



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

To lift, to fetch, to drive, to shed, to pen,
Are acts I recognize, with all they mean
Of shepherding the unruly, for a kind of
Controlled woolgathering is my work too.

Cecil Day Lewis

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 4th Month, 19th 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called to order the meeting for business at 11:33AM after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Jim Bank, Gwen Beegle, Paige Bethke, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett, Leigh Anne Dodge, Jamie duHoffman, Doreen Getsinger, Marsie Hawkinson, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Dee Rein, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Peggy Walbert, Meredith Watters, Rob Wieland, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler
3. Minutes: The minutes were approved from the 3rd month.
4. Query: "Care for the Meeting Community" was read during meeting for worship. One Friend brought up the importance of asking questions, another thoughtfully spoke that she did not feel our Meeting did a good enough job of addressing our conflicts adequately. Another mentioned the importance of having all members share in the role of taking care of each other rather than just one designated person or officials. Recognition was given to Overseers role in reaching out systematically.
5. Membership: The Clerk read aloud a letter requesting membership from Connie and Mike Pullen. This was given to Overseers with the Meeting's approval to form a clearness committee for these attenders.
6. Quaker Quest: Candace Shattuck reported on the day long Quaker Quest workshop held at THFM on April 11th with a total of 28 in attendance, including 4 presenters from PYM and 3 Friends from Chester River Meeting. Quaker Quest may be described as having two phases. The first is an "inreach phase" where members explore the meeting's spiritual hospitality, or how it welcomes and integrates new seekers into the meeting family. Five pages of ideas to improve our hospitality were generated that day in response to questions such as How do seekers find us?

How do we welcome seekers? How do we appear to seekers? How do seekers learn about Friends? How do we share our faith? The second is an “outreach phase” when members invite seekers who are interested in learning about Quakerism to a series of events in which we share our own spiritual journeys as a way of conveying what the Religious Society of Friends has to offer.

She asked for approval to form a committee to make specific recommendation on how our Meeting should proceed, including time-lines, financial needs and number of people needed. Many opinions, from attenders as well as seasoned Friends, were voiced in regards to this. Many felt that the “inward search” could be of great benefit to them and this would help them in understanding their own beliefs. Several felt that the “outreach” phase of the program could be too much like proselytizing and expressed concern that this program could be purely to garner more members. Others were clear that, although new members may result, the purpose is to open our doors and invite seekers to learn more about us.

In the end, our Meeting approved forming a committee to recommend how we should proceed. The Nominating Committee will form this committee, and is asked to include those who have taken part in various workshops regarding QQ, those with dissenting views and representative members of all committees. A report at our June business meeting is hoped for.

7. Interim Meeting: (see attached report). Please note that the economy has also affected the staff in Philadelphia. Also THFM Priorities were published in the newsletter last week. Please call Cathy Thompson if you have other priorities you feel should be added to the list. The deadline for additions is July 15th.

8. Communications Committee: Annual Report (see attached). The report was approved by the Meeting after the word “commemorative” is included to the sentence reading The 325th Third Haven Directory of members and attenders is being prepared.

9. Treasurer’s report: A full report will be given during meeting for business 5th month. The financial health of the Meeting is good at this juncture. The Treasurer has asked all Clerks of committees to send in their budget requests. B & F committee will be meeting this month and working on next year’s budget.

10. PYM Annual Meeting: Marsie Hawkinson reported on this recent event which was attended by many including John Schreiner, Joyce Macijeski, Emma Liebman, Susan and Sally Claggett and all their children and John Winterbottom. The evening session on the activities of FCNL was well attended and the children were asked the question “if they had 10 minutes with President Obama, what would they ask?” Marsie has information on a knitting program for Afghanistan that she is happy to share as it was noted how many people are now knitting during these meetings.

11. Testimonies & Concerns:

a) Interfaith Declaration of Peace: Lorraine Claggett read a declaration written by TACL regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict. The Meeting was in unity agreeing with the principles of the letter. Our Meeting gave support to this letter for TACL to use to send to appropriate sources as they see fit. Some felt it should be used promptly rather than waiting for more conflict to emerge. The declaration will be published in the newsletter.

b) Habitat for Humanity: We have been asked to become “Partners in Faith” for the local Habitat for Humanity charity. This means we would sign an agreement to commit, as a church community, to a certain level of service for this organization. At this stage, we are not sure what the details of that commitment involve. Gwen Beegle kindly offered to go by their offices and find out more details about the program and inform us next month.

12. Other Business: The annual Multi-Cultural Festival takes place in Idlewild Park from 10-3pm on May 2nd. We have been asked if we would like to sponsor a table for this. It would involve possibly 10 volunteers during the day of the event. Norval Thompson volunteered to help Leigh Anne Dodge with some of the details and calling for volunteers. So far, Connie Lewis, John Schreiner, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett and Norval will take an hour each. Leigh Anne, Norval and others from T&C and/or Outreach committees can give their input regarding what should be on the table for the event.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 1:33pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Molly Burgoyne*

INTERFAITH DECLARATION FOR PEACE

As members of various religious faiths of Talbot County having deep concern for that of God in all persons and for the legitimate human need for ties to their own cultures, religions and land, we are anguished by the events that have unfolded in Israel and Palestine and issue this joint statement with the hope and belief that our interfaith voices will be heard clearly above the din of war.

Acknowledging the long, complex, and painful history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the deeply-held beliefs and intensely-felt narratives on all sides, we believe the conflict can be resolved only through a political and diplomatic solution and not a military one.

We call on the United States and the international community to help establish a ceasefire that will lead toward a permanent cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas; to help lift the blockade on Gaza as to all non-military goods; and to significantly increase the humanitarian aid to the impoverished people.

We call on all parties involved in the conflict to work sincerely and vigorously toward a just and lasting peace that addresses and promotes the national aspirations of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples

We call on President Obama to make clear that he will urgently assert US leadership to achieve a comprehensive diplomatic resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts

Through this joint statement we affirm our commitment to engage with one another, even, and especially, during times of great stress. We also affirm our common humanity and our common belief --- as Jews, Muslims and Christians --- that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must cease, that there is no military or violent solution, that all human life is valued, and that all parties must cooperate to make the peace --- a just and lasting peace desperately needed and deserved by all the peoples of the region."



THFM "Kids as Peacemakers"



**Frank Zeigler shares his
Spiritual Journey**

Communications Committee Report

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2008 of the Communications Committee to the Third Haven Friends Meeting for Business April 19, 2009.

Ralph Young is our chief photographer, mailer of newsletters, and continues to maintain the Third Haven Website, www.thirdhaven.org. Dee Rein provides the final editing to the assembled newsletter, in addition to writing specific articles, and provides the finished product to the printer and the e-mail version. Nancy Mullen provides the initial editing of all submitted material. Molly Burgoyne, not formally a committee member, prepares the latest minutes. Numerous photographers including Marsie Hawkinson, Ralph Young, and Cassie Thompson have brightened our pages with excellent images.

Our goals are to keep the meeting informed of future events, to provide a place for vital meeting information, and to record the current history of Third Haven.

Weekly announcements go out most Mondays by e-mail. The newsletter is scheduled for publication well in advance of monthly meeting for business. The deadline for submission of articles is set at the 22 of each month.

The Commemorative 325th Anniversary Third Haven Directory of members and attenders is being prepared.

We are currently under budget. *John A. Hawkinson, Clerk*

Children's Easter activities, with some adult playmates!



Middle School Friends Gathering

Susan Claggett writes, "My role at the Middle School Friends gathering was being a Friendly Presence. The agenda for the weekend was well thought out and the leader, Elizabeth Walmsley, has a calming effect with wise intuition around this age group. I followed her lead and was an adult presence and support for her."

I had the four Middle School Friends write a little paragraph about their experience at Yearly Meeting last weekend.

Evan Claggett: "I liked four-square, going outside, and doing Yoga."

Emma Leibman: "I really love MSF. It's a great way to connect with Quakers my own age. The guys are hilarious and the girls are awesome."

Nicole Gould (friend of Emma's) "I had a lot of fun. I really liked meeting new people and doing different activities. The people were nice."

Katie Claggett: "I liked being with other Quaker kids my own age. Playing games like four square and 'The Great Wind Blows' got me connected to the program and helped me make new friends. On one occasion, I was laughing so hard with one of my new friends, I missed my shot in four square and had to sit down and laugh some more. Despite the fact that we stayed in a cramped area, I enjoyed watching a video about our planet (An Inconvenient Truth) and discussing it. We also had a concert by a "Quaker Rapper." Probably one of my favorite events was doing Yoga. I did stretches and poses to the sounds of soft pipe music and other noises of nature. Another workshop I attended was learning about growing fruits and vegetables locally. I realized that supporting locally grown foods will decrease the amount of pollution that happens when food is shipped from far off. I planted a cucumber seed and can't wait until it sprouts for life."

The next Middle School Friends gathering is May 1-3 at Camp Swatara. This gathering is combined with High School Friends. Deadline for sign ups is Tues April 7th. Please call Susan Claggett if you would like to attend.

Quaker Workshops-an active community



Third Haven Friends Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am Fourth Days 5:30pm

May 6

May 10

May 13

May 17

May 20

May 17, 2009 (Sunday) Meeting for business follows meeting for worship. Report from Budget and Finance.

May 17, 2009 (Sunday) Third Haven Monthly Meeting will host Southern Quarterly Meeting as part of the celebration of our 325th anniversary. Susan Claggett's suggested schedule is as follows:

10am - gather and worship

11 am - introductions and welcome

11:15- Third Haven History

11:20 - speakers sharing their thoughts on the query

"What is the same about Quakerism today as it was 325 years ago?"

11:45-Kids present original idea (skit, poetry, drawings, Third Haven 325 year timeline

12noon- Announcements about Third Haven 325 materials to purchase

12:10- We will be hosting a potluck. [Contact Cathy Thompson, Hospitality Clerk]

Volunteer needed to bring 6 lunches to the Ridgeway House (the Neighborhood Service Center's homeless shelter) on the first Monday of each month. Contact Ralph Young, 410-819-0050.

An opportunity for service has come to the meeting through Habitat for Humanity, which is asking us to consider choosing the level and type of participation suiting our meeting. We need a leader to coordinate this effort and to know if anyone would like to volunteer in general. Please contact Gwen Beegle at 410-820-7303 or gbeegle@goeaston.net.

Mental Health First Aid training is available for interested groups of 10 or more from the local Mental Health Association. Interested persons may send an email or call 822-0444 to establish

their interest and give their preferred training dates. Contact: Christina P. Mills, Executive Director, Mental Health Association in Talbot County, 611 B Dutchman's Lane Easton MD 21601: telephone , 410.822.0444 or e-mail www.mhamdes.org

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 not 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.

Volunteers are needed to continue the library program at the Talbot County Detention Center. Contact Leigh Ann Dodge: 410-822-5998

The primary food pantry in Easton at the Neighborhood Service Center is in need. In the past year, the growing number of families served each week by the pantry has doubled to 150. Several faith communities in Easton are regularly collecting non-perishables for this pantry. On a bench along the east side of the common room is a plastic container marked "Third Haven Food Bank for the Neighborhood Service Center". It is hoped that members and attenders will bring at least one non-perishable each time they attend a Meeting for Worship.

REMINDERS

To contribute to our meeting please address your contribution to Third Haven Monthly Meeting, and mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

To contribute to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Fund (mention Third Haven) mail to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

DATES FOR 2009

July 29 to August 2, 2009 for the PYM summer sessions at DeSales University.

June 27-July 4, 2009 - Friends General Conference "Wings of Joy. Fire of Love" is the theme for the 2009 held in Blacksburg, VA. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Susan Claggett about early sign ups and financial aid. She plans to drive there this summer.

<http://www.thirdhaven.org/> is your website - what would you like to add? -Do you have a message that should be included? Worship and Ministry would like to remind all members and attenders of the list of recommended reading material on the web site.

JOBS NEEDED!!!! Nicola, Austin and Evan Green (all 17 years old-as of May 5) are looking for jobs starting anytime and with more hours available during the summer: Evan enjoys heavy lifting, farm and garden work and/ or anything else that he can do for some financial gain. Nicola is great with kids, elderly, household tasks, tutoring and anything else that has a salary. Austin is awesome with computers, technology in general, office work, and anything else for which he can earn money. Please call 410-763-6762 if you have a job offer for any of the above. THANK YOU!!!



Transportation Needed: Lila's Lineup Care Committee is seeking Friends who would be willing to put their names on a transportation resource list. The transportation resource list will be used by the week's care committee captain to find a Friend who can pick up Lila for First Day Meeting for Worship and/or return her to her residence at the Envoy Nursing Home in Denton. It also might help her get to Easton for social activities. If you can help in any way, please contact Dee Rein dmr49@verizon.net, 410-819-0529.

A Quaker's Reverence for Easter

by Bob Marshall

A few months ago I experienced a substantial loss. A man who had been a good friend to me and my family passed away from pancreatic cancer. He was an accomplished surgeon who selflessly advised and guided us through some scary encounters with our own cancer experiences. Nothing I did for him could be interpreted as commensurate with the unconditional giving love he showed to us.

There is another man who came into my life some time ago -- a great teacher who led an exemplary and illuminating life. Others had taught many of the same things before but this man somehow could extract the essence, turn a negative into an illuminating glow of positive, and provide clear understandings where previously only opaque explanations had existed. This man was Jesus.

The death of Jesus receives a great deal of attention in other Christian faiths. I have often heard Quakers say that Friends focus on the life and teachings of Jesus, not his death. For me, this misses something of great importance. Jesus would have almost surely been offered a less painful death, or even have had escaped death, if he had renounced his life and teachings. He had that opportunity, but chose differently. In John 15:12-17 it is clear that Jesus knows exactly what he is about to do – forfeit his life for his friends. For if Jesus had renounced his life and teachings in the face of the threat of a crucifixion, the entire value of his life and teachings would have almost surely evaporated.

When I think of Jesus I think of someone who never knew me, but was a good friend to me and my family. I think of someone who selflessly advises and guides. I also think of someone who was not randomly plucked from the world by a horrible illness but who consciously chose to accept an excruciating death to preserve the purity and value of his messages and teachings. This was the choice of a living Jesus. Thus, for this Quaker, Easter is a time of melancholy reverence as I think of the choice Jesus made for me and all others.

Report on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting of April 11, 2009

General Secretary's Report: Arthur Larrabee had good news and sad news. The good news was that the March Sessions went well with good work and buoyant energy. The other good news is that the Friends' Center renovation project is expected to be completed in June. The third positive news is the implementation of a new communications plan, using more electronic methods and less printed media, to facilitate gathering, generating, and sharing information. The sad news was the necessity of downsizing staff, due to the current economic situation, including one position eliminated and two staff members leaving. Stories of vitality and growth within PYM were then shared by three different MMs, to include a successful flea market, increased attendance at shared meals, and fundraising for the purchase of mine detectors.

Governance Report: YM approved the recommendations listed in the Governance Report at the March Sessions, except for the first recommendation of changing the name of Interim Meeting. An Implementation Committee will come back in July with the name of one Clerk who will serve as both YM Clerk and IM Clerk. The current Clerks and Alternate Clerks have agreed to remain in their positions until after the Summer Sessions instead of the usual July 1st end of term. IM will continue to meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month, perhaps for less than the usual 8 months of the year. This will be determined at the Summer Sessions.

Financial Stewardship Committee Report: Jack Mahon, Clerk, presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2010, to be approved in July. Each MM will receive 2 copies, one for the Clerk and one for the Treasurer.

General Secretary's Oversight and Evaluation Committee Report: This committee is encouraging MMs to share feedback with them concerning the General Secretary's performance. The deadline is May 9th. A report will be given at the May IM and a final report in June. The following are contacts: Jackie Bowers, Clerk of Personnel Services Group, 215-493-5475, jackied.bowers@verizon.net; Jada Jackson, IM Clerk, 609-914-2535, exploringpeace@yahoo.com; Chris Nicholson, Member-at-Large, 215-844-7076, chnichol@verizon.net; and Thomas Swain, PYM Clerk, 610-399-1977, tswani@ccil.org.

Financial Oversight Working Group: Norval Thompson, Clerk, explained this audit committee's four functions and responsibilities, citing one of them: FOWG is responsible for the income side of the ledger. PYM has 101 Funds that are either Restricted, Designated or Unrestricted as to use. The total value as of fiscal year ending 6/08 was \$40.78 million. They produced \$2.34 million in cash distribution. By the 12/08 report the value was down by 23% as a result of market conditions. The spreadsheets may be found on the PYM website under IM handouts. He noted that PYM has taken positive steps to be more efficient with its finances, such as charging 1% administrative fees based on asset instead of on income, combining similar functioning programs, and the redesignation of funds for more effective use based on your priorities. FOWG feels the need to report directly to IM at least 2 or 3 times a year, but they are encountering resistance and are working to resolve the issue.

Peace & Concerns Standing Committee: The Gathering on Peace, "Heeding God's Call" that was held in January 2009 in Philadelphia concerning gun violence was a huge success. This committee is extending an invitation to all PYM members and attenders to join them at their Sixth Annual Gathering at Arch St. May 2nd from noon until 4pm to share concerns and listen for new leadings. Contacts are available on the PYM website.

Earthcare Working Group: This group reminds Friends that our testimonies call us to live in right relationship with the Earth and they ask that we renew our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint

and to seek Divine guidance about how best to advance national legislation and international negotiations to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Annual Fund Report: There are 3 months remaining to raise approximately \$300,000. Your financial contribution is a valuable way of participating in the life of YM. Recent mailings have gone out to households encouraging donations. Phonothons are scheduled for this month and volunteers are needed. Please check the PYM website if you are interested in helping.

Report submitted by Interim Meeting representatives: *Norval and Cathy Thompson*

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is back in the news at Third Haven. And this time, it has money to give away.

Last year, the Committee asked members and attenders, as well as the Trustees, for donations for two purposes: a Scholarship Fund, from which scholarships will be awarded in the immediate future; and an Endowment, which is being invested and from which the income will be used to fund scholarships later on.

“We deeply appreciate the generosity of those who have supported the Scholarship Fund and the Endowment,” said Scholarship Committee Member Pete Howell. “To date, almost \$8,700 has been raised for the Scholarship Fund, and almost \$11,000 for the Endowment.”

Now that it has money in the bank, the Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for financial aid. Well, not exactly. “We’re not that formal,” said Pete. “There is no application to fill out.” Members and attenders seeking financial aid to attend preparatory school, college, vocational school, graduate school or any form of Quaker education are asked to send a letter to the Scholarship Committee, describing:

- What school you wish to attend, when you plan to enroll, and for how long
- The projected annual and total cost to attend
- Your current school, grade and grade point average (GPA)
- Your participation, and your family’s, in Third Haven
- Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), from the U.S. Department of Education’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the College Board’s CSS/Financial Aid Profile; and
- Anything else that you think will help the Committee evaluate your request

Please send your letter by June 15 to Mark Beck, 26239 Royal Oak Road, Royal Oak, MD 21662; or e-mail him at mb4833@aol.com. Financial aid awards will be announced on or before July 15.

The Scholarship Committee’s modest resources will limit the number and size of individual scholarships. As more money is raised, more and larger scholarships can be awarded. To date, only 15 families have contributed, some very generously. Their support is vital, and the Committee is grateful. But there are still many families that have yet to contribute. Is yours among them?

Third Haven has a distinguished past on which we can all look back with pride. By helping our young people reach their dreams, you can ensure that our future is just as bright. Please send your 100% tax-deductible donations to: Third Haven Friends Meeting, 405 South Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601. Please write “Scholarship Fund” on the memo line.

Spring Clean Up Day Thank you for all your hard work!



