



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

Info@thirdhaven.org

September 2009 NEWSLETTER

"We do not want you to copy or imitate us. We want to be like a ship that has crossed the ocean, leaving a wake of foam which soon fades away. We want you to follow the Spirit, which we have sought to follow, but which must be sought anew in every generation."
Meeting of Elders, Balby Yorkshire, England 1656

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 6th Month 14th 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called to order the meeting for business at 11:45 AM after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Jim Bank, Mark Beck, Cynthia Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Joe Davis, Jamie duHoffman, Doreen Getsinger, Tania Harrison, Marsie Hawkinson, Connie Lewis, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Sally Vermilye, Rob Wieland, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler
3. Minutes: The minutes from the 5th month were approved.
4. Query: The query "Equality," which generated many messages during meeting for worship, also caused more thoughts to be shared regarding the meeting's failure to treat all people equally. There has been a shared discomfort expressed by THFM inability to show tolerance to others particularly those couples who have asked that their same sex union be recognized by the Meeting. Much discussion was generated about reopening this issue and questions were raised about the history of this and the previous minute approved by the Meeting on this subject. A Friend put forth the idea that the issue of same gender union under the care of the meeting has become a clear "burr under our saddle" and the sense of the meeting was that not moving forward to become more forthright on this issue both is not in accord with the testimony of equality and would stand in the way of any outreach that sought diversity and breadth.
5. Quaker Quest: Please refer to the report and the minute. This report was sent out by Tom Corl ahead of meeting for business. A question was asked regarding how the \$1200 requested for the project would be spent. All items are not yet budgeted but some monies will probably go to making signage for the project. The Meeting approved the report and the minute.

6. Treasurer's Report: Please refer to the sheets titled Balance Sheet and Income and Expenses. Please note that the Scholarship Fund is listed as a liability because those funds are not available for general purposes. Carriage Shed Sale Funds are back in liabilities because there are still items being sold and these monies will be dispersed between Fresh Start and the Scholarship Fund. Equity fund of about \$62,000 represents about one year of operating expenses.

7. Annual Budget: Please refer to the enclosed report. There is not much change from the previous month budget report. Property and Grounds will be adding additional expenses once estimates for driveway repair have been submitted and this will represent additional expenditures that are not currently in the budget. If all items budgeted for are utilized, we will anticipate a deficit of about \$7,000 this year. (2009-2010? We spent time contemplating where line items could be trimmed but ultimately there was agreement that trimming small items would not make that big a difference. There was unity in regards to keeping the scholarship fund in as a line item this year. Members were reminded that if we approve the budget we make a commitment to try and give what we can to help THFM meet its budgetary requirements. The Meeting approved the budget as written.

8. Interim Report: In the interest of time, Cathy will include her report from Interim Meeting in the newsletter but it was not discussed at Business meeting today.

9. Overseers: Marsie Hawkinson reported that the Clearness committee for Joan Wetmore has met with Joan and wholeheartedly approves RECOMMENDS? her for membership at THFM. The committee consisted of Candace Shattuck, Marsie and Doreen Getsinger. Joan Wetmore's membership was approved by the Meeting. Her welcoming committee will consist of John Schreiner, Rob Weiland, Frank Zeigler and Susan Claggett. The welcoming committees for Mike and Connie Pullen and for Aiyana Paterson-Zincand met and all are pleased to have these wonderful people in our midst.

10. 325th Anniversary: Mary Cotton gave an update on the upcoming anniversary celebration. She thanked First Day School and Paige Bethke for working so hard for the SQM in May. During the summer there will be training for docents by Orlando Rideout. People who would like to learn more of the history of THFM can take part in this. Oct. 4th is the day we will celebrate the anniversary but we hope to be able to keep something going on until Waterfowl Festival in November and perhaps man a table during the festival. Plans are for THFM to sponsor a film in the upcoming Chesapeake Film Festival in late September. The film will be chosen as a reflection of Quaker values with a discussion group held afterwards. We will be working on a commemorative poster and perhaps a display of gathered art and pictures from individual collections. Material will go out electronically to all during the summer months as plans continue to take shape. We will be looking into appropriate speakers and we hope James Turrell will be able to participate. A commemorative planting of a white oak is being considered as there was once a large white oak grove on the property.

