

FFAD Friendly Words

Spring, 2009

Warm greetings F/friends. Thanks to each of you who submitted information for the news sheet, and special thanks to the FFAD Continuing Committee, and Ghana Gathering Planning Committee for the information immediately below which they forward in summary of their efforts.

FFAD in 2009 and 2010

- The Fellowship will not hold an annual gathering in 2009 as we plan for 2010. **The FFAD Continuing Committee and the Ghana Planning Committee will hold a joint day-long meeting on June 14, 2009 at Chester Monthly Meeting, located at 24th and Chestnut Streets in Chester. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m.** The purpose of the meeting is to confirm and share information about the trip. Members are most welcome to join this meeting, although we will not have plenary sessions or a program.
- ***Remember to pay dues*** Although FFAD will not hold a gathering in 2009, we are looking for members to pay their \$ 25 annual dues that are normally paid at our annual gathering. Please send dues to: FFAD, c/o Francine Cheeks; 1515 Cherry Street; Philadelphia, PA 19102. It is a challenge to fund the planned trip to Africa. Although members will have to pay their own airfare and hotel costs, there are others administrative costs to cover.
- ***The Fellowship in Africa*** FFAD plans to take a group of its members to Accra, Ghana in 2010 to join with Hill House Monthly/Yearly Meeting during the first two weeks of April. The visit coincides with the Ghana meeting's annual gathering. We hope to be able to have some Friends from other countries in West or Southwest Africa to join us. Details are still being worked on about costs and the gathering program. The Ghana Planning Committee clerk, Deborah Saunders, **estimates** that the trip may cost \$ 3,000 per participant. Members of the committee are working on proposals requesting funding from several Quaker foundations to cover scholarships for Africans and administrative trip costs. If you know of

possible sources of funds, please let the Treasurer, Francine Cheeks (FCheeks@afsc.org) know. We will share more information as details are confirmed.

In addition to holding programmed and unprogrammed worship sessions at this gathering with Hill House Meeting, we are planning for Bible Study, panel discussions, full plenaries, intergenerational activities, including visits to several major cultural tourists sites: W.E.B Dubois Center, Black Start Square, Independence Square, Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, Elmina or Cape Coast Castle.

Publications About Ghana. General information that F/friends may find informative

US Department of State has a *Background Note* which provides a perspective on the people, history, politics and economy of Ghana. The URL is <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2860.htm>

Ghana in Pictures, 2nd edition by Yvette LaPierre, Visual Geography Series, 2004. Although the book is geared toward young people, the information is a quick snapshot for adults, too, with interest-holding photos.

Yes We Did! Accomplishments and updates from F/friends

F/friends have said they really enjoy knowing what's happening in the lives of people they have met at FFAD Gatherings. Over the past year I received information from several people and have published their offerings below. So, some noteworthy events, in addition to the election and inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama as the forty-fourth President of the United States (*Yes!*):

Publication of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice* by Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniels. Information about the book is on the website: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/fit-for-freedom> The website lists upcoming dates when Vanessa will be speaking.

Also, read the enlightening discussion of the book and the authors in the Philadelphia Inquirer:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/magazine/20090205_Quaker_mythbusters.html

Approval of Sankofa Freedom Academy as a Charter School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Dr. Ayesha Imani, Founder and CEO. Opening in September, 2009,

Sankofa Freedom Academy, within a loving, nurturing environment, builds intergenerational communities of scholars, educators, and activists. For more information, or to apply see their website:

<http://sankofafreedomacademy.org/index.html>

Joan Hope Crawford in January, 2009 enrolled in a two-year Spiritual Guidance Training Program facilitated by the Siena Dominican Center in Racine, Wisconsin. She facilitated retreats on womanist spirituality this spring in Techy, Illinois, and has scheduled a retreat on prayer for this October. For additional information on her work, email Joan at joansanto@hotmail.com

Dr. Hal Weaver has been very busy over the last year. In addition to traveling to Asia, and attending his daughter's graduation from Columbia Law School, he continues to serve on the AFSC Board and offer courses at Pendle Hill. Among his many projects over the last year: delivery and publication of the 2008 Weed Lecture, "Facing Unbearable Truths" *available through FGC Bookstore*; a Pendle Hill course: Black Fire: Black Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights. For information about Hal's involvement in the Black Film Project and the China Film Project, go to the website http://www.chinafilmproject.org/index_files/Page617.html

Hal Weaver's current projects include continuing work on a play using Bayard Rustin's own words, "You Don't Have to Ride Jim Crow," and he has convened a small working group under the auspices of New England Yearly Meeting's (NYEM) Ministry and Counsel's Working Party on Racism to work on a possible Justice Testimony for the NEYM.

Hal has a milestone birthday (75th!) coming up on June 13th. Many happy returns, Hal!

Darlene Walker participated in *two* triathlons this spring. In the first, on April 26 she placed first in her age group. On May 17, despite torrential rain, high winds and very cold weather, she and her daughter completed the triathlon, and Darlene finished Fourth. Congratulations, Darlene!

On August 24, 2009, Darlene travels to Ghana to continue a project she developed through her organization, Prepare International, Inc. -- "**Hands Across the Water: Reach One, Teach One, Ghana Kids.**" Darlene says the following about the project. "With the support of 33 friends and family, the project will be able to send 30 children from poor remote villages in the cities of Dodowa, Minya, and Yilo Krobo to public school in September 2009, providing 3 uniforms, textbooks, exercise books, and shoes for just \$250 per year (a five year commitment). I am very excited to launch the first phase of this project and ask that FFAD keep all that we hope to achieve in prayer."

Dr. Jean Harris received funding from 4Culture, a King County, Washington agency in support of her book on the history of Yesler Terrace, the first integrated public housing project in the United States.

A Word From the Editor

Dear F/friends

I have always enjoyed receiving news about F/friends I met through the Fellowship and at Fellowship Gatherings, and it was for this reason that I committed to edit a news sheet. I thank those of you who have submitted items for the news sheet and those who wrote to say that you enjoy this way of communicating. Although I will no longer be editing the news sheet, I am confident that you will be able to stay in touch by way of the FFAD and People of Color listserves. Perhaps one of you may feel led to edit a news sheet in the future.

Warm Regards,
Jean Harris