



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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June 2020 NEWSLETTER

‘When all the ordinary divides and patterns are shattered, people step up to become their brothers’ keepers. And that purposefulness and connectedness bring joy even amidst death, chaos, fear, and loss.’ *Rebecca Solnit*

In Light of Current Events

Our hearts ache along with the family and friends of George Floyd, Ahmed Arbury, and Breonna Taylor. Tragically, these are just the most recent victims of a pattern of systemic racial profiling, undue use of force, murder at the hands of police, and the ineffectiveness of our society in preventing these outrages.

As Quakers, our core belief is that we are all connected, seeing that of the Light, God, in all of us and in all of creation. Because we are all connected, we believe in deep, abiding justice on all levels. True racial, social, economic and environmental justice are all required to address the tragedies of our nation.

We cannot work for a better future for our planet and all life without addressing the deep, systemic harm caused by colonialism, slavery, and racism.

As Quakers, we must dedicate ourselves to a better understanding of these issues, by listening carefully to the needs of those most affected.

COVID-19 has now killed more than 100,000 in the US, and a quarter of those deaths are Black Americans due to injustices that have robbed the Black community of health and well-being. As Friends, we commit to working for Truth and to dismantling white supremacy within ourselves and within our communities as we work for all those who share our home, our Earth.

We stand together with all people who believe in knowing others by the “content of their hearts, not the color of their skin”. We pledge to work towards redemption and reconciliation of our collective broken hearts.

Third Haven Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

10th Day, Fifth Month, 2020

Opening Silent Worship Molly Brian, Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30 a.m. with a brief period of silence.

Attending: 25 attended: Mark Beck, Gwen Beegle, Molly Brian, Lorraine Claggett, Tom Corl, Robert Day, Stephanie French, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Katherine Johnson, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Connie Lewis, Steven Meixner, Priscilla Morris, Beth Mufson, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, Jonathan Slocum, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, John Turner, Kevin Walsh. Aiyana Zinkand, Mark Beck, Ed Danser, Deb Danser, Bill Schauer, Susan Dickinson, Dona Sorce, Joyce Macijeski, Betsy Simmons, Barbara Bowser, Catherine Cripps [36]

Comments on Fifth Query (read at Meeting for Worship)

Education query being read on Mother's day is appropriate because teaching is motherly. Worship and Ministry is considering adult education offerings.

Approval of minutes from Fourth Month business meeting **Approved**

Clerks Desk-

The spiritual state of the meeting report per Philadelphia Yearly Meeting may also include changes from the last 2 months. The clerk will add an addendum to our 2019 report previously presented in January. Minutes from Worship and Ministry will be made available for the clerk's consideration and the committee will be consulted on the addendum once written.

Zoom use for the future and purchase of an account for Third Haven may be appropriate. A Business account for a year for 10 hosts would be \$2000 with more hosts for additional fees. Month by month would cost \$20 per month. Perhaps surveying the membership for current licenses would cover our needs. Putting a Zoom meeting schedule on a central calendar would inform people. PYM offers access, but it's complicated to access on their schedule. We may need further information on our options based on information and experiences of various members. Consideration will be continued on June agenda.

Ellen Silbergard membership verification from previous meeting has been sought and will be passed to Pastoral Care.

Budget & Finance: Presentation of Proposed Budget for FY 2020-21 – *Bill Lane*

A draft worksheet was presented and will be provided with announcements for consideration. It compares previous year, this year thus far, and the proposed budget. This is up for decision at the June Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in preparation for Fiscal Year 2020-21 beginning July 1, 2020. Concerns include contribution levels and a larger than previous budget for next year. Anticipated income is questionable under current circumstances. Attender contributions have been generous. Member contribution increases are requested for both this year and next year.

New Business

Common Room use should be avoided due to needs for cleaning and social distancing. There have been no facilities use requests.

Future meetings at Third Haven may be held outside with appropriate social distancing.

The grounds are open for outside use with social distancing.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 12:15p.m.