11. First Day School: Please refer to the enclosed report. Susan Claggett has done a spectacular job with the children this year in keeping activities going and interest high. The entire Meeting commends all the work she has done. It was also noted that attendance is down somewhat. Some members asked how to be of help. She responded that teaching, making contact and talking to the children, and keeping in touch with the parents are important interactions for all of us.

12. New Business: A Friend suggested that the importance of addressing the issue of same sex union should not be overlooked, that time during the summer should be allocated to a committee to structure this topic for a called meeting. Friends decided that a special committee should be formed to address this issue and come back to the Meeting with a plan to go forward with new sensibilities. The committee will consist of John Schreiner, Molly Burgoyne, and others to be named. [Note: following the Meeting, Cynthia Browne, Tania Harrison, Tom Corl, and Winslow Womack came forward and asked to be included on the committee.]
Meeting for business was adjourned at 1:30 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
September 6	September 9
September 13	September 16
September 20	September 23
September 27	September 30

September 10 (Thursday) Orlando Ridout, an architectural historian associated with the Maryland Historical Trust, will lead a walk through the old Meeting House to point out the clues related to the dating of the structure. Mr. Ridout has a long association with Third Haven from the time of the reconstruction in 1982. Time To Be Announced.

September 13 (Sunday) 10 am Meeting for worship followed by meeting for business. Committee report – Scholarship committee. First day school fall term begins.

September 18,19 & 20 Chesapeake Film Festival. Our meeting is the screening sponsor of the award winning film by Youssou Ndour entitled I Bring What I Love. This will be shown Sunday Sept 20 at 12:30 PM at the Academy of the Arts.

September 18 (Friday) 7:00 pm in the common room. Worship and Ministry Book Discussion on-Violence: The History of a Dangerous Idea. Mark Kurlansky with forward by the Dalai Lama. One of the major themes of the book is the concept of a Holy War as permissible by the world's three major religions (Christianity, Judaism and Islam). The book draws from twenty-five provocative lessons on the subject that we can use to effect change today. Discussion lead by Aiyana Paterson-Zinkand.

October 3 Third Haven 325th Celebration presentation by James Turrell. Time TBA

October 4 Third Haven 325th Celebration presentation at the rise of meeting by Arthur Larrabee followed by a Pot Luck.

October 17 (Saturday) 1 pm NAACP banquet at Easton High School Cafeteria. Speaker is Thomas LaViest. Tickets \$30. Contact: Doreen Getsinger 410-745-3485 or dcgets@atlanticbb.net

Spiritual Journey Follow-Up

Denny Bliss referred me to this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyyjU8fzEYU> as a sort of afterthought on my talk about my spiritual journey. I found it very interesting and, if you think that it might be of general interest, could we provide the link in the announcements. Maybe as "an afterthought to a friend's spiritual journey".

Happy summer,
RW

Third Haven website ... <http://www.thirdhaven.org/>

New e-mail address Larissa Kitenko lkitenko@yahoo.com

REMINDERS

Worship and Ministry would like to remind all members and attenders of the list of recommended reading material on the web site.

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.
or 410-924-5752.

To donate to the Third Haven Scholarship Fund or to learn more about planned giving, contact Mark Beck at mb4833@aol.com or 410-822-6481.

Scholarship News

The Scholarship Committee has been busy this summer, and five \$500 scholarships have been awarded to Third Haven members and their families. Scholarship recipients were chosen on the basis of their academic accomplishments, their educational goals, their long-term plans, and their participation (and their families') in Third Haven. Financial aid has been awarded, in alphabetical order, to:

Laura Claggett: A member of the up-and-coming generation of one of Third Haven's dynasties, Laura graduated in May from The George School. She participated in the International Baccalaureate (advanced placement) Program, and graduated with a 3.8 grade point average. She will attend The College of William and Mary in the fall, where she might -- or might not -- major in Classical Languages. Laura is the daughter of Larny and Lorraine Claggett, and the granddaughter of Pinny and Lorraine Claggett. She has received a generous financial aid package from the college, but her family is still expected to contribute almost 40% of the cost of her education.

