



APRIL 2004 NEWSLETTER

You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free - Jesus

One who acts on truth is happy in this world and beyond - Buddha

What's New?

April Serena Claggett



Sally Claggett and family were blessed with the birth of a beautiful baby girl, April Serena Claggett, born in Annapolis, Md. at 4:08 am on April 11th, 2004. April Serena weighed 8lbs 10oz and appears to be very healthy, happy and peaceful.

April Serena is now home and resting well. She shares her birthday with her 5 year old sister, Maya. Although Maya thinks Serena is "a lot of work", she is now looking forward to having two cakes on her birthday.

Announcements

May 1- 10:00 to 2:30 - Multicultural festival at Idlewild Park, rain location at the Easton Elementary School.

May 14 - 8:00 pm "Winged Migration" A documentary starring the beautiful feathered birds of our planet. Spectacular photography and compelling material for inspiring stewardship and protection of our natural resources. A wonderful film for the whole family.

June 6- First Annual Friends Family Picnic. After meeting for worship. Chicken and lemonade provided by Hospitality. Please bring the rest! To be enjoyed on our lovely grounds.

Condolences

Dorsey Baynham, 95, left us on April 4, 2004. She had fallen and broken her hip while at home in Salisbury, MD. A Memorial Meeting for Worship in the manner of Friends was held in Easton, MD on Thursday, April 8th. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Leonard Baynham, and their children Morgan Baynham of Philo, CA, Owen Baynham of Phoenix, AZ, Meredith Watters of Oxford, MD and Kathleen McCarthy Romine, of Austin, TX; six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Preceding her in death is a son Justin G. McCarthy. Leonard and faithful dog Buttons, moved from Salisbury to Easton. He is healthy and living in a nearby assisted living facility. He can be reached by writing: Leonard



Dorsey Baynham

Baynham, Heartfields of Easton, Building 100, 700 Port St., Easton, MD 21601 or phoning: (410) 770-7030 .

Dorsey was a third child, born in Gary, Indiana, on April 3, 1909. She joined the First National Bank in

Chicago in early 1930s after a year at Michigan State college. She married Paul Kiddie, managed a Roosevelt program that employed artists and writers of the Chicago area and was the book review editor for The Chicago Sun. In 1938 she married Justin G. McCarthy of Chicago and had daughter Kathy the following year. In 1948, they relocated to Washington, DC. She continued working as and editor. In 1958, she became the education editor of the Northern Virginia Sun newspaper, the Army Times, NASA, and the Fairfax County Schools publications. She co-wrote and edited the book, "Focus on Change" with Dr. Donald Trump and the official biography of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers.

Dorsey received her bachelor's degree from George Washington University at age 54. In *Continued on pg. 2*

1959, Dorsey married Leonard Baynham and with him, raised his 3 children in Falls Church, VA. She attended the Vienna Friends Meeting and was a founding member of The Langley Hill Friends Meeting of Langley, VA. Upon retirement, they moved to Annapolis, MD where some of her family ancestral homes and grounds are located. She sang with The Sweet Adelines and was also a docent for the Annapolis Historical Society. She moved to Wales, her husband's childhood and ancestral home, they remodeled a cottage and a house establishing

beautiful country gardens.

Twelve years later, they returned to the U.S. Dorsey was active in The League of Women Voters. She studied voice and sang solo soprano. She wrote an unpublished mystery novel set in Wales. In 1994, Dorsey and Leonard moved to the Easton area and joined the Third Haven Friends' Meeting. They later moved to Mallard Landing at Salisbury where they attended the Wicomico River Friends Meeting. Family and friends remember her for her sharp wit, intellect, and a propensity for excellence in Scrabble.

