



## Third Haven Friends Meeting

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Easton, Maryland 21601

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## MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER

*"...one day at meeting, when I had been meditating on my state in great depression. I seemed to hear the words articulated in my spirit, 'Live up to the light thou hast, and more will be granted thee.' Then I believed that God speaks...by his spirit. I strove to lead a more Christian life, in unison with what I knew to be right, and looked for brighter days, not forgetting the blessings that are granted to prayer." Caroline Fox, 1841, Faith and Practice p.131*

### Meet a Friend



Between 75 and 80 people joined Lorraine Claggett Feb. 18 to celebrate 75 years of living and 50 years of community service.

Among them were her five grown children and their children. The latter ranged in age from Serena Damm (22 months) to Sarah Claggett (20 years). The celebration, emceed by her daughters, Susan Claggett-Smith and Elizabeth "Beth" Claggett-Borne, was held in the Common Room.

Lorraine's family, friends and colleagues shared memories and anecdotes. Some were personal, while others were

drawn from five decades of community service. Her husband, Laurence "Pinney" Claggett, offered his own smart-aleck perspective on 55 years of marriage. "Pinney always said that it was his thought to marry 'em young and bring 'em up right," said family friend Seth Jewel. Pinney, who married Lorraine when she was 19, did not disagree. "Her sophistication was about 13," he said. "She was too innocent for coquetry, and I liked that about her."

"Lorraine Claggett...was prolific," said Beth. Her five grown children were there to prove it, along with 11 children of their own. According to Beth, Lorraine was present when most of them were born. One by one, her grandchildren — who call her "Raine" — gave her tulips and shared their special memories of their grandmother: whitewater rafting on the Rogue River in Oregon; a snorkeling trip to the Cayman Islands; a visit to Disneyland; sailing a Sunfish from Larny's house to hers.

While the youngsters' reminiscences of their grandmother were mostly recent, others went back a long way.

- Bradley Baker, who worked as a caddy at the Talbot Country Club in his youth, remembered ogling Lorraine and her sister, Mandy, when they played tennis.
- Mark Hertelendy, a boyhood friend of Larny's, remembered that Lorraine treated all the children who visited her home as if they were her own.
- Sally Vermilye recalled her tireless service to the Neighborhood Service Center.
- Lorraine's daughter Beth applauded her assault on racial barriers.
- "One of the things that tickled me," recalled John Guy of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, "she tried to teach me to play tennis."
- Barbara Coit of the League of Women Voters saluted Lorraine for her role in the League's campaign, which led to a successful lawsuit, to overturn Talbot County's tax cap.
- Valerie Mazur recalled a peace vigil with Lorraine in front of the Talbot County Courthouse on a bitterly cold day. "We were the only people there," she said. And with good reason: They were a day early. So they returned the next day to keep their vigil again.
- Robert Crawford, Lorraine's nephew in Canada, sent a letter recalling a long-ago incident that he thought should have been "front page news," and for which he wrote the following headline: "Eastern Shore aunt picks up sea nettles with bare hands."
- Noting that she had touched many people's lives in many ways, Jim Paul said, "We're here today because we love Lorraine."

Lorraine managed to juggle marriage, motherhood, college and community service. She attended night classes at Johns Hopkins University to finish her degree and, according to Pinney, did social work "when she still had a couple of babies." She started a kindergarten at Third Haven even before it was offered in the public schools.

"As the years rolled on," said Pinney, "she went from project to project." For 30 years, beginning in the 1950s, she taught first aid and swimming for the Red Cross, attended PTA meetings and taught at the Third Haven First Day School. She was a substitute teacher for 20 years, and active with Big Brothers and Big Sisters for 10. And although she was raised an Episcopalian and was married at Christ Church in Easton, she joined Third Haven in the 1950s. The many other civic organizations and community service agencies she supported included the Neighborhood Service Center (of which she was a founder), Head Start, Mid Shore Peace Advocates, the YMCA of Talbot County, the League of Women Voters, Tax Payers for Common Sense and P.E.A.C.E. Most recently, she has become an environmental advocate with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

And she spends time with her grandchildren. "She's getting good at raising children," quipped her husband.