Jamie duHoffmann: Has been pursuing a bachelor's degree in International Studies at Washington College. Her current grade point average is 3.55. She will transfer in the fall to the University of Maryland-College Park or Salisbury University, where she will major in Interdisciplinary Studies. In the future, she is interested in earning a nursing degree and specializing in pediatrics, labor & delivery, or community health. While grants will cover her tuition, her scholarship will help fund books and day care for her two sons, Gunther and Gabriel. Attenders for five years, Jamie and her sons have been actively involved in parish life for three years. She served as Third Haven's volunteer coordinator for the Talbot Interfaith Shelter this year.

Evan Greene: Member Cindy Browne has been at Third Haven since 2002, and at Homewood Meeting, in Baltimore, prior to that. Her son, Evan Greene, wishes to train as a Wilderness First Responder at the National Outdoor Leadership School in Wyoming. In fact, by time you read this, he may already be there. The school is completely "hands on," and in addition to receiving emergency medical training, he will learn severe-weather survival skills, as well as multiple skills in wilderness and environmental preservation. When he returns, he plans to continue his studies and be certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. "Evan is thrilled about the prospect of attending this type of school, as it is his passion," says his mother. "I strongly believe that it will be a life-altering experience for him, particularly in terms of viewing himself as a successful man."



Jacob Mullen: The eldest son of Nancy and Mike Mullen, Jake just graduated from Easton High School. He is headed for The College of St. Mary's, which is Sarah Claggett's alma mater. He plans to major in philosophy. He chose St. Mary's in part because he will also be able to complete premedical curriculum. Jake plans to go to medical school and follow his father into medicine. He plans to specialize in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Aiyana Paterson: Already has two bachelor's degrees from Western Maryland College, one in Economics and one in Art History. But after a dozen years as a federal budget analyst, she feels that a career change is in order. More and more of her clients are doing business with the Department of Defense, making it harder and harder to reconcile her career with her Quaker beliefs. So she plans to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and teach middle and high school math. The first step will be prerequisite courses at Chesapeake and Anne Arundel Community Colleges. Then she plans to enroll in the MAT program at Salisbury University. She will work full time while attending college and graduate school, and expects the entire process to take two-and-a-half to three years.

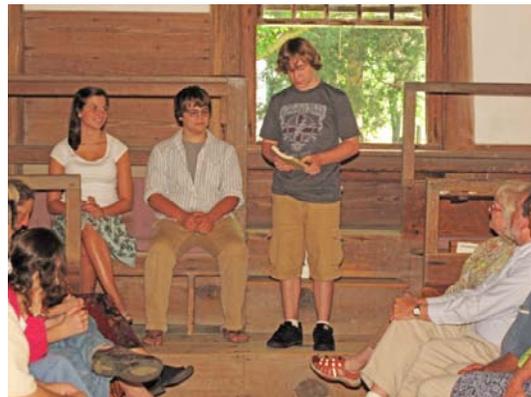
Each student, except Evan Greene, whose scholarship will fund an intensive short course, will receive half of his or her scholarship before the fall semester, and the

remainder before the spring semester, provided he or she remains a student in good standing. Each student in a multiyear program will be eligible to apply for additional aid next year.

"We're proud of our young -- and not-so-young -- scholars," said Scholarship Committee member Pete Howell. "Although we don't yet have a lot of money to award, we look forward to being able to offer more support in the years ahead. In the meantime, these scholarships are an important symbol of our belief in their potential and our commitment to helping them reach that potential. They are our future, and it is not only our duty, but also our privilege, to help them in any way we can. When they learn and mature, our entire spiritual community benefits."

The Scholarship Committee will accept applications for the spring semester in the fall. Although not yet set in stone, the application deadline is likely to be around November 15. For information about applying for scholarships, contact Pete Howell at piratepete@goeaston.net or 410-924-5752. To donate to the Scholarship Fund or learn more about planned giving, contact Mark Beck at mb4833@aol.com or 410-822-6481.
submitted by Peter Howell

Moving Up Day and Picnic



Report on Interim Meeting of June 13, 2009 for Third Haven Monthly Meeting

Military Tax Refusal Policy: PYM has received a levy from the IRS on the salary of Priscilla Adams, a member and employee of YM, in the amount of \$29,800. Priscilla has been a war tax resister for 30 years. The IRS would like PYM to reduce her salary to a nontaxable level and send the rest to them to cover the amount. Priscilla asks PYM “to support my spiritual leading by implementing its war tax resistance policy...I am asking PYM to discern its own corporate leading and refuse to cooperate with IRS as strongly and as long as it is led.” Peter Goldberger, a lawyer with a longstanding relationship with PYM, related the history of PYM’s tax refusal policy and explained the implications of non-compliance, saying that PYM could be ordered to court. However, the IRS is very slow to respond to correspondence and we may not hear anything from them for several years. After much discussion, IM decided not to comply with the levy. It was also decided that IM would address any issues that arise as a consequence of this decision on a step-by-step basis. Friends are urged to read the handout on this policy, available on the website under Interim Meeting.

General Secretary’s Report: Arthur Larrabee attended a meeting at the White House recently in the Office of Public Engagement as part of the National Coalition Against Torture. He was the only Quaker among the 40 people who attended. This group would like a Commission of Inquiry to be formed to address the U.S. government’s use of torture after 9/11. The Obama administration does not favor this proposal. It is viewed as divisive and a distraction from the current agenda which is trying to move forward, dealing with urgent issues, and reluctant to focus on the past. No commission has been formed as of this date.

Peace & Concerns Standing Committee: A minute was approved for Cynthia Blumenthal, Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, to travel with AFSC to Iran in July for a program called, “Women of the Faith.”

Annual Fund: The Annual Fund is \$169,000 below its goal. Phonathons will continue until June 30th. Friends have until July 15th to make a contribution, but must write June 30th on their checks. The phonathons have revealed that many Friends have suffered from the economic downturn. Some donors who have already given are making second donations to help out.

Summer Sessions: A reminder was given of the dates for Summer Sessions: July 29th – August 7th. PYM will pay for anyone who would like to go but can’t afford it.

Registration can be done online, by mail, or by phone.

Letter of Farewell: Jada Jackson, departing Clerk of Interim Meeting, read an emotional and grateful farewell message to IM. Arthur Larrabee and Thomas Swain commended her on her service and performance as Clerk. It has been decided that the YM Clerk will also serve as IM Clerk. That process is to be finalized at the Summer Sessions.

Report submitted by Interim Meeting representative: Cathy Thompson

Third Haven Friends Meeting Same Sex Marriage: A Proposed Minute 8th month 16th , 2009

Background

Same gender union or same sex marriage has unsettled Third Haven Friends Meeting for most of a decade. Beginning in about 2000, the Meeting sought to address the issue and the differences that arose in the Meeting community. It did so through worship sharing, meetings for business, minutes, many informal meetings and uncounted conversations. While all agreed all individuals and couples regardless of sexual orientation are welcome to full participation in our faith community and membership in Third Haven, the question of how to deal with committed relationships of same sex couples remained unresolved. After years of patient effort and continuing disquiet, the Meeting reached unity in 2nd month 2005 on a minute proposed 2-3 years earlier and revised by Peggy and Jim Paul, in collaboration with Sumner Parker. Peggy and Jim discussed the minute with members of about 40 families in the Meeting, testing and refining it. They presented the proposed minute at 1st month meeting for business and circulated it in the newsletter. The Meeting considered and approved the minute at the 2nd month 2005 meeting for business. It was hoped that the approved minute would “lay the matter to rest, with fairness to all, and hurting none.” The approved minute provides:

Third Haven Friends Meeting will accept requests from two persons of the same gender, who are members or regular attenders, to celebrate a ceremony of commitment to each other, to be followed by the clearness process, as set forth in *Faith and Practice*. Members and attenders of the Meeting, may, if they wish to do so, take the commitment of the parties under their personal and collective care.

Explanatory Note: This does not put the union under the *care of the meeting* but it allows those who wish to do so, to make the commitment to our fellow Friends.

Participation would be voluntary, and no one would be forced to agree to something against their belief.

While the meeting became more settled after this minute was approved, disquiet continued, occasionally coming into the open. A few felt the resulting minute had gone too far; many felt the result still tasted of discrimination and prejudice. Several members and attenders demonstrated their dissatisfaction by leaving Third Haven. The Meeting is still saddened by these losses. However, most did not want to reopen the issue until there was a clear sense that the way opened to move forward.

In 6th month 2009, the Query on Equality read in the meeting for worship prompted a Friend to say that he was pained that Third Haven practices were not in accord with Quaker testimonies and Christ’s teachings. During the meeting for business, many Friends spoke tenderly to the issue of same sex marriage. The Spirit moved powerfully among us to reconsider same sex marriage, *under the care of the meeting*. The Meeting approved the formation of a committee to address the issue. Those serving are: Cindy Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Tom Corl, Tatiana Harrison, Nancy Mullen, Sumner Parker, John Schreiner (Clerk), Candace Shattuck, Winslow Womack and Frank Zeigler, with subsequent contributions from Bob Marshall.

Coming to Terms

Sex and Gender

We are reminded that there is a difference between sex and gender. Sex is a physiological characteristic. Gender and sexual orientation are not necessarily determined by one's sex. Accordingly, the proposed minute (below) uses the term "same sex."

Marriage and Same Gender Union

Faith and Practice (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1997, p 47) states, "Marriage is a sacred commitment of two people to love one another in faithful partnership, with the expectation that the relationship will mature and be mutually enriching." At Third Haven, we have used a variety of terms, with implied but not always clear distinctions. Some, believing that "marriage" can only be between a woman and a man, reserve "marriage" for traditional, heterosexual, female-male relationships and assign "celebration of same gender union" for nontraditional, homosexual, same sex relationships. Different terms for heterosexual and same sex committed relationships give a negative connotation and may affect the regard for same sex couples. Accordingly, the proposed minute uses the term "same sex marriage."

Quaker Marriage and the Law

There is a distinction between a religious, spiritual marriage in the manner of Friends, and the legal recognition of a marriage by civil authorities. At this point, same sex marriage is not recognized in law in Maryland. In the last eight months, several states have moved to allow and recognize same sex marriages: Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts. What Maryland does with respect to the legal recognition of same sex marriage, and the provision of benefits to same sex couples, does not prohibit Third Haven religious practice in the spiritual marriage of same sex couples.

Under the Care of the Meeting

Consistent with the guidance on the Quaker Marriage Procedure in *Faith and Practice* (pp 47-56), in practice, all marriages at Third Haven are under the care of the Meeting that: 1) go through a clearness committee process, 2) are approved by the meeting for business on the recommendation of the clearness committee, and 3) are conducted under the care of a designated Third Haven oversight committee. The 2nd month 2005 minute provided for same gender union, but not under the care of the Meeting.

Eligibility

Third Haven practice indicates that members and regular (frequent, active) attenders are eligible for marriage under the care of the meeting. The definition of regular attendance is not explicit, and so subject to varying interpretation. The Meeting has approved marriages under the care of the meeting for members, attenders and others deemed to be part of our Third Haven faith community. Some may be concerned that a change in our openness to same sex marriage may cause others outside our faith community to seek marriage here. The Meeting has a number of ways to manage marriage under the care of the meeting. These include interpretation of who is "part of our Third Haven faith community," clearness committees and meeting for business approval. Following the guidance in *Faith and Practice*, Third Haven practice for clearness and marriage will continue to proceed in good order among Friends.