Minutes of the 4th Month 11th, 2004 Meeting for Business

Attending – Paige Bethke, Kenneth Carroll, Larny Claggett, Lorraine B. Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Joe Davis, Ginger Howell, Bill Lane, Susan Leibman, Robert Marshall, Valerie Mazur, Nancy Mullen, Marcia Ormsby, Sumner Parker, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Dee Rein, Jim Rouse, Anne Rouse, John Schreiner, Norval Thompson, Jennifer Van West, Ann Williams, Helen Womack, Winslow Womack and Ralph Young. Anne Rouse, Assistant Clerk of the Meeting, clerked the meeting for business. The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

4th Query – During the meeting for worship, Jim Rouse read the 4th Query, Care for the Meeting Community: 4A. Care for one another and 4B. Care in my home. The clerk invited comments. A Friend asked, “Why has our Meeting lost so many members and attenders in the last few months?” Another Friend noted that the Meeting should be open to conflict, and to exploring and learning from our differences. A Friend suggested that we learn to express our differences in loving ways. Another Friend quoted the Query, “To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?” The Meeting should continue to address our differences, and deal with them, not put them aside.

Minutes of the 3rd month 14th meeting for business – A member of Overseers asked that the number attending the lunch for new members and attenders in 2nd month be changed from more than 40 to more than 70. With this correction, the Meeting APPROVED the

minutes of the 3rd month 14th meeting for business. A Friend thanked the Communications Committee for the timely distribution of the minutes and the Newsletter.

Clerk's correspondence – Anne Rouse reminded the Meeting that Thom Jeavons, the General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will speak at the rise of meeting for worship on 4th month 25th.

Treasurer's report – Treasurer Joe Davis reported that in 3rd month, the Meeting received income of \$2,852 and had expenses of \$3,287 for net income of negative \$434. For the 9 months' year to date through 3rd month 2004, the Meeting had income of \$40,017 and expenses of \$29,472, for a net income of \$10,545. The 3rd quarter payment to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has not been made yet. The total current equity (fund balance plus net income minus liabilities) of Third Haven is \$62,647. The Meeting spent over \$700 on tractor repair. A member of the Property and Grounds Committee noted that the Meeting had expected the gift of a tractor, but that will not happen. The Meeting is on track to meet its planned fiscal year budget of \$51,260. Expenses are similarly on track. The Meeting APPROVED the Treasurer's report with thanks to the Treasurer for its clarity and brevity.

Budget and Finance – Larny Claggett, clerk of the Budget and Finance Committee, explained that the Committee customarily brings the preliminary budget proposal to the Meeting in 4th month and the final proposed budget in 5th month, but the cycle will be pushed back a month this year. The Committee will examine year-to-date expenditures closely and asked

committee clerks to get final budget estimates to Budget and Finance in the next 2 weeks, so that Committee can complete its budget proposal for the 5th month meeting for business. The Budget and Finance Committee proposed that the Meeting donate \$100 to the Urbana-Champaign (Illinois) Friends Meeting. The meeting APPROVED that request. The Newsletter will provide information for Friends who may want to donate directly to the Urbana-Champaign Friends building fund.

Trustees – Bill Lane, the Clerk of the Trustees, explained that the Trustees of Third Haven Friends Meeting was incorporated in 1947 and holds title to the property of Third Haven Friends Meeting, including the 7.5 acres. The Meeting and the Trustees are distinct entities with separate financial resources. The Trustees spent about \$8,000 last year, including around \$3,500 for insurance which used to be paid by the Meeting. Often Friends designate wills and bequests for the Trustees to maintain the property. In 1982 the Trustees built the Common Room building, with a loan of \$25,000 which has been paid off. In 1985, Trustees began the much needed restoration of the old meetinghouse. The Trustees acquired, from a variety of donors, and spent over \$450,000 on the restoration of the old meetinghouse. The restoration was completed very successfully. There is no outstanding debt on the property and the Trustees are building up their assets again. In 1992, the Trustees paid for around \$12,000 in renovations for the caretaker's house.

The membership of Trustees is self-perpetuating, but Trustees seek recommendations from the Meeting. The current Trustees are: Monimia Barker, Tom Bartlett, Pinney Claggett, Ken Carroll, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane (Clerk) and Allan Mielke (Treasurer). A Friend asked how the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Trustees determine which entity will pay for improvements and various maintenance items. The Meeting, the Property and Grounds Committee, and the Trustees have a history of communication, cooperation and common membership which has helped to resolve such issues. Bill Lane reported that the Trustees have one official annual meeting each year, so Property and Grounds should get estimates and the Clerk of that Committee should take requests to the Clerk of Trustees. Annual sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

A number of Third Haven Friends represented the Meeting at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) annual sessions in 3rd month: Susan, Emma and Atticus Leibman; Jennifer, Jeff, Charlie and Baxter Van West; Marsie Hawkinson; Lorraine Claggett and Susan Claggett; Norval Thompson, Cathy Marvel and others.