Noting that "75 is the new 50," Beth opined that, "The best is yet to come," and wondered aloud what her mother's "next great mission" might be. "In honoring the goodness in Mom," she said, "we're also honoring hte goodness of God in all of us."

*By Peter Howell*

## **Announcements for Third Haven Monthly Meeting**

March 1 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

March 4 (seventh day) 11am Committee of all clerks meeting in the common room.

March 5 (first day) 10am meeting for worship. New Members and Attenders Luncheon in Common room at the Rise of Meeting.

March 8 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

March 12 (first day) 10am meeting for worship and meeting for business. If you wish to be on the agenda, please let Anne Rouse know by Wednesday, March 8th. Committee report due: Communications.

March 15 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

March 19 (first day) 10am meeting for worship.

March 22 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

March 26 (first day) 10am meeting for worship.

March 29 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

Reminders

- All committees and other groups are responsible to restore the common room including the kitchen to cleanliness after use.
- Articles for the newsletter need to be submitted by the 22 day of the month to get published.
- Send a contribution payable to: Third Haven Monthly Meeting  
Mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

## **Third Haven Friends Meeting Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Month 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Meeting for Business**

**Attending:** Monimia Barker, Paige Bethke, Ken Carroll, Larny Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Joe Davis, Doreen Getsinger, Peter Howell, Susan Leibman, Bob Marshall, Beth Mufson, Nancy Mullen, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Sumner Parker, Dee Rein, Anne Rouse, Jim Rouse, Candace Shattuck, Karin Stoker, Norval Thompson, Cathy Thompson, Peggy Walbert, Irene Williams, Winslow Womack, Frank Zeigler, and Joyce Zeigler

Clerk of the Meeting Anne Rouse clerked the meeting for business. The meeting opened with a period of worship.

**Query for Second Month** -- The second query had been read during Meeting for Worship. The Clerk asked for reflections. A Friend shared that decisionmaking in the manner of Friends is a gift Friends give the world. "Clearness" and "unity" are powerful concepts, a spiritual parallel to the secular "understanding" and "agreement." Like Friends' weddings and memorials, the process of Quaker decisionmaking is a witness to Friends' testimonies in the world.

**Approval of Minutes** -- The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Month 2006 Meeting for Business were APPROVED with the addition of Peggy Walbert to the list of those attending, and correction to "Robert Burgoyne" in the Testimonies & Concerns paragraph.

Anne shared the **Clerk's Correspondence** from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), including: excerpts from the resignation letter of PYM General Secretary Thom Jeavons; notice of Residential Yearly Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> Month 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> at DeSales University; notice of the Quaker Information Center, for Friends and others, at [www.quakerinfo.org](http://www.quakerinfo.org); notice of a lecture series in Philadelphia sponsored by the Earlham School of Religion; notice of a planned reception for Kelly Bergen and Jean Zahru from Ramallah Friends Meeting; notice of a presentation 3<sup>rd</sup> Month 25<sup>th</sup> "Cultivating Our Roots; Creating Our Future;" notice of 0% Student loans for Quaker students; notice of a Work Camp van for sale; notice of the upcoming Quaker Pilgrimage to England, 7<sup>th</sup> Month 6<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup>, and notice of a summer Workcamp in China for teachers and students, 7<sup>th</sup> Month 24<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Month 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information, see Anne or the bulletin board in the Common Room. In the future, it is the Clerk's intention to share these announcements at the rise of Meeting of Worship on the first First Day of the month, rather than at the Meeting for Business, so that more Friends have the opportunity to hear them.

