



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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March 2016 NEWSLETTER

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Fourteenth Day, Second Month 2016

Candace Shattuck, Co-Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:40 a.m. after a brief period of silence.

Attending: Twenty-seven people attended: Dawn Atwater, Gwen Beegle, Cynthia Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Benita Cooper, Robert Gladney, Jeanne Halpin, Marsie Hawkinson, Martha Holthausen, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Adrienne Rudge, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, Dona Sorce, Paige Tilghman, Ben Tilghman, Bob Wack, Robert Wieland, Anny Williams, Winslow Womack, Mary Yancey, Ralph Young.

Comments on Second Query (Meeting for Worship)

A member noted how special it is to prayerfully consider issues.

Minutes for First Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business approved.

Clerk's Desk

The refugee letter written by Testimonies and Concerns went to the county council, the mayor, state and national representatives and the United States President. T&C desires to publish the letter on the Third Haven website, in the Star Democrat, and to Southern quarter meetings and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Membership Recorder's Report Received

Third Haven Friends Meeting

Annual Report – Recorder

February 14, 2016

In 2015 Third Haven experienced greater than average activity in membership. Our current membership stands at 169 Friends, a pleasant place to be.

On the happy side, we have taken in 12 new members including 3 children. These Friends are: Christine Brooks and Ted Corbett, Amy



Owsley and Ryan Ewing and their children Liam and Finley, Jen Coleman and her son Guiseppe Colburn, Jack Coady, John Turner, and Susan Dickinson and Bill Schauer.

During the year one of our members, Eleanora Neil became 21 years old. For the Recorder this means that she now has her own page in our book of members. In 2016 Brandt Bethke has already achieved this milestone and Evan Claggett will join him in July.

Unfortunately, we lost two long time members. Jean Elizabeth Wheeler, Betty Jean, a lifelong member and supporter of Third Haven died on February 19, 2015. Over the years she served the meeting in many capacities including as treasurer for a few years and also as a Trustee. I'm sure she was also involved with First Day School at one point and she retained her interest in the plantings and grounds well into her 8th decade. On August 23, 2015 Rosalie Molly Bond died. Molly, also a long time member, served as treasurer for many years and wrote a guide book on this topic which was published by the Yearly Meeting. She was active on other committees along the way such as overseers, budget & finance, facilities use. We were sad to see both of these members go.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsie Hawkinson

Recorder

Received with thanks for Marsie's efforts.

The question was raised whether the Meeting contacts members who are turning 21 in any way to acknowledge this milestone. Overseers agreed to address this.

Outreach Committee Report Received



The committee's previous focus on hired speakers became too expensive so the committee turned its focus to speakers from the meeting community.

The first George Fox Forum with local speakers and a TED (Technology Entertainment Design) talk went well. Attendees found the speakers authentic and appreciated the chance to talk together about their spirituality.

Approximately 60 people from around county and various churches attended, including many Quakers. 10 people were lost due to the snow postponement. 11 previously attended events at Third Haven.

Four forums are scheduled for January, February, March, and

April.

The February 26th topic is Equality, Rob Weiland, Bob Marshall, Bob Wack and Tania Hamboyan Harrison will speak with Molly Burgoyne moderating. Included is a talk from Quaker Speak, "Palestine Israel."

The original outreach budget was \$1000. \$1050 was spent for George Fox Forum publicity. Thanks to negotiated accommodation by the Star Democrat, another \$200 will cover 2 ads for Feb., March and April events. Pete Howell and others wrote the ads and materials. Additional money (roughly \$200) for the permanently usable name tags will come from the contingency fund.

Dawn Atwater

Property & Grounds Update on Various Projects Report Received

Property and Grounds activities include a number of topics:

The Old Meeting House ramp previously approved by Meeting for Business has been approved by Maryland Historic Trust. Bid process is in the and presently the cost looks to be \$15-25,000. Earth moving and construction are likely to start in the spring. P&G is moving forward making the Common Room bathrooms unisex and handicapped accessible and threshing questions concerning HC accessibility at the door.

