



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

“All the secrets in the world worth knowing are hiding in plain sight.” *Robin Sloan*

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 9th month, 8, 2013

1. Candace Shattuck, Clerk of Meeting, after a brief period of silence, gathered the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:35 am.
2. Attending: Paige Bethke, Larny Claggett, Lorraine B. Claggett, Susan Claggett, Benita Cooper, Tom Corl, Deborah Cox, Debbie Danser, Ed Danser, Doreen Getsinger, Robert Gladney, Norman Hackland, Marsie Hawkinson, Mary Ann Hillier, Pete Howell, Sumner Parker, John Schreiner, Heidi Wetzel, Ann Williams, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler.
3. Query: In response to the Ninth Query on Ministry of Outreach, members responded that we have recently been involved with (a) local outreach – inviting members of the community to bring their families for First Day School and worship; (b) outreach to a larger community by helping THFM children with scholarships to secondary schools and colleges; and (c) outreach internationally with support of two Bolivian students through the Schoffner Education Fund.
4. Minutes: The Meeting approved the minutes of the 6th month meeting for business.
5. Clerk’s Correspondence: Anne Rouse requests that Third Haven write a minute to the clerk of Friendship Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, granting her status as a “sojourner” in that meeting. It was agreed that such a minute should be drafted and sent by the Recording Clerk.

The Meeting has received notification of a bequest of \$20,000 from the estate of Belle B. Andrews. Belle Andrews was involved in the Talbot County Historical Society exhibition on Quakers and Third Haven in 1984. The bequest comes with no restrictions.

6. Carriage Shed Sale: Paige Bethke, clerk of the sale, noted that in the past the sale has brought in varying amounts in the range of \$4-5000. She expects to have \$600 in expenses. The first \$1000 of the proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund, as approved at the June meeting for

business. A lively discussion followed as to what other groups should benefit from the proceeds. The options being considered were: Teen Court in Talbot County, Afghan Girls Education Fund, Talbot Partnership for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention, Common Room updates, handicap access for Old Meeting House, Habitat Choptank, one year scholarship for a Bolivian Quaker student, a peace pole, Leigh Anne Dodge's expenses for attending the Philadelphia Alternatives to Violence Week. Friends weighed each choice carefully. Other sources of funds may be available for some of these options. There was a strong feeling that Leigh Anne's expenses (estimated at \$350) should be met through a combination of a payment from our conference budget and a grant from the Mid Shore-AVP. This was approved. The decision was made to give CSS funds to two more organizations that help young people: Teen Court and The Talbot Partnership for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention in addition to the Scholarship Fund. Aware that we don't know at this point how much profit there will be to donate, and keeping with the theme of helping young people, the door was left open to including \$600 in scholarship money for the Bolivian student. A final decision on amounts to each will be scheduled for the next meeting for business on October 13, 2013.



7. Hospitality Committee Annual Report: Heidi Wetzel delivered the annual report as follows:

“Many thanks go out to everyone who so enthusiastically support the hospitality of Third Haven Meeting. We've had large groups partaking in our coffee and treats after meeting for worship, although attendance slowed down over the summer months. We have enjoyed many delicious and nutritious contributions to hospitality for sharing after worship.

Our committee has lost some of its members because of other commitments, but we have also added some new members. Continuing members are: Mary Coady, Helen Womack, Beth Mufson, along with co-clerks Dona Sorce and Heidi Wetzel. Others who have joined us are: MaryAnn Hillier, Dawn Atwater, and Mary Yancy.

Special thanks go to Winslow Womack who graciously and enthusiastically helped out when help was needed. Also thank you to Cathy Thompson, John Schreiner, and others who jumped in and helped when we were in a pinch. We encourage friends and attenders to sign up on the refrigerator if they wish to assist at any time.

Our sign-up sheets on the refrigerator have been broken down into 3 parts, to make helping out easier. One can sign up for setting up before meeting for worship, or cleaning up after hospitality, or bring some refreshments, or all three. Any help is welcome.

May 19th we hosted a luncheon for Southern Quarter. On June 2nd, we celebrated Moving-Up Day. We honor our Quaker youth for their completion of another year of achievement and growth. The hospitality committee provided lemonade and fried chicken for both events. The

menu was well supplemented with main dishes, salads and fruit from the kitchens of our Friends and attenders.