Meeting treasurer Joe Davis gave the **Treasurer's Report**. Income for 1<sup>st</sup> Month 2006 totaled \$5291.02 and expenses totaled \$2428.10 for a net income of \$2862.92. Significant expenses this month include \$528.00 for the annual worker's compensation coverage and \$213.00 for printing of the new directory. For the fiscal year-to-date, the Meeting has had roughly \$42,000.00 of income and \$29,400.00 of expenses. Contributions stand currently at 78% of budget, overall expenses at 54%. Approximately \$10,000 is needed to meet the budget by the end of the fiscal year. The balance sheet as of 1<sup>st</sup> Month 31<sup>st</sup> shows total assets of roughly \$67,400.00, of which approximately \$62,800.00 is available. We have received two pamphlets from PYM, one concerning establishing a charitable gifts annuity and one about making bequests to PYM. These pamphlets are available to interested Friends. Anne noted that Third Haven has received a bequest from Mavis Fowler, and a contribution from Edie Silvers, now a member of Abingdon Friends Meeting, toward printing of the directory. The Meeting acknowledges these contributions with thanks. Winslow Womack, Clerk of Budget & Finance Committee, explained that contributions have increased about 10% per family, but there have been few new contributors. The committee intends to explore how we might encourage greater participation. A Friend noted that contributions are ahead of expectations for this time of year. A query was posed about the 200% of budget figure in the category "General Administration;" Joe explained that this number reflects the one-time expense of purchasing the thank you notes that are now sent to acknowledge contributions. The Meeting APPROVED this report with thanks to the treasurer.

Immediate past clerk of **Overseers** Paige Bethke presented the committee's annual report. Overseers committee is responsible for the pastoral care of the Meeting community. During the past year, the committee: hosted the annual New Members and Attenders luncheon; participated in a joint meeting with Worship & Ministry committee; welcomed new families to Third Haven; convened a clearness committee for new members Cynthia Brown and Nicole Green; coordinated oversight of the Turrell-Lee and Marvel-Thompson weddings; coordinated Friendly 8 dinners; participated in organization of the Carriage Shed Sale; contacted the PYM emergency fund on behalf of a member in need; coordinated with Communications committee in the production of a new directory and with Budget & Finance committee in reminding members of financial obligations; and oversaw memorial services for Friends Jane Caldwell, Gus Russell-Hunter, Marilla

McCarthy, Clarence Barker, Clara Jane Harden, Mavis Fowler, and Ginger Howell. Paige expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Meeting. The Meeting APPROVED this report with thanks to Paige for her years of service with Overseers. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Anne announced that Dee Rein has agreed to serve as clerk of Overseers for 2006. Doreen Getsinger will be the assistant clerk. The date for the New Members and Attenders Luncheon has been changed to 3<sup>rd</sup> Month 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship & Ministry** clerk Bob Marshall distributed copies of the committee's proposed "Advices Regarding the Meeting for Business" and clarified that the committee is not seeking action by the Meeting at this time. The committee plans to first hold an adult discussion of the document before bringing it to the Meeting for approval. Bob explained that the Meeting tasked the Worship & Ministry committee with undertaking an exploration of the Second Query with respect to how our Meeting conducts business. During that process, the committee became clear that the development of Advices would be valuable undertaking. Bob noted that some Friends view our decisionmaking process with wonder, while others view it with dismay. The committee hopes that the Advices will provide useful guidance to the Meeting. A Friend mentioned that the Advices are available on the Third Haven website. Another Friend noted that the draft Advices had been shared with PYM (with permission), as Friends there have identified a similar need, and that the document had been favorably received.

Anne summarized the **Recorder's report**. Last year, Third Haven's membership consisted of 117 adult members and 16 children. In the past year, we lost five adult members and added one adult and one child, for a total of 113 adults and 17 children.

Cathy Thompson distributed a report from **Interim Meeting**, including a copy of the resignation letter from PYM General Secretary Thom Jeavons, highlighting his concerns about the "deep dysfunctions" afflicting PYM, including "an almost total absence of shared vision" and "a powerful, cultural resistance to change." A search committee, including our member Marsie Hawkinson, has been convened to seek an interim Director until a new General Secretary is found. A Friend expressed surprise and wondered aloud if we are adequately aware of what is happening within PYM. Another Friend expressed hope that the Advices developed by Worship & Ministry committee will help our Meeting work through difficult issues like those facing the Yearly Meeting. A Friend reflected upon the significant challenges described in the letter, praised Thom Jeavons as a leader full of commitment and personal integrity, and hoped that the Yearly Meeting will work to preserve the tremendous asset that exists in the Arch Street Meetinghouse. Doreen Getsinger, one of Third Haven's representatives to Interim Meeting, explained that distrust developed within Interim Meeting when some representatives felt that personnel changes at Arch Street were made without adequate consultation of Interim Meeting.