Boundary areas of the property need attention. After 60 years of remaining wild for animals and birds, vines are now killing the trees. Look behind Thread Haven near the flowing stream on our property to see the end result if this is let go. Taking out vines on the Eastern boundary and then adding plantings would eventually benefit the animals. Eric Buell of the University of Maryland Extension Service suggested the Maryland Conservation Corp helping eradicate the vines. If there are no objections, P&G plans to pursue this option.

Common Room restoration proposals from two committees have yet to achieve meeting unity.

Robert Wieland



A member noted the need for evaluation of the Brick Meeting House windows. P&G plans an assessment and cost estimate.

Members expressed concern about fire escape safety for the First Day School classroom particularly the bottom landing. The concern was noted.

New Business

The Carriage Shed Sale anticipated date is April 30, 2016. Committees at Third Haven as well as Asbury Methodist Church will work together with Asbury sharing in the proceeds for their projects.

The meeting closed at 12:30 p.m. in silent worship.

D. Rein, Recorder

Important Points:

Membership annual report

Outreach George Fox Forum

Property and Grounds project update

Announcements

<http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

First Day School has been active and productive through the winter months with lots of help from committee members, Beth Mufson, Cathy Thompson, Leigh Anne Dodge and

Katie Theeke. The children are now addressing the Peace Testimony and what it means to be peaceful. We are following the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting curriculum, The Peaceable Kingdom. We will be making Spring birdfeeders on March 5 and have another Faith and Play storytelling on March 20. Easter is March 27th this year, so please mark your calendars to enjoy a special Easter Egg Hunt on the Meeting grounds that Sunday. If you have any questions regarding our First Day School, please contact Susan Claggett, Clerk FDS. 410-200-6345

Testimonies and Concerns

The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Communications Staff has reviewed our refugee crisis letter, and it is now published on the PYM website. <http://www.pym.org/third-haven-friends-monthly-meeting-refugee-crisis-letter/>

Do you believe Maryland should welcome refugees fleeing violence in Syria? Peace Committee members of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting are working with the organization Maryland Welcomes Refugees to help Senator Jamie Raskin obtain signatures from fellow legislators for his letter to Governor Hogan endorsing the settlement in Maryland of refugees from the Syrian civil war. You can help us! Please visit www.md4refugees.org to learn more and contact your representatives about your support for Senator Raskin's letter. We are also coordinating volunteers willing to make in-person visits to legislators in Annapolis to obtain signatures. Please contact Erinn Mansour at 410-961-1332 or email her at erinn@campmansour.com to learn how you can help us show our support for refugee settlement in Maryland.

“Justice Reinvestment”—a “smart-on-crime” plan to simultaneously reduce prisons’ population, save taxpayer funds, and reinvest these funds in programs proven to reduce repeat offenses—was created under President George W. Bush and continues today with bipartisan support. Through a public-private partnership supported by Pew Trusts and the federal government, it supports states in reviewing their existing correctional system and identifying ways to improve it

In 2015, Maryland took an important first step towards Justice Reinvestment with SB6021, creating the Maryland Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council and joining 26 other states that have engaged in this approach to examine and improve their correctional systems.

As required by SB602, this council used a “data-driven approach to develop a statewide framework of sentencing and corrections policies to...reduce the state’s incarcerated population, reduce spending on corrections, and reinvest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism.” In addition to data review and guidance through the Pew Institute, they held four stakeholder meetings at different Maryland locations in 2015. Based on months of public meetings, hearing from victims, corrections experts, organizations and citizens from around the state, the council concluded its first year’s study in December 2015 and published its 33-page final report recommending legislation—the Justice Reinvestment Act to improve Maryland corrections. By reinvesting those funds in alternatives to incarceration, our state’s crime rate could be reduced, taxpayer funds could be saved, and communities and families strengthened. For

all these reasons, the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform strongly recommends support and passage of the 2016 Maryland Justice Reinvestment Act. Now is the time to contact our state legislators and ask them to support the Justice Reinvestment Act!