D. Rein, Recorder

Virtual Meetings for Worship

During April, 2020 our community in general and our Quaker Community in particular switched to a quarantine mode in order to protect ourselves from the virulent flu pandemic. Third Haven buildings and grounds are closed until further notice. Our meetings for worship, First Day School as well as committees and meeting for business have avoided direct human contact using virtual computer and electronic technology. Some have quibbled that “it isn’t as good.” We have chosen to protect our vulnerable population. Contact 3rdhaven@gmail.com for links to virtual meetings and connections to technology help.

Faith & Play are sharing stories on their new YouTube channel - they are adding a new one every week. Families can enjoy some of their favorite Quaker stories by some wonderful storytellers here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWD4MjHBRhYEM8mFwJj911A>

Updates from the Virtual Upstairs of the Meetinghouse

For First Day School on June 7 (10:15 AM), Susan Claggett will be sharing stories about Quaker leaders George Fox and Margaret Fell, helping to further our understanding of the roots of Quakerism. These stories will lead into a fun and collective summer activity for our families (and all others in the Meeting). Details on this community activity coming soon! First Day School will begin at 10:15, for about thirty minutes. It couldn’t be easier to dial in, plus, we get to attend from our couch in PJs! Contact 3rdhaven@gmail.com for link to Zoom.

For First Day School on June 14 (10:15), join Susan Claggett and Amy Owsley to celebrate the start of summer with a virtual scavenger hunt! Details to follow.

Moving Up — On June 14 (at around 11:00), at the Rise of Meeting, Third Haven will be celebrating children of the Meeting who are “moving up” to a new level of education, e.g., high school, college, or middle school graduations. Please plan on joining in the celebration around 11 AM (after announcements) to hear about the accomplishments and future plans of our bright, young Meeting members. If you know of someone who should be celebrated, please let Amy or Susan know. Thank you!

June 14 [Sunday]

Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business follows Meeting for Worship and Moving Up festivities. Use the Sunday Meeting for Worship Zoom link above to join.

We will have an open discussion during meeting for worship with attention to business on June 14 regarding easing the restrictions brought about by the Coronavirus Pandemic. As you read these basic thoughts, many of you will have many questions. How will we hear vocal ministry? Do we hold zoom meeting for worship at the same time? Where can we park to make it easier for people to carry their chairs in? How do we do Quaker hospitality?

1- Meet outside around the area of Old Meeting House

2- Open Common Room for bathroom use only

Dee: Add Common Room exterior doors propped open.

3- Signage with guidelines placed on Common Room doors and near outside setup

4- Flags 6 feet apart to show where people should put chairs. (chairs should be brought in I think to start with). Folks bring masks in too although having a few extra not a bad idea.

5-Elicit advice about setting up and caring for grounds using teams.

- 6- Use Committees to call and get rough estimate of those who feel comfortable attending
- 7- W&M to greet people and help them with guideline questions
- 8- No shared food but people can bring their own drinks
- 9- Start with no more than 25 people. Fill in spaces from inside out and those on outside area leave first.

Connecting

We invite all members to help us maintain our connections with each other despite physical distances. Would you be willing to call just two people from our meeting this week and have a brief chat about anything that comes to mind...the weather, pets, baking, family etc.? Any problems needing attention can be referred to Pastoral Care. Next week we'll do the same thing with two different people and so on, week after week. Gradually the positive virus of good connection will circulate throughout our Meeting community and keep us strong.

The Third Haven Newsletter circulates during the first week of each month to enable readers to review the minutes of the most recent meeting for worship with attention to business.

Directory Update: A new directory has been compiled by the joint effort of Marie Leonard, Editor, Dona Sorce and Adrienne Rudge of the Pastoral Care Committee, and Tatiana Harrison, Website Manager. A .pdf version suitable to print or install on computer, cell phone or tablet has been circulated to all members and attenders by e-mail. Printing will be done at a later date. The same directory is posted on the Meeting's website. Contact 3rdhaven@gmail.com for password access.