We all have enjoyed the First Birthdays celebrations and are grateful for everyone who brings the birthday cakes. We thank all the volunteers who bring a birthday cake for the First Sunday of every month.

The budget for this year was \$850 which seemed to be sufficient and we are not asking for an increase for the following year.

There is always an opportunity to enjoy one another by participating in Hospitality and all are welcome.”

The Hospitality Committee was warmly thanked for the work they do, and their report approved.



8. Scholarship Committee Annual Report: Marsie Hawkinson, clerk of the Scholarship Committee, presented the annual report as follows:

“What help do we provide for the children and adults in our Meeting to pursue the education they seek, whether academic, technical, or vocational? Do we make provision for children in our Meeting to attend a Friends school?

-Faith & Practice, Query 5. Education

Third Haven’s Scholarship Fund began six years ago with the intent of encouraging our young members to attend Friends schools. We likewise offer them financial support in college, so that the Meeting continues to nurture them during these important years.

This program has been funded by the Meeting, the Trustees, as well as a number of memorial and other gifts

from individuals. This year the Meeting has provided \$2000. from the operating budget and has tentatively earmarked \$1000. from the Carriage Shed Sale. The Trustees have given \$1000.

Larger contributions were used to initiate an endowment fund, intended to provide a long term source of income for the scholarship program. This endowment, which totaled \$63,677.91 on August 31st, is being managed by Friends Fiduciary Corporation. Before 2013, we reinvested the semi-annual distributions from Friends Fiduciary ‘s managed funds. Starting this year we are taking the distributions to pay current scholarship grants. To date we have received a distribution of \$1180 and we expect a second distribution before year-end of about \$1200.

Here is a list of current recipients: for the school year which has just begun, we have awarded the following: (Total \$4000.)

\$1000. to Emma Leibman, a senior at Westtown School

\$1000. to Nathan Mullen, a sophomore at Westtown School (these are paid directly to the school for the year)

\$250. each for the first semester to:

Jacob Mullen – senior, St. Mary’s College

Nicola Green – senior, Goucher College

Maggie Neil – senior, Yale University

Nora Neil – sophomore, Georgetown University

Brandt Bethke – freshman, George Washington University

Evan Claggett – freshman, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC

Sarah Thompson – Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Seattle

Jamie duHoffman – Salisbury State University

We plan to repeat the gifts to our college students in January, 2014, for their next semesters where applicable.

These amounts are small compared to the total tuition and expenses for each student. In the case of Friends schools, additional financial aid possibilities open up to them if their Meeting contributes. Students at the undergraduate college level have many expenses beyond their tuition.

It will be a very long time before this Endowment Fund alone is sufficient to provide income for the Meeting’s Scholarship program. Until then we are dependent on the Meeting, a healthy economy, and memorial or other gifts. Our children are our future.

Marsie Hawkinson, clerk; Lorraine Claggett, Larny Claggett, Deb Danser, Doreen Getsinger, Peter Howell, Sumner Parker”

There followed a discussion about funding the grants now and in the future. Several spoke to the importance of the scholarships in supporting our young members. There is continuing concern that some members/attenders only give financial support the Scholarship Fund rather than giving to THFM’s annual operating budget. One member raised a concern about the scholarship committee’s creating an “endowment” and then expecting the Meeting to make an annual contribution to it. It was suggested that neither the endowment nor the yearly obligation on the part of the Meeting were agreed upon originally. Members of the scholarship committee agreed to work on solutions that would maintain a scholarship program while making reasonable projections about income and the size of their grants. The committee was thanked for their work and the report was accepted.

9. Testimonies and Concerns: Lorraine Claggett presented several updates from Testimonies and Concerns. A book group is being formed by Tania Harrison and Leigh Anne Dodge to discuss “The New Jim Crow.” The first meeting will be held at Third Haven on September 29 from noon to 2 pm. Attenders at the book group do not have to have read the book ahead of time to participate. Lorraine went on to expand on an earlier discussion of the Mid-shore Alternative to Violence Program (AVP). The program began 40 years ago and has been training people to work in public schools and with other organizations. Ralph Young has been very involved with the group locally, and he described its partnerships with other non-profits in

the Mid Shore area, including Talbot Mentors, Talbot Mediation and the Youth Move project of the Mental Health Society. MidShore AVP will provide training for volunteers this fall on October 4-5 with the goal of having a core group ready to work by the end of December. In closing, Lorraine mentioned the case of a woman in the community who needed help with her rent money. Several local organizations were mentioned who could assist the woman, mainly TACL.