FOR MORE INFORMATION See the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform website:
www.ma4jr.org/justice-reinvestment/

April 2 (Saturday)

Midshore Riverkeepers Conservancy

Calling on all local Friends who are also friends of our Easton environment! I will be leading a Quaker Clean Stream effort to pick up trash along a tributary to the Tred Avon. All like minded folks and kids are invited to join in with me and the Midshore Riverkeepers Conservancy on Saturday April 2nd. We will gather in the THF parking lot at 9:15. We should finish well before noon. Simply bring yourself (and preferably a youngster) and some waterproof boots. We'll supply trash bags and gloves and a guide to the site. If you want to join in, please give me a call at 410-310-1431 with your intentions. Thanks, John Schreiner



Join together for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions on March 19, 2016 at Arch Street Meeting House, Philadelphia, Pa.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has changed from conducting Meeting for Business as a representative assembly to sessions continuing the work of annual sessions. In an effort to be more inclusive, you and all PYM Friends, every single one of us of every age, are encouraged to join together for a day of Worship, Fellowship, Fun, Learning and Service (or, as staff refers to it, Meeting for WiFFLS – pronounced “wiffles”) at Continuing Sessions. Sessions is where we experience the strength of who we are in gathered community.

Meeting for WiFFLS at Continuing Sessions includes Meeting for:

Worship: We will worship in the manner of Friends, and our motion throughout the day will be in the spirit of worship.

Fellowship: When we know one another and share our experience of the Divine in our lives, we are strengthened individually and as a body. Continuing Sessions includes opportunities to be with our old friends and make new ones.

Fun: We will laugh, play, move, and enjoy ourselves during All Together Now and throughout the day.

Learning: In worship and in active learning activities planned with the Undoing Racism group, we will continue working on our query: What is God calling PYM Quakers to do next to end racism and white supremacy in the Religious Society of Friends and beyond? To round off the day, the William Penn Lecture is at 7 PM.

Service: We will connect with one another around common concerns as we seek spiritual deepening in Work and Witness Groups, working on environmental and social justice, spiritual nurture, decarceration, education equity, monthly meeting management, and more.

We will be engaged in our community and have fun with Friends of all ages!



Adults, Children, and youth ages infant through 101 will have their own programs, and we'll all gather for All Together Time and lunch.

Registration Details

The day begins with check in and coffee beginning at 8:30 a.m.. You can reserve a boxed lunch during online registration before March 10th or bring your own. In the evening, grab a Friend and pick up a slice of pizza in the neighborhood or go out to dinner, and we'll reconvene for the William Penn lecture at 7:00 p.m.

Registration , details and updates are on the continuing sessions pages at:

<http://www.pym.org/continuing-sessions/>

Draft Schedule

8:30 a.m. Check in, Coffee and Light Refreshments

9:30 a.m. Opening Worship and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

12:00 Worship and All-Together Time (All Ages)

12:30 p.m. Lunch- Order by March 10 in online registration or bring your own

2:00 p.m. Undoing Racism and Work and Witness Groups 1

3:30 p.m. Undoing Racism and Work and Witness Groups 2

4:45 p.m. Worship

5:15 p.m. Dinner on one's own

7:00 p.m. [William Penn Lecture with Mary Crauderueff](#): Spirit Works: Exploring Quaker Leadership

Third Haven people attending the Asbury United Methodist Church Shrove Tuesday benefit pancake supper.



Help the Food Pantry!



Katie's Peru Adventure Continues



George Fox Forum: Equality



On Friday, February 26th, Friends and visitors gathered in our Common Room for the second George Fox Forum; the topic this night was “Equality”. The panelists were Bob Marshall, myself (Tania Hamboyan Harrison), and Rob Wieland, with Bob Wack on hand as an alternate panelist. The evening began with a brief moment of centering silence, then a hearty meal of soups, breads, and cheese pizza (requested by one of the panelists due to dietary restrictions). Planned next on the agenda was the viewing of a Quaker Speak talk about Israel and Palestine, but technological difficulties prevailed, and the panelists began their talks early. Molly Burgoyne introduced the panelists and gave a brief introduction about what the Testimony of Equality can mean for Quakers. As a change from the first George Fox Forum, the panelists were asked to present their spiritual journeys and then speak about what the Testimony of Equality has meant to their lives, in one segment instead of two.

