne County High Schools. (2007 & 2008\*)

### **Blue Ribbon Mentor Advocate/Youth Leadership \$2,000**

To support a service trip for twenty-two minority and low income high school students from Chapel Hill-Carrboro to work with the Tyrell County Community Development Corporation's youth program in Columbia, North Carolina. The experience offered BRMA-YLI students a unique chance to learn about economic development in other parts of the state. (2007)

### **Justice Theater Project \$1,500**

To enable continued development of an original staged play entitled *Still . . . Life*. The play is based on interviews with citizens (including Paul Green Abolish the Death Penalty Award Winner Henderson Hill) from around the state who have been affected by North Carolina's imposition of the death penalty. The play conveys a 360 degree perspective on the death penalty and performances includes community forums and "Talk Back" discussions between cast, crew and audience to exchange perspectives and foster deeper understanding of the issues. The play is being performed in the spring of 2008 as part of the year-long Carolina Performing Arts' Criminal/Justice: The Death Penalty Examined project at UNC. The play includes photographs taken by Scott Langley, 2006 co-recipient of the Paul Green Award for Efforts to Abolish the Death Penalty. (2007)

### **Student Action with Farmworkers \$1,000**

To provide support for the Levante Theater Project in which college student interns from SAF's summer program, most

of whom were from migrant families themselves, wrote and performed a play *Novelas, Noticias y Usted* to inspire dialogue and action among farmworkers and to address concerns about pesticides. The interns used popular theater techniques and participatory methods for getting the farmworkers to talk about health issues that concern them and ways to protect them selves from pesticide exposure. The theater group held 6 performances and reached 162 farmworkers in Greene, Sampson, Franklin, Wake and Martin Counties in North Carolina. (2007\*)

### **Carolina Justice Policy Center \$1,000**

To support its ongoing work in death penalty reform and engagement. (2008\*)

### **Capital Restorative Justice Project \$1,500**

In support of CRJP's philosophy of restorative justice and its mission of "promoting healing and nonviolent responses with North Carolina communities torn apart by capital murder and executions." (2008\*)

## ARTS

### **Paul Green Foundation Award Recognizing an Emerging Theatre Artist \$1,000**

Awarded in 2007 to Benjamin Endsley Klein by National Theatre Conference Person of the Year Jack O'Brien.

### **Paul Green Playwrights Fellowship \$3,000**

Awarded in 2007 to Alabama Shakespeare Festival for *Gee's Bend* by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder. Awarded \$4,000 in 2008\* to PlayMakers Repertory for *Witness to an Execution* by Mike Wiley.

### **New Federal Theatre \$1,500**

In support of New Federal Theatre, whose mission is to integrate minorities and women into the mainstream of American theatre by training artists for the profession and by presenting plays by minorities and women to integrated, multicultural audiences. (2008\*)

### **Paul Green Seminar at the Institute for Outdoor Drama Annual Conference \$ 4,000**

The 2007 Institute of Outdoor Drama's Annual Conference was held in New Philadelphia, Ohio, home of *Trumpet in the Land* from October 17th – 20th. The annual Paul Green Seminar was entitled: "Developing and Operating Boards that Deliver." President Laurence Avery moderated the panel, which included Fred Adams, Founder and Executive Director Emeritus, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City, Utah; Julie Vigeland, Director Emerita, Portland Center Stage, Portland, OR; and Nancy Tait, Former President, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR. The conference paid tribute to the IOD's recently retired director, Scott Parker. (2007\*)

## Special Grants

### **Southern Historical Collection at UNC**      \$2,000

To offset the costs of restoring and preserving the James R. Spence tapes of interviews with Paul Green and members of his family. (2007)

### **Durham Technical Community College**      \$1,500

Funding given to Durham Technical Community College to support a Creative Writing Residency for Jaki Shelton Green to work with students in the Adult Education and Basic Skills program. (2007\*)

### **Chapel Hill Museum**      \$2,500

For reinstallation of the Paul Green Exhibit, moving the exhibit to a more prominent place in the gallery, expanding the number of photographs, improving the quality of the images, and incorporating more materials that explore Paul Green's human rights contributions in addition to his literary legacy. (2007)

### **Center for the Study of the American South at UNC**      \$1,000

In support of the Richard Wright Centennial Celebration and Symposium. (2008\*)

### **Roanoke Island Historical Association**      \$2,000

To contribute to the efforts to replace the costumes lost in the recent fire at the Riverside Theatre, home of *The Lost Colony*. (2008\*)

### **North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources**      \$500

To support the printing and publication of *Watering the Sahara*, Margaret Bauer's editing of the Spence manuscript on Paul Green. (2007)

### **Freedom Monument Project**      \$200

To provide a lunch for attendees at a special event in Greensboro unveiling the most recent plans for the Monument. (2008)

## UPDATES

### *Update on PGF Prison Writing Project, now the Community Literacy Initiative for the Incarcerated*

In 2006 the Paul Green Foundation awarded grants to Susan Simone and Jaki Shelton Green to conduct a Program Assessment Survey, as a first step towards revamping the PGF Prison Writing Project to improve its effectiveness in serving incarcerated and at-risk populations. The goal of the survey was to pinpoint the need for services, explore what is currently being done in the field and by whom, and develop a plan based on what was learned from the survey to determine where and how the PGF Prison Writing Project could best provide services.

