



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable.

Advices: Faith and Practice

Third Haven Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

Minutes for the 4th Month, 13th, 2008

Attending: Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Ralph Young, Sumner Parker, Irene Williams, Larny Claggett, Deborah Cox, Susan Leibman, Dee Rein, Bob Marshall, Paige Bethke, Gwen Beegle, Doreen Getsinger, Nancy Mullen, Cynthia Browne, Connie Lewis, Winslow Womack, Jamie duHoffmann, Clay Owens, Heidi Wetzell, Robert Wieland, Leigh Anne Dodge, Lorraine Claggett, Ann Williams, Joyce Zeigler, Frank Zeigler, Tatiana Harrison, Mike Mullen, Molly Burgoyne-recording clerk, John Schreiner-clerk.

The Clerk of the Meeting, John Schreiner, presided over the business meeting. He opened the meeting after a brief period of silence at 11:30 AM.

Query: The 4th Query, "Care for the Meeting Community" was read during worship service. The four ways that our Overseers respond to this query were reviewed by the clerk of Overseers. First, each committee member is responsible for intermittent contact with a certain portion of our meeting. Secondly, resource information is provided by the committee. Thirdly, "Care Committees" may be formed for members with more extensive needs. Finally, announcements are made regularly in the newsletter regarding members and attenders with certain needs reminding all of us that giving care is every Friend's responsibility.

Minutes: The correction of the Recorder's report was again corrected. At the end of 2007, the correct number of members of the Meeting is 133. With this correction, the minutes of the 3rd Month 2008 were approved.

Worship & Ministry: A new program "Quaker Journeys" will begin April 27th after the rise of meeting for worship. This program will continue every 4th First Day through the summer. The goal of this program is to share together our spiritual experiences to help strengthen our community and expand our growth as Friends.

Property & Grounds: This committee has approached the Trustees regarding a new roof for the Common Room which will cost about \$6000. They have also asked consideration for buying photo-voltaic cells for the roof which may cost around \$25,000. These cells would furnish about 1/3 of our electricity and could be installed at the time of the reroofing. The committee was

asked to bring more information about this project to a future business meeting as many members expressed interest in knowing more.

Afterthoughts: The topic of “afterthoughts” has been discussed at a recent Clerks meeting and separately at a W & M meeting. Some Friends have pondered the purpose of afterthoughts and whether or not this practice adds meaning to our worship and should be continued. The discussion was opened on this matter and many Friends expressed their heartfelt sentiments regarding the issue. Some felt that the afterthoughts allowed many Friends, particularly newcomers, to speak more comfortably especially if they were not sure if their thoughts were appropriate for the worship service. We were reminded that patience and forbearance are virtues of Quakerism and we should remember this before we judge others’ messages as inappropriate. Other Friends felt that afterthoughts may dilute the worship experience for them and a different approach should be taken if the practice was to be continued. This issue was referred back to the W & M committee to study and report back to us during business meeting in May. Two suggestions were made; 1) to give an educational statement each week prior to the offering of afterthoughts to better explain the purpose, 2) to ask for afterthoughts before the shaking of hands signaling the end of meeting for worship. Additional thoughts were given regarding the process of Eldering. All members would like to enhance the spirit-led messages we receive. If members feel a Friend’s message may not be in keeping with spirit-led testimony and proper education has been given, then we need to do a better job of gentle, caring Eldering to help guide all of us to better spiritual practice. In essence, the Meeting felt that “afterthoughts” should be continued but the use of it should be better defined in order to enhance the experience of everyone. It was the sense of the Meeting that this is an opportunity to educate all on the importance of spirit-led messages and Eldering.

Overseers: 75-80 people enjoyed the new members and attenders luncheon. The Clearness committee for Tatiana Harrison has been completed. The Clearness committees for Joyce Macijeski and Connie Lewis have been completed and both are unanimously recommended for membership. The Meeting Approved the membership of both Joyce and Connie with great joy. The Welcoming committee for Joyce will be composed of Lorraine Claggett, Susan Leibman (convener) and Nancy Mullen. The Welcoming committee for Connie Lewis will be composed of Frank Zeigler (convener), Joyce Zeigler, Paige Bethke and Robert Wieland.