Winslow Womack reported an "illuminating" experience at **Southern Quarterly Meeting**, held on 1<sup>st</sup> Month 15<sup>th</sup> at Wicomico River Meeting. The Meetinghouse was full, and everyone enjoyed a good lunch.

In other business, Peggy Paul reminded Friends that requests for use of the common room may be directed to the **Common Room** committee. Committee members include clerk Peggy, Beth Mufson, Ann Williams, and Winslow Womack. Ralph Young reported for **Testimonies & Concerns** committee that an introductory meeting about the

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) will be held at Third Haven at 7:00 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> Month 16<sup>th</sup>. The Interfaith Social Action Coalition of Talbot County is sponsoring the meeting, with the hope that volunteers can be recruited to bring the AVP to the Talbot County Detention Center. Friends joined Winslow Womack in wishing Joyce Zeigler a very happy birthday. In other announcements, Friends were reminded of the upcoming meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Month 26<sup>th</sup> at the rise of meeting) with a representative of the Climate Action Network. Finally, Norval Thompson reported that the New Members and Attenders Luncheon will feature a presentation on the history of the Arch Street Meetinghouse.

No further business appearing, Friends concluded with a period of worship, purposing to meet next on 3<sup>rd</sup> Month 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. *Respectfully submitted,*  
*Susan Hersemann Leibman, Recording Clerk*

## **Overseers Annual Report 2005**

Overseers Committee is responsible for leading in the pastoral care of the Members and Attenders of Third Haven Friends Meeting. Committee Members for 2005 included: Doreen Getsinger 06', Norval Thompson 06' , Joyce Zeigler 06' , Nancy Mullen 06' Helen Womack 06", Dee Rein 05' and Paige Bethke 05'.

We began the year with a luncheon for new Members and Attenders 1st Month 30th which included a presentation from Friends General Conference on their activities and agenda. We welcomed about 40 Members and Attenders to the luncheon and enjoyed the presentation about the wider Quaker community. A joint meeting of Overseers and Worship and Ministry was held on 4<sup>th</sup> month 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10th Month 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the coordination of our committees for the care and welfare of the Meeting. Both committees benefited from the larger meeting and agreed to meet on an ongoing basis. We welcomed several new families and individuals who have returned as regular Attenders to Third Haven. We are happy to have them in the Third Haven community. The care of Overseers included a Clearness Committee Meeting and recommendation for membership for Cynthia Brown and her daughter, Nicole Green. Both new Members were approved at the May Business Meeting and we have enjoyed their participation and presence at Meeting for Worship and Business Meetings.

Overseers provided coordination for the wedding of James Turrell and Kyum Lin Lee, which was conducted under the care of the Flagstaff Meeting on April 23, 2005 at Third Haven Friends Old Meeting House. The Overseers Committee was called out of summer reprieve for a Clearness Committee to review the request for the marriage of Cathy Marvel to Norval Thompson. Our recommendation for marriage was sent to a specially called Business meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> to approve the union. Under the care of THFM Kathy and Norval were married on August 6<sup>th</sup> with many friends and family as witness.

Overseers participated in and assisted with coordination of the Friendly 8 Dinners which were composed of groupings of 8 participants who met for 4 successive dinners and

discussed four questions to support a better understanding of personal interest. The dinners began in the fall of 2005 and concluded – some in snowstorms – by the end of the year. All those contacted expressed a satisfying experience. The dinners seem to have had the effect of helping us to learn more about one another.

Overseers participated in the organization of the bi-annual Carriage Shed Sale held 10<sup>th</sup> month 8th of 2005 with a successful fund raiser. Donations from the sale were awarded to: Apostle Build to satisfy the remainder of our \$2,000 pledge, Caroline County Habitat for Humanity project in Federalsburg, A local Member Family in Need. The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Emergency Fund was contacted on behalf of Overseers at the request of Helen Womack for a Member in need. We were able to secure a \$1,000 grant for the Member which was awarded and appreciated.

Much of Overseers activities at the end of the year centered around working with both the Communication Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee to identify and maintain contact with the Meeting at large. The Overseers Committee worked closely with John Hawkinson and the Communications Committee to assemble an accurate list of Members and Attenders and to provide email address where possible for monthly correspondence. We worked with Budget and Finance to remind all Members of their financial obligation to the Meeting as its primary source of support.