Bob Marshall took the lead, giving a heart-felt description of his spiritual journey from Catholicism (which he found un-fulfilling spiritually), to a period of spiritual lacking and barrenness, finally ending with a leading to attend his first Meeting for Worship. He spoke about the challenges of parenting and how the Quaker idea of finding “that of God in everyone” has guided him. One memory stood out for him. One day, when his daughter was in conflict with a classmate; he challenged her, “Do you see that of God in your classmate?” She paused before replying and then said, “Yes.” He also spoke about how when Quakers sometimes pause after someone has spoken, we are trying to discern

that of God in what was said. His talk helped set the tone for the evening, and then it was my turn to speak.

I began by explaining that I grew up disabled from juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis and had, like Bob, been raised Catholic. Unlike Bob, I loved church as a child. I loved Jesus, and his teachings. I loved church so much that I thought I wanted to become a priest when I grew up. When I shared this with my father, his reaction was not positive, and he told me I couldn't be a priest because I was a girl. I didn't understand why the Church would not allow me to dedicate my life to the God I loved, and thus began my first break from the Catholic church. The second one occurred in high school, when a friend came out to me as bisexual—which I hadn't known was an option until that point. Once I realized the truth of my sexuality—that I wasn't straight as I'd assumed, but was definitely bisexual—that was my second break with the Catholic church. When the time came for me to get Confirmed, which is a sacrament in the Church where one formally becomes a member of the Roman Catholic Church, I realized that I could possibly excuse lying to friends, family, strangers, but I drew the line at lying to God. I did not get Confirmed, and moved on for a few years to the Episcopal Church.

Unfortunately, that church didn't feel right for me, either, so one day in 2004—shortly after marrying my husband—I took an online quiz called Belief-O-Matic. The results were 100% Liberal Quaker. And that's how I ended up at Third Haven, where I was immediately welcomed and didn't feel like I had to hide my sexuality or be a different gender to fully participate in the Meeting.

Recently, my focus has been on anti-racism inner work, primarily through Facebook discussions centered around Black Lives Matter. I also created a Facebook page called Disabled & Proud (<https://www.facebook.com/proud2Bdisabled/>) to encourage acceptance and celebration of disabilities of all kinds. Through these online discussions with people who are different than me, I've come to believe that equality, at its best, results in a person being able to live a life of Integrity, of being able to live as your true self.

I concluded my talk with the following thoughts: “As a Quaker, my faith rests upon the foundation that every person—every single person—can commune with the Divine directly. We are all equal in God's eyes, even if we're not equal in American society. And being able to celebrate who we authentically are enriches our whole community. This is true whether you're a black person who can celebrates being black, a disabled person who realizes that your disability is a different way of experiencing life and not necessarily something shameful, a transgender person who has the strength to live your life as who YOU are instead of who other people try to force you to be, and so on. We Quakers have a phrase, 'Let your life speak'. I hope my life has spoken to you tonight. Thank you.”

Rob Wieland spoke next; speaking first about growing up in the Christian Science tradition and then finding his way to Quakerism. His talk focused on how there is always more to learn about Equality, that no matter how long we've been working on unlearning racism or other prejudices, there is always more to learn. He shared an anecdote about

seeing racist attitudes in his family growing up and ended his talk with this John Woolman quote: *“There is a principle which is pure placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names; it is, however, pure, and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion, nor excluded from any, when the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, they become brethren.”*

The evening continued with questions from the audience to the panelists, then we three panelists joined tables for a more intimate discussion of equality. We ended the evening full in spirit and stomach.

The next George Fox Forum will focus on “Integrity” and is planned for Friday, March 18th at 6pm.



Fellowship All Around