Treasurer’s Report: (see attached). Income is 85% of budget $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the year. We are at 70% of the budget on expenses. We should end the fiscal year close to budget perhaps a bit ahead. The Balance Sheet reflects the new checking account (ING). This account receives a higher interest rate. A Friend raised the concern over the Carriage Shed Sale Fund being listed as a liability. The Treasurer reported this is because these funds are already allocated. The Meeting asked that the allocation of these funds be better defined. The Finance & Budget Committee will help the Treasurer with this.

Scholarship: This report is tabled for the next business meeting.

Other Business: Tatiana Harrison read her letter to the Meeting expressing specific concerns and queries (see copy of letter attached). All are encouraged individually to think about the queries presented here. The Clerk will work with Overseers on an appropriate response and action to the letter.

The Multi-Cultural Fair will be held on May 3rd. Lorraine Claggett has been asked to sponsor a food table for the event as a part of our Meeting’s contribution. Please contact Lorraine if you can help with this. The Meeting for Business closed at 1pm after a brief period of silence.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

Tania's letter read at meeting for business

Dear Third Haven,

I feel my membership in Third Haven to be a kind of marriage. I am married to Third Haven. I care deeply about the state of our Meeting. I care about its past and future, but I care about its present most of all. Third Haven has been the first religious organization that I have ever been able to call my spiritual home. I write this letter out of love for our Meeting and out of concern for it. I ask that you all be open to the Spirit and to Truth as I read this. I have been called to write this letter, though it has not been an easy to write, and I'm sure it will not be an easy for me to read or for you to hear. But I believe that the first step of healing is seeing what needs to be healed, and being able to voice it. That is the purpose of this letter.

When I first became a member of Third Haven, I felt as though there was a constant weight on everyone's shoulders. As I became more involved in the Meeting, I learned that weight was a result of the conflict that occurred before I found Third Haven. The Meeting suffered greatly during that conflict. Many of you were hurt by things others said or by feeling that your voices weren't being heard. It pained me greatly when I learned of this. As I learned more about the conflict that occurred, it became clear to me how much the Meeting suffered. I wasn't here, I don't know exactly what went on or what it felt like, but the way the Meeting community felt to me two years ago made it clear that something terrible had happened.

I'm happy to be able to say that in the last two years, it seems like we have done some real healing. It feels like the Meeting has started to function as a whole again. Forgiveness, compassion, and empathy have happened here, within our Meeting. We have started to heal, but we are still in a very tender place. We are still healing.

Instead of a weight on everyone's shoulders, I now feel a great deal of fear and anxiety within our Meeting. Whenever an openly gay couple attends Meeting for Worship, I'm ashamed to say that I feel fear and anxiety. I'm not afraid of the gay couple, but of the possibility that they might accidentally rekindle that conflict. I ask that each of you examine yourselves with honesty and tenderness to see if these feelings also arise in you, as they do in me.

I also feel that same fear when I speak about GLBT issues, or when I try to make the Meeting a more welcoming place for people with nontraditional orientations or identities. I feel that we as a community are afraid to speak openly about GLBT issues. I feel a real hesitation on the part of the Meeting to discuss anything related to people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. We are a Meeting who affirmed more than a decade ago that people of any sexual orientation would be welcome here as members. But I worry that until we face this fear, we're not ready to live up to that minute.

Friends, I propose the Meeting take the following queries under consideration: is our fear of conflict preventing us from being able to discuss GLBT issues as a community? Do we trust others in the Meeting to not cause us harm and to speak and listen with love? Do we still trust that the Quaker process to unity works? Do we trust in the Spirit that moves us and are we willing to follow where It leads? When we speak to one another, is love and an openness to Spirit foremost in our minds? When we listen to one another, do we listen without judgment and with love?

This Meeting can be a place where every one is able to express the entirety of who they are without fear. This Meeting can be a place where everyone can worship with the whole of their

being without fear. But before the Meeting can become that place, we need to let go of our fear of the past.

Writing this letter has been a labor of love for me. I don't have the answers. All I can say is what I've seen. And this letter is what I've seen in this Meeting. I hope Friends will take this as an opportunity to be more aware of when you feel fear within our Meeting. And, if Friends feel ready, I hope you will consider talking with one another about the queries I've proposed, and that you will keep this tenderness within you at all times and remember to listen deeply and with love, without judgment, when a Friend speaks to you.

*With my love,
Tatiana Hamboyan Harrison*

Third Haven Friends Meeting Announcements

Third Haven Meetings For Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
	April 23
April 27	April 30
May 4	May 7
May 11	May 14
May 18	May 21
May 25	May 28

May 3 (seventh day) First Saturday in May - Easton Multicultural festival. Lorraine Claggett has been asked to sponsor a food table for the event as a part of our Meeting's contribution. Please contact Lorraine if you can help with this. 410-822-0669

May 7 (fourth day) Budget & Finance Committee meets 4:30 PM in the Common Room.

May 11 (first day) Meeting for worship followed by meeting for business. Please send agenda items to John Schreiner by May 7.

May 18 (first day) Caroline Packard from PYM will be here for a 3 - hour meeting with Third Haven's Testimonies and Concerns Committee. Caroline is going to help us gain a better sense of our committee's purpose and direction; she has some really wonderful ideas about how to make us more functional and happier as a committee. Contact: Nancy Mullen

May 18 (first day) - Strengthening Our Meetings as Communities Southern Quarter Spring 2008 Quarterly Meeting at Wicomico River Friends Meeting. Speaker Kate DeRiel is a member of Haverford Meeting in Pennsylvania, near Haverford College, an elementary school teacher by day, Quaker facilitator by weekend and night!! She has been working with the Center for Deepening and Strengthening Our Meetings both on the working group and as a facilitator for almost 3 years, learning and growing just like all our meetings! She worked with Camden Meeting, as part of the Strengthening Our Meeting Community and loves the southern Delaware area. Agenda: Worship 11am, Lunch - Noon, Program 1-3pm

Each Thursday evening from 5 to 5:30, there join us for a Silent Peace Vigil in front of the courthouse on Washington St. Weather conditions have never interfered with the vigil. Many signs are available or bring your own. Join this protest to support the cause of non-violence in the world.

SIMPLE LIVING is a half hour television program shown on WETA each Sunday at 7:30am. It is dedicated to simplifying your life to make it more meaningful while protecting the environment. Simple Living features Wanda Urbanska and is written by Ralph Levering.

"We wish to thank Molly Burgoyne and Susan Claggett for their help with Marilla's lunches on April 16th. You are both great."

The Talbot County Detention Center lending library is in need of your books that you no longer want to keep. Virtually any books from adventure to textbooks with the exception of Readers Digest Condensed books are needed. Please place your donations in the wooden chest in our Common Room under one of the East side windows. If you wish to have the books picked up, please call Ralph Young at 410-819-0050.

"War is not the answer" - We now have yard signs to publicly proclaim our desire for alternative solutions to world problems. The signs are 24" x 18", weatherproof, printed on both sides and come with sturdy holders that easily slip into the ground. A donation of \$5 is requested for each sign, and these donations are forwarded to the FCNL Education Fund. Contact Ralph Young, 410-819-0050."

PYM's new website for Children's Religious Education & Spiritual Life is easy-to-use, pretty, and chock full of resources for everyone who has a hand in nurturing our children.
www.pym.org/education/children

April 4-30, 2008, the TRAVELING BRUSHES ART SHOW will be held at Talbot Co. Visual Arts Center. The opening reception will be First Night in Easton (4/4) from 5:00-8:00pm.

A CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS Come connect with other Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35) from across the US and Canada! Memorial Day weekend May 23-26, 2008, Richmond, Indiana. How do we each listen for God in our lives? Whether you are led to speak in meeting or to put your life on the line for peace, you are invited to share your experiences and explore how we can support one another in discerning important life questions. Young Adult Friends will lead a variety of interest groups, and Earlham School of Religion will offer workshops on leadings and callings. Young adults from meetings and churches affiliated with Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends United Meeting (FUM), Evangelical Friends International (EFI), and Independent and Conservative yearly meetings are planning this exciting event. Let's talk about our lives as Friends and come together to play, pray, laugh and worship. For more information, check out www.fgcquaker.org/qy/yaf-conference-2008 or contact Emily Stewart Emilys@fgcquaker.org Terri Johns Terrij@fum.org Sadie Forsythe Sadief@pym.org

Reminders

- Please wear your nametag - if you need a new one please contact Candace Shattuck.

For you who are tired of receiving unwanted catalogs in your mailbox, visit www.catalogchoice.org to register and select the ones you would like to eliminate.

- Send a contribution payable to: Third Haven Monthly Meeting
Mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

- The new Third Haven directory is available.

- Send a contribution payable to PYM Annual Fund (mention Third Haven)
Mail to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

- If you have an announcement, a website entry or a newsletter article, please submit it to hawkjm@goeaston.net Please forward e-mail and other address changes to this address. The directory on the Third Haven Website is updated every week. Please let us know if you have moved. The next announcements will come out on May 6.

- Notices of committee meetings should be posted on the common room calendar.

-Our website is <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> It has been revised to make it easier to use. Please review it from your perspective: what would you like to see on our website that is not there. If you are involved with a committee, do you have a message that should be included?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Events

- Please review full accounts of coming events listed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other major Quaker organizations which may be found on the Third Haven Website, <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> by clicking on Complete Text Material on the home page.

COMPLETE TEXT MATERIAL updated April 14, 2008

Can I Repay God?

Phonathon Dates May 20 and 28, and June 4 and 12.

Fun-O-Thon, Anyone?

From the Greater Pennsylvania Climate Action Project

The Longest Walk 2

May 1 - 4 Gaviotas Founder Speaking in Philadelphia

May 2 to 30 Doylestown Quaker Artists Set Show

May 3 and 4 "Then and Now Tour" Going to Upper Susquehanna

May 15 & 16 Opportunity for Advocacy in Washington DC

May 23-25, Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), North Philadelphia

May 23-26 National Conference for Young Adult Friends

May 2008 Pendle Hill's Weekend and short courses

July 13-17, and July 20-24, Nancy Bieber Leads Spiritual Retreats at Pendle Hill

July 25-27 Pendle Hill Offers Quakerism Weekend

Pendle Hill Summer Inquirers Weekend is set for July 25-27. This weekend offers a grounding in the basics of Quaker Faith and Practice with fellow seekers under the guidance of two seasoned Friends. If the meeting sponsors one or more participants Pendle Hill will help with up to half the program fees under their matching grant program. Call John J. Meyer, coordinator of extended education programs at 610-566-4507x121 for more information, or visit www.PendleHill.org.

August 8 & 9 Teacher Training in Conflict Resolution

August 31, Byberry Meeting Celebrates Anniversary With Picnic

October 3-5, 2008 Tri-Quarter Gathering

Friends Opportunities: French Quaker Center Seeks Resident Friends, Gardening at Fair Hill

FLGBTQC, Or: Why Is This Acronym So Long?

By: Tatiana Hamboyan Harrison,

On behalf of Testimonies and Concerns

(Please note that I write this article not as a member of FLGBTQC, but as a supporter only.)

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) (website: <http://www.quaker.org/flgbtqc/>) is an organization composed of and run by Quakers who are concerned about the love and inclusiveness within the Religious Society of Friends, especially regarding Friends with a variety of understandings and experiences of sexuality and gender. The length of the name and the acronym can be an obstacle to some; but each letter of FLGBTQC represents not only a category of people, but also a witness to their existence, struggle, and oppression. In fact, when FLGBTQC adopted this name (they were FLGC prior), members understood that the acronym was only to be used at their gatherings. Outside of the organization, members were encouraged to say each of the words represented by the acronym. This was known as the "3 second witness". By exploring what each letter stands for, I hope to make the Meeting community more familiar with FLGBTQC (and better able to remember each letter in the acronym).

Lesbian and Gay are terms probably all of us are familiar with; but I will speak for a moment about why it is important to have both included. Gay was first used to refer to homosexual men, to the exclusion of women. In recent years, as homosexual women began to get more recognition both inside and outside of the "non-straight" community, the meaning of the term gay was extended to also include homosexual women. By using both Lesbian and Gay, FLGBTQC is acknowledging that lesbian women and gay men have different identities and also different experiences. Listing lesbian before gay reverses the common acronym of GLBT, where gay comes first. This is a step towards equality of men and women, by not automatically assuming that the male-oriented acronym should go before the female-oriented one.

Bisexual can be attracted to either sex. To a bisexual, lesbians and gays, and straight men and women are considered monosexual: that is, they are attracted to only one sex instead of two. Bisexuals can be accused of being "fence sitters", or "confused", or "going through phases". While some who identify as bisexual are between stages of acceptance about their true sexual orientation, this does not mean that all people who identify as bisexual are confused or in denial. We are perhaps the only sexuality group whose sexuality is regularly denied and ridiculed by

members of the "normative" sexuality (i.e., straight) and members of the GLBT community. People are often confused about bisexuals; I would like to offer myself as a resource to any member of Third Haven who would like to know more about my own experience as a married bisexual woman.

Transgender individuals have a different experience of gender identity or expression than what is considered to be the societal norm. Transgender can refer to people with both male and female sex organs (intersexed), those who are in the process of changing their sex surgically or have done so in the past (transsexual), those who feel they have a different gender than sex, those who bend the gender expression rules of our society (such as crossdressers), and so on. Transgender is not a sexual orientation, but a gender identity. Transgender people can have any sexual orientation, including straight.

Queer is for those people who don't identify with any of the previous identities; but do not consider themselves to fit into societal norms of sexual orientation or gender identity. For example, some people consider themselves to be pansexual instead of bisexual, acknowledging that they can be attracted to anyone regardless of sex or gender identity. There are also those who consider their sexuality and/or their gender identity to be fluid instead of set into a specific category. The Queer is listed as part of FLGBTQC concerns to allow those people the chance to have a voice in the Religious Society of Friends.

If any would like more information about FLGBTQC, please visit their website at: <http://www.quaker.org/flgbtqc/>. Included at their website is a letter to all Friends everywhere written last February:

"Once again, we are called to testify to the love we find moving among us. It is a testimony of radical inclusion. It is a cause of great pain to our corporate body to know that there are some Friends for whom our message is deeply disturbing; indeed, apparently, in contravention of their strongly held beliefs. It would gladden our hearts if Friends could soften their hearts to hear us out."

The epistle can be read here: <http://www.quaker.org/flgbtqc/2007epistle.html>.

I hope that I've cleared up the necessity of each of the initials in FLGBTQC; and that I have made the acronym easier to remember by doing so.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting report April 2008

General Secretary's evaluation committee-concerns and blessing for consideration are to be made to the clerk by May 12. In the May meeting the report will be presented and a listening/sharing session will be held. In June the final report will be presented.

Threshing Session Governance Project Group Report- There was a thorough and extensive discussion of the report which was presented in February and is available on the PYM website. Decisions on the project group recommendations will be made at a later date.

General Secretary's report- The plan to reorganize staff at PYM is progressing and will be official as of July 1, 2008. Implementation will happen over time as the way opens. The current five departments will be reduced to three, each headed by an Associate Secretary. They are Advancement and Communication, Finance and Business, Program and Religious Life. A plan showing the new organizational structure is posted in the Common Room. The General Secretary also announced that the financing of Friend's Center will be completed as soon as a

survey of the property is done, which will be soon. He also spoke of examples of vitality and growth in PYM. Haverford meeting is advertising on the radio and Yardley is acquiring new members.

Education Standing Committee- Committee on Friends Education. A proposal was presented for approval of a PYM fund raising initiative to increase the endowment funds available to support tuition for Friends' children attending Friends' schools. The proposal resulted from Yearly Meeting in Session in 2006 approving a feasibility study. In consultation with the General Secretary and the development office it has been determined that this initiative can be conducted in harmony with, not in competition with, the annual fund. The proposal was approved.

Annual Fund- Wright Horne, Interim Director of Development, to date (April) this year \$302,000 (including two large one time gifts) has been raised, leaving \$173,000 left to raise. Members were asked to encourage their meetings to give from their hearts and beliefs.

Budget- The draft of the Fiscal Year 2009 budget, ending June 30, 2009 was presented by Financial Stewardship Committee Clerk Jack Mahon. A brief description of the contents and organization, the meeting approved distribution to monthly meeting. It will be adopted during the residential yearly meeting session, July 30-August 3, 2008 at DeSales University, near Allentown, Pa. *submitted by Doreen Getsinger*

Hunger Banquet



Congratulations to our Middle School First Day School for presenting a successful Hunger Banquet to the Meeting and invited guests on April 6th. There was over 50 guests in attendance and \$250 was raised to be sent to Oxfam America. A special thank you to Molly Burgoyne who was our wonderful Mistress of Ceremonies and lead the event with the help of our Middle Schoolers. Also a big thank you to Larny Claggett and Mark

Beck who have been working with our MSF through out most of the school year. I thank everyone who participated. *Susan Claggett, FDS Clerk*



Spring Clean Up

With the careful planning of the Property and Grounds Committee many helping hands raked, shined, scrubbed, dusted and otherwise enhanced our wonderful Third Haven property. Light refreshments provided by the Hospitality Committee and fine fellowship made for a satisfying day for young as well as seasoned Friends.



Worms for fishing?



All ages working together!



Leaving no surface untouched.