10. Interfaith Housing Delmarva: Larny Claggett gave a brief update on the health of Interfaith Housing Delmarva, a group that began 20 years ago to help provide affordable housing on the Eastern Shore. The organization has suffered recently from both the political climate and the economic downturn and is not very strong financially. It seems likely that Interfaith Housing will be absorbed by Volunteers of America soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Adrienne Rudge.

Important Points

- Anne Rouse requests “sojourner” status at Friendship Meeting, Greensboro, NC
- Meeting receives notification of bequest from estate of Belle Andrews
- Recipients of CSS will be Scholarship Fund, Teen Court and Talbot Partnership for Teen Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention. Further possible donations to be discussed 10th Month M4B
- Hospitality Annual Report
- Scholarship Annual Report with discussion of future funding
- T & C starting discussion group on the book The New Jim Crow

Announcements:

October 14 (Monday) 6:15pm: Worship & Ministry, a committee of 3rd Haven Quaker Meeting in Easton, as part of its continuing adult education programs, will be hosting a one hour discussion group in the Common Room about "Happiness". Contact: Mark Beck, 410-822-6481.

October 20 (Sunday) If you wonder, as we do, how we in the USA have managed to create, nearly overnight, a penal system unprecedented in world history that is filled largely with poor people of color, even as millions here at home and around the world imagine that we have "transcended" race with the election of President Barack Obama, please join us as we read the book, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander. The next four meetings will be held at the same time on October 20th, November 3rd and 17th, and December 1st.

October 4 & 5 (Friday and Saturday) Alternatives to Violence Project: A new organization, Mid-Shore AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project), has been started in our community as an off shoot of the Easton based organization, P.E.A.C.E. The primary purpose of Mid-Shore AVP is to reach out to the youths of the area with a structured and time tested method of demonstrating that

there are other ways of dealing with negative feelings than with violence, whatever its form. AVP works to reduce violence by teaching cooperation, respect, communication skills, and compassion. Mid-Shore AVP is partnering with local organizations who work with youths and recruiting from those organizations individuals who will train to become certified AVP trainers. Three two day workshops will take place over three months in the fall. The first or "Basic" workshop will be held on October 4-5th, 2013. The second or "Advanced" will be held on November 8-9 th, 2013 and the third or "Training for Trainers" will be held on December 6-7th, 2013. A \$50 dollar donation is requested for each workshop; however, if \$50 is a challenge, scholarships will be made available to any person who desires to participate. It is hoped that the workshop participants will be both inter generational and multicultural. More information about AVP can be found at: <http://www.avpusa.org/>. For further information about Mid-Shore AVP, see the newsletter for a workshop registration form, or call or write to Ralph Young.

If you would like to make a public statement of your commitment to our Peace Testimony, the opportunity to do so exists each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Peace Vigils are held each Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. The Tuesday vigil is held in Centerville in front of the Queen Anne's County Court House and the Thursday vigil is held in Easton in front of the Talbot County Court House. You are welcome to come at any time during the vigil and stay as long as you wish.

Third Haven scholars make Friends proud

In recent weeks, the Scholarship Committee has received progress reports from several students who are receiving financial aid from Third Haven. Herewith updates on how each is doing in his or her educational pursuits.

“This past year at Westtown has been absolutely phenomenal,” writes Nathan Mullen, who is now in his sophomore year. “All of my courses...have been incredibly fascinating and eye-opening for me.” During the 2012-2013 academic year, Nathan studied English 9, Geometry Advanced (“probably my personal favorite course this year”), Spanish 3, Latin 2, Peace and Justice (history), Health and Life Skills, and Chorus 1. Nathan informs us that he even enjoyed his Spanish final exam. Assigned to write and deliver a speech about his life, personal philosophy, and one thing he wished to communicate to the world, he addressed “the way that humans, especially in America, tend to hurt others in an attempt to shield themselves from physical and emotional harm and how we must always take the higher road, even when others do not.”