Honoring Our Youth and Their Wonderful Teachers, Moving On Up June 14th

Throughout the year our young people and their dedicated First Day School teachers under the leadership of Amy Owsley, Susan Claggett and First Day School contributing families have explored many important Quaker topics and invited new families to join us. As a result of these fun, interesting activities and creative leaders First Day School is booming!

First Day School hosted our second annual Family Open House on Friday, and we were thrilled to welcome 20 children and their families! Everyone enjoyed a kid-friendly supper (think: mac & cheese, chicken nuggets, applesauce, and popcorn - along with Dona's delicious chili and plates of fruits and veggies), and then the children joined our First Day School teachers, Cherie and Kristen, on a dusk-time bug hunt. The kids took lanterns into the woods to view Third Haven's grounds in the near dark, reading books about silhouettes and shadows, and collecting little creatures as they explored. Meanwhile in the Common Room, parents, Meeting members, and our wonderful guest speaker, PYM's Melinda Wenner Bradley, gathered in a circle to discuss "How to Raise your Children in the Light." Candace offered her summary of the history of Third Haven and our relevancy today, and Melinda shared with us her wisdom about children's spiritual lives. Parents spoke aloud a yearning for connection, desire to deny an emptiness, to find community, to eagerly step into the new. We all left our time together with hearts full.

Susan Claggett pulled from our Faith & Play shelves a large, flat wooden rolling bin. When she removed the cover, much to the children's delight, sand was revealed: a little square of desert

for her to tell the story of Abraham and Sarah, called “The Great Family.” This is one of the "Godly Play” stories Third Haven has ready for our kids; it’s one of a series that helps the children become familiar with the stories that inform our beliefs.



Nature play and learning are a regular part of First Day School and Little Spices.

First Day School debuted our first *Peacemakers* series, led by Kulveen Virdee and Lisa Kluepfel - lessons to give kids a toolbox for creating inward peace. The topic explored how to manage big emotions - what can you do when your heart feels hurt? or angry? or is racing with excitement? We read together the book, "In My Heart: A Book of Feelings", and shared how each of us feels better when upset. Ideas were hugs, yummy food, breathing calmly, exercising, and beating drums. And another tool we explored is using a little stress ball to squeeze. With balloons, rice and copious amounts of flour, our group of nine kids crafted and decorated homemade stress balls - and, boy, do they work well!

First Day School began with an honoring of International Women’s Day - each of the dozen kids offered the story of a special woman in his/her life. After that sweet sharing, the kids grouped by age. The younger ones explored their “magic breath” with Lisa, starting with straws, then by balancing stuffed animals on their tummies to watch their breath while laying down, blowing bubbles, trying out yoga poses, and sketching their breath as color and motion. Meanwhile, our older kids considered with Kulveen the link between our emotions and how our bodies feel. We discussed how stillness and focus in the body can bring equanimity in the mind. Kulveen showed us different examples of praying beads (e.g., meditation bracelets, rosaries, misbahah), explaining how many people use these beads to unite the mind and body in stillness and prayer. The kids then took their turn, and constructed beautiful strings of wool yarn and wooden beads. These prayer beads can be added to the growing toolbox our Third Haven kids are each creating that help them find their inner stillness and peace.

Exploring the Testimony of Stewardship: The morning had dawned grey and cold for the Little SPICES's last fall class...but we hardly minded, so warm and cozy was the Common Room filled with bird calls and baby giggles. Our teachers, Dona Sorce and Kulveen Virdee, gathered our group into a circle to talk about the needs and care of our feathered friends. Joining them was new local business owner, Rhonda Matterson of Wild Birds, who led us outside to make simple bird feeders out of bagels, bark butter, and bird seed. The children hung their feeders in spots along the Common Room so we can spy the action through the winter. And Wild Birds donated Third Haven a new feeder, which we was hang near the Caretaker's House to help Clay in his efforts to attract birds. Also featured were weaving with Heidi Wetzel and exploring Peace with Jeanne Halpin and Little Spices nature and mud kitchen adventures.