Several Third Haven Friends met volunteer needs during the sessions. Several Friends who attended spoke enthusiastically about the power of the meetings, the quality of the childcare and the joy of being among so many Quakers and their children, sharing in the wider experience of the Religious Society of Friends. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and other Quaker organizations and programs were well represented. Some Friends had attended many times, some for the 1st time. Two Friends thanked Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Third Haven for their support. One Friend noted an excellent workshop on “sticky” meetings. Such meetings attract, welcome and retain people with their warm welcoming and personal contact. A Friend quoted Arthur Larrabee's query for meetings in conflict, “How is the Spirit among us that we have come to this place?” In all, Third Haven Friends had very rewarding experiences at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sessions.

Overseers – Peggy Paul reported for Overseers. On 4th month 8th, the Meeting held a memorial meeting for worship for Dorsey Baynham. The service was well attended and a joyous celebration of our dear Friend's life. Overseers provided a lovely reception. On 4th month 10th, Third Haven and Friends gathered accomplished the wedding of Greg Wojcikewych and Norah Caldwell (daughter of Sam Caldwell and granddaughter of Jane and the late Dean Caldwell). The wedding was under the care of the Meeting; Susan Claggett and Irene Williams served as overseers. Several Third Haven Friends attended and attested to the joy of the wedding and seeing Jane Caldwell again at Third Haven. The preceding meeting for worship and the afterthoughts acknowledged and celebrated the memorial meeting and the wedding, as important events in the life of the Meeting.

The committee welcomed Cathy Marvel into membership. Another large and enthusiastic committee (all 5 members of the Mullen family, and Susan, Emma, and Atticus Leibman met with all 3 members of the McCall family) to welcome Max McCall into membership in the Meeting. A Friend noted that a former member, Faith Bauer, whose husband Harold is in the hospital nearby had attended the earlier meeting for worship. Member Edie Silvers has requested that her membership be transferred to Abington Friends Meeting. Clerk Marsie Hawkinson will write a letter transferring the membership of Edie Silvers, conveying our love for her and wishing her well.

Worship and Ministry Committee -- Clerk Bob Marshall reported that the Worship and Ministry

Committee proposed to invite Steve Baumgartner, the Executive Director at Pendle Hill, to come talk at the rise of meeting for worship at Third Haven sometime, probably in the fall. The Meeting APPROVED this invitation. Ken Carroll and Tom Corl will see Steve Baumgartner at Pendle Hill next weekend and will extend the invitation to him. The talk will be on the state of the Religious Society of Friends in the US today. The Worship and Ministry Committee will provide more information for the Newsletter and will extend an invitation to nearby Friends meetings.

Next 1st day, 4th month 18th, the Worship and Ministry Committee will sponsor a worshipful discussion on vocal ministry. The Committee suggests reading the 1998 Third Haven brochure, "Advice on Worship and Ministry" and Howard Brinton's Pendle Hill pamphlet, Guide to Quaker Practice, pp 21-27 Copies are available in the library. Childcare and a meal will be provided for the children. An e-mail will remind members and attenders of this session.

Bob Marshall reported that the Worship and Ministry Committee was willing to work on discerning the value of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting survey, "Making New Friends Meeting Survey" for use by Third Haven. There followed some discussion of the survey and the various discussions of it that had taken place in Overseers, Worship and Ministry Committee and the all clerks meetings. Some felt the survey and its findings would be very helpful in deepening our understanding of the character and spiritual life of the Meeting, and how well we know one another. Survey results could be a catalyst for a deeper exploration of the Spiritual life of the Meeting and our members and attenders. Others had reservations about the ambiguity of some questions, possible problems in interpretation or results and the value to individuals filling it out. It was reported that Thom Jeavons will in part discuss the survey when he comes to Third Haven on 4th month 25th. The Meeting AGREED that, following Thom Jeavons' visit, the all clerks meetings will consider the use of the survey by Third Haven.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting annual appeal. Norval Thompson reported that to date 1481 donors have given 1862 gifts, at an average of \$130 for a total of \$242,123, or 56% of the \$435,000 goal for the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting annual appeal. This year Third Haven has fewer contributors but more total contributions. His report noted "there's no fat left for further cuts." Third Haven Friends are encouraged to contribute to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting annual appeal.