As a follow-up to the survey, the PGF was awarded a planning grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council to sponsor a one day workshop/meeting to explore issues of literacy as they relate to incarceration. The attendees included representatives from community organizations from around the Triangle working to prevent incarceration by targeting at-risk populations, serving incarcerated populations, or providing re-entry programs for the recently incarcerated. The PGF brought these groups together in order to improve our understanding of the needs and interest of this community, identify the place where the Paul Green Foundation could have the strongest impact, and seek out potential partners. The meeting was a considerable success, and over the next year we will be building partnerships with community organizations to launch a re-energized Community Literacy Initiative for the Incarcerated.

The Paul Green Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2009 Playwrights Fellowship, an award of \$4,000 to a professional 501(c)(3) indoor or outdoor theatre company from one of the Southeastern states. Applications due August 1, 2008. For more information, please see [www.paulgreen.org](http://www.paulgreen.org).

## "A Memorial to UNC Alumni Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice for the United States of America"

**T**his was the title of the dedication of a memorial to honor all the Carolina students who have given their lives in wars from the Civil War through the Gulf War – 684 in number. The celebration took place on April 12, 2007 outside of Memorial Hall on the Chapel Hill campus and was attended by many dignitaries. Famous (former Carolina student) writers' words are inscribed on various aspects of the monument, designed by Maggie Smith of Washington State who worked with

landscape architect Sam Reynolds of Raleigh. These words from a Paul Green poem are included:

These fading footsteps lost forever;  
The eloquent lips, the passionate hearts;  
All be as if they'd never been?

Now all of our walking is the paths they trod . . .

So thus the dead do live in us again, and we  
the living honorably may die.

– Paul Green

# *North Carolina FREEDOM MONUMENT Project*

*From Idea...to Town Meetings...to Artist's Design...  
to Landmark in the State Capital in 2010*



*Artist's Sketch of "Freedom Grove" across from State Legislative Building*

*North Carolina Freedom Monument Project, Box 3027, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 [www.NCFMP.org](http://www.NCFMP.org)*

The North Carolina Freedom Monument – an idea engendered by Paul Green’s human rights legacy and initiated by his grandson, Paul M. Green – has become a grassroots movement and is now in the process of becoming a special landmark in our State capital. The design has been chosen, the prime site is awaiting approval, and fundraising is underway that will assure its completion.

The mission of the Project is to “create and strengthen bonds between diverse people” and to conceive, finance and create a lasting and fitting public tribute to Freedom as especially expressed in North Carolina by the African American experience. It will take the form of a public monument park on a large corner space near the State Legislative Building and State Library – a location visited annually by thousands of tourists and school children.

The Chapel Hill-based artist team – multimedia artist Juan Logan, landscape architect David Swanson, and art historian Lyneise Williams – has designed a compelling monument incorporating language and shapes, in stone and water, along walls and sloped walkways (*Uphill Struggle*), winding through a grove of trees, passing a reading bench (*Literacy is Freedom*) and coming to an amphitheater with quilt pattern seating – all of which express words and images of freedom.

The NCFMP, a 501(c)(3) non-profit since 2004, has recently received a grant of \$100,000 from the North Carolina State Legislature and a gift of \$100,000 from Paul and Dorrit Green, with an additional \$100,000 challenge pledge from them, in advance of the launch of a statewide Capital Campaign. Please visit [www.NCFMP.org](http://www.NCFMP.org) for more information about the Project’s progress.

# Paul Green Historical Marker Erected

November 2007

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources dedicated a highway marker to Paul Green with three of his children and one of his grandchildren in attendance along with members of the PGF board of trustees and Mike Hill from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. The sign stands at the junction of US 15/501 and SR 1724 (Old Lystra Road) near Windy Oaks Farm. The inscription reads:

## PAUL GREEN

1894-1981

Playwright, teacher & humanitarian. Awarded Pulitzer Prize, 1927. His 16 outdoor dramas include *The Lost Colony* (1937). Lived 1 mile E.



Byrd Green Cornwell, Betsy Green Moyer, Paul E. Green, Jr. (children of Paul Green) and Paul M. Green (grandson of Paul Green)



Paul Green's great-granddaughter Eleanor in front of the newly-designed Paul Green exhibit at the Chapel Hill Museum

## Watering the Sahara: Recollections of Paul Green (1894-1937)

To be published in 2008 by the Department of Cultural Resources, North Carolina Office of Archives and History

Margaret Bauer, Rives Chair of Southern Literature at East Carolina University and president of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, has edited the James R. Spence manuscript based on interviews conducted with Paul Green. This will be published as *Watering the Sahara* next summer. In her recommendation that the work be published by the Department of Cultural Resources, a reviewer wrote:

*I believe we are fortunate to have this colorful, engaging, and well-written manuscript on Paul Green. Many North Carolinians know Green only for "The Lost Colony" but know little about the man himself or his other work. The author states up front that he is not writing a "critical biography." Instead, he paints a vivid portrait of Green through oral interviews, many of which he conducted himself. The narrative reads like a novel. . . . I think readers will find a book on the life of Paul Green fascinating.*