The Proposed Minute

Third Haven Friends Meeting reaffirms its belief that marriage is a Spiritual bond and commitment, established by a loving couple, in the presence of God, family, friends and the Meeting. Consistent with our testimony on Equality (number 6, p 210), Advice on marriage (p 84) and guidance on the Quaker Marriage Procedure (pp 47-56) in Faith and Practice (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1997), Third Haven Friends Meeting gives equal consideration to all requests for marriage under the care of the Meeting, from Meeting members, and those closely related to them, and from attenders who have become part of our faith community. Third Haven Friends Meeting treats same sex and opposite sex marriage in the same manner. We consider the legal recognition of marriage to be a separate issue.

Respectfully submitted, on 8.16.09 the Same Sex Marriage Committee

Committee members include: Cindy Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Tom Corl, Tatiana Harrison, Nancy Mullen, Sumner Parker, John Schreiner (Clerk), Candace Shattuck, Winslow Womack and Frank Zeigler with subsequent contributions from Bob Marshall. The committee wished to distribute the above proposed minute to the Meeting before our meeting for worship with attention to business on Sept. 13th. The first reading and discussion of the minute will take place during the 9/13 meeting. No action will be sought at that time. All of the committee members extend an open invitation to discuss the above proposal at any time before or after meeting for business. Additional copies of the above will be available in the common room.

“ Youssou Ndour: I bring what I love”

by John Schreiner

This is a film about the life and work of a remarkable 50 year old singer. A man with a truly extraordinary voice. It's a powerful, colorful, joy-filled story of a Senegalese man who's captivated a continent with both the beauty of his song and music and a message of hope for the millions of his fans. It's a story of love, peaceful wisdom, and inspiration which we Quakers are proud to sponsor today in this troubled world and at this, the 2nd Annual Chesapeake Film Festival.

The film you'll see (shown w/ English subtitles) transcends language but is spoken in an intriguing mixture of Senegalese, French, and English. It depicts Youssou's connection to his land, his family, and his Sufi-based Islamic faith. After a spectacular rise in popularity following a platinum recording, performances for the G-8 Summit and a multinational tour for Amnesty International, he gains a following with a strong message of love and caring for his African heritage. Born in Senegal, he traveled to neighboring Gambia as a teenager in 1976 in search of strengthening his musical talents and, in 1981, formed a group called *Le Super Etoil*.

Youssou's powerful, uplifting tenor voice, coupled with his captivating stage presence and a rich accompaniment comes across with a message of hope and unity for his young African audience. Lyrics include some of the following phrases: *Africans – our diversity of languages, religions, and traditions is not an obstacle ...but rather a richness? Africa is not just about poverty. If you love me, I love you. If you hate me, I will still love you.* These thoughts are delivered with a richness of perfect pitch and resonance that rings with rare polish and authenticity.

This film brings out the tapestry of gripping imagery of place and time; weaving in the richness of his audiences, a loving family and *Griot* (musical village) ties. The music and Youssou's voice carry the hour.

We Quakers see this film as one that supports our view of a world engendering love, peace, and cultural respect; and one that does so with class and beauty. Enjoy.

Welcoming new members to historic Third Haven



BIG PLANS FOR CELEBRATION OF 325TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 3-4

To celebrate the 325th anniversary of the completion of our Old Meeting House, some very special events are planned for the weekend of October 3 and 4, 2009.

On Saturday, October 3, James A. Turrell, Quaker artist with an interest in architecture, will speak on "Plato's Cave and the Light Inside" at 3 pm followed by light refreshments. Tours of the property will be available from 2 pm, led by those who have attended Orlando Ridout's talk on September 10. Mr. Turrell, a regular attendee at Third Haven, is a

birthright Friend whose body of art explores light as form. His talk will touch on the structures we inhabit in relation to the body which the soul inhabits.

On Sunday, October 4, Arthur Larrabee, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will speak at Rise of Meeting (around 11:30 am) on the future of Quakerism. A pot-luck luncheon will follow.

Both events are open to all comers, and we particularly invite Friends and those with connections to Third Haven to share in this very special offering. Mark your calendars!