Testimonies and Concerns -- Lorraine B. Claggett, Clerk of the Testimonies and Concerns Committee, reminded Friends of the Afghan speaker coming to Easton next Thursday, 4th month 15th. The committee will host a viewing of "Whispers on the Wind" in the common room. See the announcements for details on these events. On 5th month 1st, there will be a multi-cultural fair in Idlewild Park, with a Quaker booth representing Third Haven and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). The Committee wants volunteers to help with the booth. Lorraine Claggett encouraged Friends to review available materials and complete the cards provided to help the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) set its legislative priorities for the coming year. Marcia Ormsby noted that Peace Action at Annapolis Friends Meeting will host a speaker on the crisis in Haiti and related humanitarian concerns on 4th month 19th.

On behalf of the Committee, Valerie Mazur proposed that Third Haven sponsor a 2-week summer camp, for children in grades K-8, on stewardship of the natural environment, possibly at the end of 7th month and the beginning of 8th month. The planning for the camp is in the early stages and many issues are not yet resolved. The camp could focus on the children of the Meeting and nearby meetings like Annapolis. It would be staffed largely by volunteers. While generally supportive, members of the meeting raised questions about the enrollment size, fees, costs to the Meeting, liability, insurance, counselors and supervision. Friends suggested considering something limited like a church vacation Bible school. The Committee could consult with other local environmental organizations (Pickering Creek, Horn Point, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center and others) and camps (Oxford Kids Camp) to assess the issues in the establishment of a camp. After some discussion, the Meeting APPROVED encouraging the Committee to proceed with developing the camp idea. Information on the camp idea will be provided in the Newsletter to seek additional feedback and advice.

Other business – The Property and Grounds Committee will sponsor a spruce-up day on 4th month 24th.

The carriage shed sale sponsored by the first day school, will be on 5th month 22nd. With no further business, Friends concluded with a period of worship. The next Third Haven meeting will be 5th month 9th.

Third Haven Screen Saver Images

If anyone would like to use any of Ralph Young's photographs as computer backgrounds (screen savers), tell him which photos you wish (using the numbers in the portfolio located in the Common Room) and you will receive a CD with instructions on how to install the photo as a background on your computer. This is a gift for your generous contributions to the Meeting.

Provident Organic Farm

A Community Supported Agriculture farm near Salisbury, is working to expand its benefits to the Easton area. Subscribers pay the farmer, Jay Martin, \$550 in advance in return for approximately six months of fresh fruits and vegetables, locally grown, reducing exposure to harmful pesticides, promoting land stewardship, and creating community. Members share risks and rewards with the farmer from May 25th to Nov. 16th. Distribution Tuesday evenings at the Third Haven Common Room. Shares are still available. See www.providentfarm.org or contact Amy Leibman at (410)860-9850 or Codie Chaudoin at (410)476-3179. *Submitted by Codie Chaudoin*

FGC--Couples Workshop May 15th

All couples are invited to enjoy the day (9:30am to 4:30pm) with other couples at Friends Center. It will be a time to celebrate what we appreciate in each other. Patricia McBee and Brad Sheeks of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, will create a safe setting in which we can share more deeply with our partners some of the hopes and fears we carry in our hearts. The registration fee, covers lunch and child care. Free parking available, for information contact Brad Sheeks at 215-349-6959 or bsheeks@juno.com

Letter from Rachel Hall

Dear Anne,

I'm sorry I did not write sooner. We entered Mexico on February 19th and spent that night just before San Fernando. We saw El Tahin, our first ancient ruin, on the 21st. We then arrived in Tecalutla. It is a small beach town with black sand beaches. After Tecalutla we headed towards Xalapa, where we were going to stop for a while. In Xalapa we saw the Olmec heads. Museums were convenient as it rained for most of our stay so we saw the Science and Technology museum and tried to see a Diego Rivera exhibit, but it was closed until March 4th.