As Committee and as individuals, we mourned the loss of Members Jane Caldwell, Gus Hunter, Marilla McCarthy, Clarence Barker, Clara Jane Harden and Ginger Howell in 2005. Memorial Services were held for each of the above at the Meeting House with family and Friends in attendance.

In closing, it has been a personal reward to serve as Clerk of Overseers. My role as Clerk of Overseers was preceded by Marsie Hawkinson who provided many examples for the commitment and the level of caring that is required by those who serve and lead as Overseers. It was an honor to follow her lead and to work with her in her capacity as Clerk of THFM. My own spiritual connectivity has been enhanced through the participation with all of you who showed up to do the work of Overseers – whether you were on the committee or not. It is, after all, all these little nuances and services that turn out to be the cumulative effort of keeping us together as a spirit led community. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve. *Respectfully submitted, Paige Bethke*

## **Overseers Update**

Overseers has convened with new and old members on the committee. Each overseer serves as the contact person with members and attenders in an alphabetical part of the Third Haven Directory as follows: **A-CI** Doreen Getsinger, **Co-Fi** Joyce Zeigler, **Fl-Gr** Betty Jean Wheeler, **Ha-Jo** Norval Thompson, **K-Me** Nancy Mullen, **Mi-Ow** Helen Womack, **Pa-Sh** Monimia Barker, **Si-Wa** Dee Rein, **We-Z** Ann Williams. Of course, anyone is welcome to contact any overseer at any time. We like to hear from you! If you are aware of a member in need, please call us in addition to your own ministry in the situation. *Dee Rein, Overseers*

**Trustee Relationship:** An Opportunity for a Better Understanding and Improved Working Relation Between Third Haven Monthly Meeting and The Trustees of Third Haven

Shortly after I arrived at Third Haven 35 years ago there were discussions that centered around the relationship between Third Haven Monthly Meeting [the Meeting] and the Trustees of Third Haven [the Trustees]. Throughout the years this same concern has surfaced on a number of occasions and within the last few months by some of our more recent members as well as some of the old timers. This is an attempt to shed some light on this relationship and to offer an approach that hopefully will bring about a more open and better understood relationship.

Let me begin by Saying that the Trustees are an entity in themselves and the Meeting is an entity in itself. The Trustees have no control over the Meeting and the Meeting has no control over the Trustees. There is no legal relationship between the two.

The Meeting as we know it today has its roots in the Betty's Cove Meeting established in the 1660's according to Ken Carroll's book Three Hundred Years and More of Third Haven Quakerism. What we know as the Trustees came about in the early 1940's. I was not here at that time but I have been told many times that the Meeting had dwindled down to a few elderly Friends and that there was a concern that the Meeting would be laid down. In Order for the property not to go PYM and to keep control of a local historical site where members had worshipped and many had been buried for generations a corporation was formed and the property was turned over to this corporation to be cared for by a group of Trustees which would be and is still self perpetuating.

In recent years the Meeting's involvement with the Trustees has come about primarily as a result of needed care of the property. The Budget and Finance Committee has discussed maintenance and repair of the property with the Trustees and an understanding has been reached regarding the approach for future funding. *Winslow Womack*





## Treasurer's Report

Third Haven Monthly Meeting of Friends  
 Income & Expenses Budget vs. Actual-YTD  
 July 2005 through January 2006