Life at Westtown has not been all classes and late nights at the library. The chorus “traveled all over, to retirement homes and other schools, to perform and give people a little smile. For me, personally, my voice has grown in richness and fullness this past year.” Nathan took part in a number of other extracurricular activities, such as the dance program, the winter musical, Student Council, the Rainbow Alliance and the Quaker Leadership Program. He was involved in planning next year's Quaker Youth Leadership Conference, which will be held at Westtown in February.

“Socially, I have been extremely satisfied,” says Nathan. “I have made so many great friends, a number of whom graduated in June, but I am still in touch with many of them.” Looking ahead, “I am so excited to make even more friends this September when I return. Whether as a theater geek or classmate, I am thrilled to be a part of the Westtown community, and I cannot thank the Meeting enough for its contribution to my presence at Westtown.”

Nathan’s older brother Jake is majoring in English at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, where his is just two courses shy of graduating. “I am also looking forward to spending my time this year working for the school newspaper,” he writes, “as I am considering going to journalism school after I graduate.” But before he returns to the ivory tower, “I think I want to spend a little time traveling or working with AmeriCorps or a similar organization before I continue my education. When I graduate, I will have been a student for 19 years straight. I’m thinking I need a break for a bit!”

Like many people as they near the end of a chapter in their lives, Jake has mixed emotions. “I am looking forward to graduating from SMCM,” he says, “though I am not looking forward to leaving it. I have made the best friends of my life here, who have helped me through the toughest parts of my life I’ve ever gone through. I’ve been able to develop my spirituality with courses like Nature Literature and Ethics, and I’ve broadened my horizons of understanding and ability with the liberal arts curriculum.”

Jake remembers who his Friends are. “I deeply appreciate the help that Third Haven has been to me as I’ve grown up and as I’ve gone through college,” he writes. “I want to give my thanks to the Third Haven community as a whole for supporting me through my growth as both a student and as a man.”

Education is also a family affair for the Neils. “As I begin my last year [at Yale University], I do feel both daunted and excited,” writes Maggie, Erik and Luisa’s eldest, who plans to write her Senior Thesis on a photographer/photojournalist as a prelude to a similar career. Maggie seems to have developed prodigious time management skills. She serves as editor-in-chief of Yale’s Undergraduate Art & Art History Journal, and works for a curator in the Prints, Drawings & Photographs Department at the university’s art gallery. In addition, “One of the most essential parts of my Yale experience has been working as a Walden Peer Counselor.” Counselors offer an anonymous, non-judgmental space in which any student can come or call in during a particularly difficult or strenuous moment.

“At a campus as stressful and competitive as Yale’s,” she notes, “this is all too common.” She characterizes counseling as “an extremely rewarding and fulfilling activity. I am extremely proud to be part of this organization. While not a directly Quaker group, I believe that it embodies many important values that I myself have learned from the Quaker influence in my life--notably non-judgment, and the respect for the light and strength within each person.

In what little spare time remains, Maggie is still writing for several of Yale’s publications, including the Yale Daily News and the Yale Herald. “I am also looking for mentoring

opportunities in the community,” she writes. “In the past I have worked with juvenile prison inmates and refugees, so I may continue that work, or I may try something new.”

Maggie’s sister, Nora, has transferred from Wellesley College to Georgetown University to study Arabic. “Although I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Wellesley, I have realized that I am deeply passionate about Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies,” she writes, “an area that is not especially strong at Wellesley.” Georgetown, on the other hand, “has a very rigorous department, and I am very excited to become a part of their program. Nora got a head start on her Arabic studies this summer, working at two Middle Eastern non-profits, the Arab Bankers Association of North America and ArteEast, both in New York City. Each facilitates the ever-important dialogue between America and the nations of the Arab world. “I am so happy with what I am doing both in and out of school,” says Nora, “and plan to continue it for the rest of my life!”

Both Neil sisters are appreciative of Third Haven’s support. “I would like to thank you, on behalf of myself and my family, for your generous contribution to my family,” writes Maggie. “As a working student who is on financial aid and has three younger siblings to think about, the money really goes a long way and “Thank you for everything you and the Scholarship Committee have done for my sisters and me so far,” says Nora. “We are very grateful.”



**Brandt and Evan
scholarship beneficiaries**

Evan Claggett, who has been a Quaker since birth, is studying marine biology at Coastal Carolina University, in Conway, S.C., where he is a freshman. “I know that the Quaker faith has done a lot for me, and I would like to have the opportunity to expand my education,” he wrote when applying for financial aid. “By doing so, I believe that I would be able to show people just how...awesome and caring my religion is.”

After thanking the Meeting for its “generous contribution toward my college education,” Evan went on to say, “...being a member of Quaker Meeting has been a great honor and privilege for me. I plan to take and spread my Quaker values wherever life takes me. Knowing that I’ll always have such a wonderful religion to fall back on gives me that much more of a positive outlook on life as I start this new chapter in my life.”

Like Nora Neil, Sarah Thompson has transferred to chart a new educational course. She has moved from the San Francisco Bay area to Tacoma, Washington. At the urging of a very good friend from George School, she is enrolled in an accelerated nine-month program at the Seattle Campus of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts. “This program requires quite a bit of time and energy,” admits Sarah, “but it’s something I’ve always wanted to do, and I’m incredibly happy in this learning environment.” To augment her studies, she just found a job in Tacoma at a small bistro as a server, and will be helping with food preparation in her free time

“Thank you and everyone who helped with the scholarship aid so much,” she said in a recent letter to the Scholarship Committee. “I am incredibly grateful to have this opportunity, and your assistance is greatly appreciated.” In closing, she wrote, “Again, thank you for helping me have this amazing experience. I’m unbelievably happy here and am definitely much closer to reaching my dream.”

Now you know what some of our students are doing in Quaker boarding school and college and how they are faring. And just as they appreciate our Meeting’s support, the Scholarship Committee appreciates the Meeting’s, Members’ and Attenders’ contributions that enable us to keep supporting them.

submitted by Peter Howell

First Day School....where it all starts



Opening Day September 2013

from our website

"The New Jim Crow" Book Discussion Series:

"I want to discuss the race problem tonight and I want to discuss it very honestly. I still believe that freedom is the bonus you receive for telling the truth. 'Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.' And I do not see how we will ever solve the turbulent problem of race confronting our nation until there is an honest confrontation with it and a willing search for the truth and a willingness to admit the truth when we discover it."

—Martin Luther King, Jr. March 14, 1968

Now and then a book comes along that sounds an alarm; challenging prevailing ways of viewing and interpreting our world and exposing a profound injustice that is hidden in plain sight. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander is such a book. But it is more than that. It is a call to conscience, a call to action.

This call to conscience and action had struck a chord nationwide, across lines of race, class, ethnicity and religion. Its core message has been embraced by the young and the old, and by people from all walks of life. Law school students; seminary students; college students and high school students have pored over its pages, discussing and debating its contents and implications. Faith-based study groups have been formed in places of worship nationwide.

Third Haven's Library Committee and Testimonies and Concerns committee are joining together to organize a book study group this fall. We will be using the **American Friends Service Committee's study guide** with some help from other study guides available on-line. Following the advice that a diverse group will stimulate discussion and offer different points of view, we plan to reach out to other local organizations with the invitation to join our discussion.



A minimum of 4 meetings is needed to fully discuss the topics, but 5 meetings seem to be optimal. The first of the 5 meetings was held at THFM on Sunday, the 29th of September from 12:00 to 2:00. The following 4 meetings will be held from 12:00 to 2:00 onn October 20th, November 3rd and 17th, and December 1st. The Third Haven **library** owns two copies of this book and the local public library

is available to order Inter-Library Loans, which may take a week or two. Please contact either **Tania Hamboyan Harrison** or **Leigh Anne Dodge** to register or if you have any questions. Late comers are welcome.

If you wonder, as we do, how we in the USA have managed to create, nearly overnight, a penal system unprecedented in world history that is filled largely with poor people of color, even as millions here at home and around the world imagine that we have "transcended" race with the election of President Barack Obama, please join us as we read the book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander.



Testimonies and Concerns members plan future activities



Cooler weather moves the meeting



Rob welcomes visitors



Your seat is waiting.