Thank You Friends

- To Tommy Bartlett and Bill Lane for repairing the cracks in some of our squeaky benches and for fixing the door latches.
- Lorraine Claggett – for tireless effort with the various Testimony and Concern 's community related programs , and her work at the Yearly Meeting.
- To John Schreiner ,Peggy Paul and the Property and grounds committee
- For the good work you do at keeping Third Haven beautiful and functioning.
- To Joe Davis for creating and maintaining a balance sheet for Third Haven, one that is clear and is easily understood by the Meeting.
- To Jim and Peggy Paul for Hospitality, To Codie Chaudoin and Family for hospitality.
- To all who helped with the annual clean up day at Third Haven M.M.

Epistle from Elementary Children of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

At yearly meeting we learned about peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation by going to the African American Museum, and by learning about Joseph and his brothers. Some of us made necklaces, and others made a paper quilt picturing our vision of peace or where we feel most peaceful. We played balloon volleyball, we swam, and we played kickball on the roof of Friends Select School. We took a walking tour of Philadelphia, too. We made new friends in our age group, and we met new friends of all ages by playing Quaker bingo. We also sang and worshipped. Presented to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in Session, March 28, 2004

On the 27th. We left Valapa and reached Teuachan which has a botanical garden that features mainly cactus. After that we headed towards Oakaca where we are now. There is a Street Children shelter in town, as well as a museum featuring ancient artifacts From Puebla State, including Monte Alban a nearby ruin that we will probably see tomorrow or the next day. This evening we are going to see Guelaquetza dancers perform folkloric music , so I must get ready .

I will write more soon, Rachel.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Approved March 28, 2004 To Friends everywhere we, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, in Annual Sessions gathered at Philadelphia, Third Month 25th – 28th, 2004, send warm and loving greetings. We particularly rejoice in responding to the numerous Epistles we have received from Friends the world over, of all age groups. The central theme that runs through them, the transforming power of God in our lives, mirrors our Coming Together in Community.

In an early session we heard several testimonials describing how Monthly Meeting and Yearly Meeting programs deepened the lives of individual Friends. Those Friends were empowered to speak up and share more deeply, trusting in spirit-led ministry. This sharing deepened the life of our Meeting that evening. We heard how spiritual formation in the tradition of Friends was found to be valuable. William Penn described the Monthly Meeting community as “God’s laboratory.” It was stated, “Spiritual transformation takes place best in small, intentional groups.” The query arising from this is: Can we reach a threshold where it begins to transform the entire Yearly Meeting, beyond those who have been in spiritual formation programs? This merits our consideration.

A morning session brought forward awareness of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as both a Body and an Institution – two potentially contrasting views. We grow by wrestling with these two natures of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

For some time there has been a spiritual hunger in our Monthly Meetings and at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There has been a felt need both for Friends to travel in ministry and for others with whom we can walk in the Spirit. Although this hunger and these needs have not been fully met, we rest and wait in God.

Bryan Hehir, President of Catholic Charities, and a Roman Catholic priest, addressed our evening session. He spoke to us on “Spiritual Grounding in Times of Turmoil.” He opened with a statement from Augustine,

“Many that God has, the Church does not have; and many that the Church has, God does not have.” He asked what does it mean to be a bearer of the Spirit? He suggested three essential sources where we might locate the Spirit: in faith, in reason, and in holiness. The Spirit is inherently social; we are not given the Spirit only for ourselves. God enters the human condition to transform it. With this presentation by Bryan Hehir, we embrace the possibility of our role in ecumenical witness.

In our Saturday session, we saw significant implementations of the transforming power throughout the Annual Sessions. Several examples of spirit-led compassionate engagement include: our support of rebuilding the Meeting House in Ramallah, resisting in Federal court as a corporate testimony in our support of a Friend’s personal war tax resistance, and close cooperation with other Quaker groups such as Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee and Pendle Hill.

The presence of a large number of children was a source of great joy, helping to energize us as we went about our work. Their presence reminds us that the spiritual roots of adult passion and mission are in a child-like spirit of play.

We unite with you in love and in the Spirit. Signed at, and on behalf of, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,
Gretchen Castle, Clerk

Volunteers Needed: The PYM Meetinghouse needs volunteers to share Quaker history. The Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia receives about 40,000 visitors annually. The largest number come in April, May and early June. PYM is in great need of enthusiastic Quaker volunteers to help during this period. If you would enjoy talking about the Religious Society of Friends, our beliefs and practices as well as the meetinghouse with mostly school age children, we would love to hear from you. It’s FUN!!!! You can be reimbursed for transportation costs, whether by car or public transit. Volunteers are needed weekdays -- morning or afternoon or all day.

Are Friends Engaged in the political debate?

No CARB diet - you owe it to your fellow Americans to go on the No-CARB Diet in 2004:

No Cheney, No Ashcroft, No Rumsfeld, No Bush *Go in peace, Bubbles*

Fortunately we have been on a No-Carb diet since 2000: No Clinton, No Aspin, No Reno, No Berger *Cheers, Sumner*
From: Candace and Bob Shattuck

Getting to know Friends

On March 27, 2004 the Easton Branch of the American Association of University Women honored 16 Talbot County “Women Who Make a Difference”. Among them were Third Haven members Deborah Cox and Marsie Hawkinson.

Deborah Cox has had twenty-five years of nursing experience in community health, mental health, education, and administration. She was Director of Nursing for Deer’s Head Center while at the same time earning her certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. Deborah’s community contributions include serving as president of District 4 MNA, Secretary/Treasurer, Membership, Nominating and By Laws Chairperson locally and at the state level. She has received awards for her service in those capacities. Deborah has been a delegate to the American Nurses Association House of Delegates. She keeps our district abreast of legislative issues affecting nurses and health care. Her numerous contributions and experiences include heading a “SWAT” team to clean up a portion of the roadway along Oxford Road in Oxford, Maryland.



Marsie Hawkinson has been making many contributions to the community over the years. She was president of the Talbot County Garden Club from 1983-85. Marsie has used her photographic skills to document the club’s civic projects, and has been instrumental in the clubs winning many major awards. Marsie

has been very active with design, maintenance and care of many of the county’s public gardens, including the Courthouse, the Historical Society gardens, and the Children’s Garden at Idlewild.



Marcia Ormsby

She moved to Annapolis in 1988 to begin a practice in Aesthetic Surgery in affiliation with her local hospital, the Anne Arundel Medical Center. For over ten years, she served on the Credentials Committee, screening applicants to the medical staff. She had been a member of the American Medical Woman’s Association for 25 years, and is the organization’s Maryland State Governor. Politically left-leaning, she has been active in lobbying for the “marital family leave act” and for the avoidance of legislation regarding abortion. She currently serves on the board of both Peace Action and the Conflict Resolution Center. Her free time is spent painting, attending art workshops, drawing, gardening, landscaping, and renovating her 80 year old home.

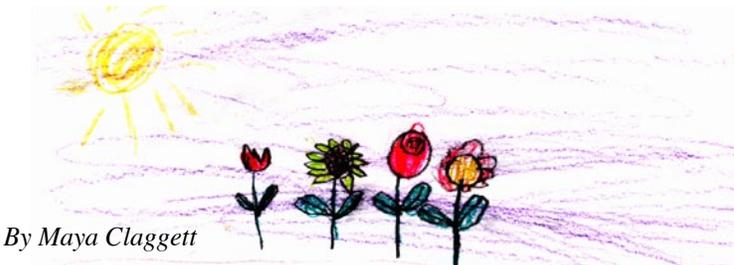
Marcia Ormsby is a birthright member of the Society of Friends, has been looking for her spiritual home. Her father, a lifetime member of Fourth & Arch Street Meeting of Philadelphia, lives two hours north at Kendal – a landmark Quaker retirement community.



Robert C. Marshall

Bob is the Professor of Economics at Penn State University and serves as the Clerk of Worship & Ministry at Third Haven. Also head of the Economics Department. In addition, partner in the economics consulting firm of Bates White, LLC. His research largely focuses on collusion, and auctions/procurements. Spiritual history: Raised a Catholic. Life was spiritually void from 1969 to 1994. Found Quakerism in Durham, NC while a Professor at Duke University. Family: Wife Anne, son George, daughter Emma, basset hound Jessie. Bob enjoys spending weekends and getaways at their second home on Tillman Island.

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By Maya Claggett

Friends General Conference July 3-10

FGC will hold the 2004 Gathering of Friends at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The theme is "Simple Lives, Radiant Faith." The Gathering will explore Faith and Simplicity through workshops, plenary addresses, and special events. Each afternoon, two Friends whose lives exemplify the theme will hold informal conversations with attenders.

On Sunday evening, July 4, Mary Ellen McNish and Peter Blood-Patterson will address the theme of the Gathering and share their personal faith journeys. Kevin Bales will present a plenary on Modern Slavery and a Quaker response on Monday.

Tuesday night: adults interest groups topics from home schooling to Islam. Wednesday evening: Bill Harley stories and songs.

Thursday night: Renita Weems, author and womanist

theologian.

Friday: Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute. Junior Gathering and Junior High meeting include age appropriate Friendly activities. High School Students and Adult Young Friends have fun and explore spirituality. The community will be gathered in worship, from the opening meetings on Sunday morning through a closing meeting on Saturday, July 10. A daily Bible half-hour, FLGBTQCC worship and the Silent Center will also be available with many other activities.

Friends General Conference has financial support for Gathering attenders. Additional information is available from Liz Perch, Conference Coordinator, (215) 561-1700 or gathering@fgcquaker.org. More information at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/>.

What is Methyl bromide, you ask?

The Financial Times (FT)- reports: "Brussels [the E.U.] wants to force companies to register some 30,000 substances with a new agency, and to demonstrate that the chemicals they produce and use are safe." - "high-risk chemicals would require special authorization,..." The Commission argues that the new rules are necessary because an estimated 100,000 chemicals used today are not covered by the current regulatory regime."

Powell (U.S. Sec. State) -- "the proposals will create a costly, disproportionately burdensome, and complex regulatory system, which could prove difficult, if not unworkable, in its implementation. US exports in most industrial sectors - totaling tens of billions of dollars - would be affected by the new policy. We fully support the EU's efforts to protect human health and the environment" but "the [draft] text still lacks clarity and the proposals would require member state governments, manufacturers and exporters to comply with an extremely complex, costly and burdensome regulatory system." - Nobody likes a complex regulatory system yet maybe when a lack of regulation leads to 10s if not hundreds of thousands of deaths and disabilities it might be a good idea.

A Canadian Press article explains: "manmade chemicals in air, water, food and the workplace are largely to blame for a devastating cancer epidemic which will strike 41 per cent of Canadian males and 38 per cent of females, says a study released yesterday." "The [Canadian cancer] toll is more dramatic when

considered over a longer period: In 1921, cancer killed 6.6 per cent of males and 8.6 per cent of females, but now the death rate has risen to 27.4 per cent for men and 23.1 per cent for women, the report says." (2)

According to Dr. Samuel Epstein at the University of Illinois School of Public Health and chair of the Cancer Prevention Coalition; "Over recent decades, the incidence of cancer has escalated to epidemic proportions, now striking nearly one in every two men, and over one in every three women in their lifetimes. Even more disturbing is the recent recognition that this very high incidence of cancer is going to increase further still and, by the year 2050, it will be doubling the current very high incidence rate.

If you look at non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (the cancer from which Jackie Kennedy died), over the last few decades, the incidence has gone up by nearly 100 percent. When you look at brain cancer, the incidence has gone up about 80 or 90 percent. When you look at breast cancer, it's gone up about 60 or 65 percent. When you look at testicular cancer, particularly in men between the ages of 28-35, it's gone up, believe it or not, nearly 300 percent. When you look at childhood cancers, depending on the particular cancer, the incidence has gone up as high as 40-50 percent. These are all non-smoking cancers. Is it because people are living longer that they're getting more cancers? The answer to that is no, because when we talk about cancer incidence rates, we adjust them to reflect the increasing longevity of the population.

Can genetics be the possible reason for this major increase in cancer? Not at all. There's no chance whatsoever that the genetics of human populations has changed in the last 40-50 years. What about fatty diet? There's really little evidence that fat is a risk factor for cancer. For instance, if you look at Mediterranean countries, they have extremely high fat consumption, particularly olive oil, which can be as high as 40 percent of the diet. But the rates of cancers, particularly reproductive cancers, are low. However, you find strong relationships between the consumption of animal and dairy fats and some cancers. But that's a reflection of the fact that these are highly contaminated with a wide range of industrial, chemical, and petrochemical carcinogens." (3)

Not only is cancer a risk. Danielle Knight reports, "toxic chemicals commonly released by industry into the environment in large quantities across the United States may be adding to the mysterious surge in child development and learning disabilities, warns a new report released here on 7 September." And not surprisingly, "looking at the top 25 counties in the United States for releases of developmental toxins - where more than 46% of all reported developmental toxins were released - African-American populations in 14 of these 25 counties exceed the US average." (

Prince Charles, writing in the Guardian, complains that, "our disregard for the delicate web that sustains our environment is leading to its degradation. There are in excess of 30,000 chemicals in products that we use and dispose of which have never been tested. The application of modern computational techniques coupled with improved environmental and health monitoring would go a long way towards rectifying this situation."

The second FT article on Monday was regarding "a US request for exemptions to a ban [under the Montreal Protocol] on methyl bromide, an agricultural chemical." "The phase-out of the main ozone-destroying compound still in widespread use in industrialized countries will be delayed by the granting of temporary 'critical use exemptions' to the US and 10 other countries." (6) 'Critical use' of methyl bromide, for the U.S., is substantial. The Environmental News Network explains, "under today's [Friday's] agreement, 11 developed countries have received exemptions to the phase-out totaling 13,438 metric tons of methyl bromide for 2005.... The 11 countries are Australia (145 metric tons), Belgium (47), Canada (56), France (407), Greece (186), Italy (2,133), Japan (284), Portugal (50), Spain (1,059), the United Kingdom (129) and the United States

(8,942)." (7)

According to Global Response: "Methyl bromide is a pesticide used to sterilize fields before planting crops like strawberries and tomatoes. A colorless and odorless gas, it is injected into the soil where it kills all living organisms. In such 'dead soil,' crops become increasingly reliant on synthetic chemicals.

Methyl bromide is extremely toxic - a 'Class I Acute Toxin,' according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Known effects of exposure include brain damage, harm to the nervous system, lungs, kidneys and liver - and death. Farm workers and nearby residents often complain of dizziness, fatigue, muscle aches and mental confusion as a result of low-level exposure."

Global Response-- "The U.N. Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, composed of 68 scientists from 23 countries, concluded that alternatives exist, or are at an advanced stage of development, for more than 90 percent of methyl bromide uses. Dr. Jamie Liebman, staff scientist with Pesticide Action Network, found that 'for all of the major uses of this pesticide as a soil fumigant, there are examples of the same crops currently grown profitably, in the U.S. and other countries, without methyl bromide.

Holland banned methyl bromide in 1992, and Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland followed in 1998. These countries, as well as Switzerland and Germany, grow strawberries, tomatoes and other crops successfully without methyl bromide."

If a poor country like Uganda can completely phase out the use of the ozone-depleting substance methyl bromide by 2007 where it's mostly used in the flower industry certainly a rich country like the U.S. can. But as Fox News reported, "over the last three years, the Bush administration has repeatedly opposed or sought to weaken and delay multinational action to reduce dangerous chemicals." ...it has to do with the fact "chemicals account for 9 percent of global trade." Companies release an average of 2 to 5 new chemicals into our environment each day, with little testing for safety. (11) Worldwide production of chemical substances has increased enormously from 1 million tones in 1930 to 400 million tones today. (12) Yet, according to Zac Smith from the Ecologist, "while money is poured into biotechnology, nano-technology, and every other form of high-tech research, the campaign for reversing, let alone understanding" the correlation between chemicals and human health has not begun.

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Submitted by Valerie Mazur



Amelia's Garden

Photo by Ralph Young

Meeting for Worship
Sundays 10-11 AM
Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:00 PM
Everyone Welcome