	Jul '05 - Jan 06	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Member Contributions	35,410.39	45,425.00	-10,014.61	77.95%
Attender Contributions	4,135.00	5,000.00	-865.00	82.7%
Other Contributions	720.00	1,000.00	-280.00	72.0%
Interest & Dividends Earned	864.29	1,200.00	-335.71	72.02%
Sales & Cash Box	578.89	1,000.00	-421.11	57.89%
Use of Facilities	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>42,208.57</b>	<b>54,125.00</b>	<b>-11,916.43</b>	<b>77.98%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Property & Grounds	19,787.30	29,200.00	-9,412.70	67.77%
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting	7,095.00	14,190.00	-7,095.00	50.0%
Child Care	175.00	500.00	-325.00	35.0%
Communications	747.59	1,500.00	-752.41	49.84%
Conferences & Seminars	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Contingency	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
Donations	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
First Day School	840.09	1,100.00	-259.91	76.37%
General Administration	417.60	200.00	217.60	208.8%
Hospitality	69.79	400.00	-330.21	17.45%
Library & Outreach	133.50	300.00	-166.50	44.5%
Overseers	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
Quarterly Meeting	54.45	200.00	-145.55	27.23%
TACL	25.00	35.00	-10.00	71.43%
Testimonies & Concerns	96.06	800.00	-703.94	12.01%
Worship & Ministry	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>29,441.38</b>	<b>54,125.00</b>	<b>-24,683.62</b>	<b>54.4%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>12,767.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,767.19</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Advices Regarding the Meeting for Business** (Draft from the Worship and Ministry Committee *submitted by Bob Marshall* for consideration by the Monthly Meeting)

As indicated in the annual report of the Worship and Ministry committee, there is much disquiet among some members and attenders of our Meeting community regarding the Meeting for Business. It is our hope that these advices will enhance our capacity to speak, listen, and act with love by injecting a renewed discipline into the Meeting for Business that is consistent with all Quaker foundations regarding the manner in which we make decisions. We request that all Friends read this set of advices and, after allowing them to season for a time, come prepared to offer comments.



“Dear Friends, keep all of your meetings in the authority, wisdom, and power of Truth and the unity of the blessed Spirit. Let your conduct and conversation be such as become the Gospel of Christ. Exercise yourselves to have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward all people. Be steadfast and faithful in your allegiance and service to your Lord, and the God of peace be with you.”

Elders of Balby, Yorkshire , 1656

Advices to members and attenders. Regardless of whatever position one might hold within our Meeting, all of us need to be aware of the impact we might have on our Meeting for Business. Therefore, the following advices are presented for your thoughtful consideration:

- The Meeting for Business is a Meeting for Worship. Offerings in the Meeting for Business are akin to vocal ministry, except they concern our corporate actions rather than our spiritual being.
- Regardless of how any individual's viewpoint aligns with others, genuine love and tenderness must be offered to and received from each member and attender of the Meeting. All else is not Spirit-led and is inconsistent with the pursuit of truth in unity. Be prepared to release words of others that are not of the Spirit.
- We must acknowledge that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires. We must be open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the Meeting. We must be teachable.
- We must keep from obstinacy and harshness of tone or manner and be ready to admit the possibility of being in error.
- Be aware that excessively long offerings, where one outruns a leading, unnecessarily consumes the time of many. Use the silence between offerings to prepare expressions of your discernment.

- After a proposal has been approved by the Meeting, it should not be revisited. Therefore, do not be timid in vocalizing disquiet when deliberations are in-progress regarding a proposal.
- Speak once to an issue, knowing that the community has listened. If another has spoken your mind, and there is no apparent need to note that fact, then remain silent, knowing that the Spirit has already spoken through another. There is no need to repeat what has already been said. If you sense a need to note your agreement, simply express the fact that a Friend has “spoken your mind”. At the time that an issue is placed before the Meeting by the Clerk, you will then have an opportunity to voice your “I approve” endorsement of the issue.

Advices to committee members, committee clerks, and Meeting representatives. Much of what is brought to our attention during the Meeting for Business comes from the clerks of committees or through our Meeting's representatives to various local or Quaker organizations. These members of our Meeting take on an important and significant role in the smooth conduct of the business of our Meeting and, therefore, the following advices are presented:

- Committees serve the monthly meeting not only by carrying on routine delegated functions, but also by doing important background work in preparation for decisions at the monthly meeting for business. They examine designated matters in depth, identify the issues, gather the most useful information, and make seasoned recommendations for decision by the Meeting. When this work is done well, the monthly meeting in session is able to focus quickly on the matter at hand.
- Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk at least one week prior to the Meeting for Business.
- Committee clerks (or their designated representatives) should report the outcomes, and the salient features of deliberations, of their committees at the Meeting for Business. Committee clerks should not overstep these bounds by introducing topics that have not been previously brought before their committees, unless it is a matter of extreme urgency. We come together, not to hear everything that might be heard on a subject, but enough to move forward with it.
- Committees should be mindful of our testimonies and concerns in their deliberations, and this should be reflected in the reports of committee clerks.
- Reports at the Meeting for Business should be concise and preferably written out for presentation to all attending the meeting. The value of written reports is significant and includes: (1) a more thorough and precise preparation of what is presented to the meeting; (2) those present at the meeting are able to read and follow along with each report, offsetting any need to repeat portions of the report; (3) the written report becomes a valuable aid to the recording clerk for preparation of minutes; and (4) a written report provides an item that can be easily included in the monthly newsletter and, when appropriate, in the weekly e-mailed announcements.
- Since we do not have clergy, we are jointly responsible for our Meeting community, our grounds and buildings, and our service to the community. Each

of our committees is important to the health and spiritual well-being of our Meeting. In the weeks prior to the Meeting for Business, all committee members should be mindful of their responsibilities in this regard and come to the Meeting for Business prepared to contribute to the discussion of issues that have come before their committee.

Advices to the Clerk of the Meeting. All of us need to be aware of what is expected of our Clerk during a Meeting for Business. We must recognize that any of us, at any time, might be called upon to serve our Meeting in this capacity. The following advices have been prepared for this position within our Meeting:

- An agenda should be prepared by the Clerk prior to the Meeting for Business, with copies made for distribution to all present at the Meeting for Business.
- During the Meeting for Business, be mindful that our committees are the place where much of the work of the Meeting is done. After a Spirit-led offering by a member or attender, if it is sensed that the matter warrants further attention, the Clerk should be ready to suggest a committee where the issue can receive thoughtful attention.
- The Clerk should allow for further offerings from members and attenders as the Spirit assists in defining the issue for consideration, but must recognize that the Meeting for Business may not be the place for initial deliberations on the topic, unless it is a matter of extreme urgency that cannot be laid over to a subsequent Meeting for Business (which would allow time for the topic to be discussed by an appropriate committee).
- There should be silence after an offering. “Conversation” in Meeting for Business does not allow us to discern that which is of the Spirit in an offering. If a second offering is made directly after someone has spoken then ask for silence before proceeding. It is the Clerk's responsibility to acknowledge silence as agreement. The Clerk asks for expressions of concern or disagreement before final approval. Once an item is approved, the Meeting should not go back and discuss it further.

“Dearly Beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all with the measure of Light which is pure and holy may be guided, and so in the Light

walking and abiding these may be fulfilled in the Spirit – not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.”

Postscript to an epistle from the Meeting of Elders at Balby, Yorkshire , 1656

## **Interim Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. January 27<sup>th</sup> 2006**

Thom Jeavons the General Secretary and chief staff officer of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for the past 9 years has resigned, effective June 16<sup>th</sup> 2006.

He gave two reasons.

First, a new professional opportunity as the Executive Director of the National Scholarly Association, an organization works for the improvements of nonprofit organizations.

This position carries a faculty status with the University of Indiana.

Second, “a growing sense of the change in the nature of the relationship to this community of Friends”

He noted many achievements over his tenure and cites profound and deep dysfunctions (pg2 4<sup>th</sup> par.) that afflict the Yearly Meeting organization which includes “a total absence of shared vision; a powerful, cultural resistance to change” and others which ultimately led to his resignation.

In brief the last five sessions at Interim Meeting have been disquieting.

The recognition that the Yearly Meeting runs an annual budget deficit of about \$150,000 which is associated with the Arch Street Meeting House, led to the formation of the Arch Street Futures’ Planning Committee.

This group of professionals is charged with finding solutions for better economies for the historic Meeting House.

Studies were done, and a new Director of Business and a manager for the building were hired to replace Helen File who had served 28 years as manager of the building.

Some Friends questioned the process in general, and in particular the role of the General Secretary and others, leading to her resignation (see Interim Meeting Minutes Dec.2005). is might have been the last straw.

Thom has resigned and a Search Committee which includes Marsie Hawkinson, and four others , are seeking an interim Director until a new General Secretary is found.

*Sincerely, Interim Meeting Representatives, Marsie Hawkinson, Doreen Getsinger, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson*