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Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

May 2010

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What's Happening

Community Lunch ... and more, on 2 May

Sunday, 2 May, being the first First Day of the month, brings the Hospitality Committee's Community Lunch. It's **not** a potluck, but a meal that the committee provides for everyone. This month there's an added attraction: the new building committees will give an update on the project and the campaign. Shirley and Charlie Philips will moderate with a slide show and reports of progress.

A prayer request relayed by David Watt

Last month, I had a chance to meet with a delegation of Muslim clerics from Pakistan. The delegates, who were here to learn more about church-state relations in the United States, occupied a wide range of positions on the theological spectrum. Some were well to the left; others were fairly conservative. All of them were brilliant.

The delegates told me that they are certain that the policies that United States is currently pursuing in Pakistan and Afghanistan are not working well at all. Those policies are, rather, resulting in debacle after disaster after catastrophe. The policies are producing a great deal of useless suffering.

The members of the delegation asked me to pass along the message that they had given me to other Quakers and that I ask you to pray for peace in Afghanistan and Pakistan. So that's what I'm doing.

David Harrington Watt

Meeting on the lower lot

On Sunday, April 25th at 9 AM we held our first meeting for worship on the lower lot since the Summer of 2009. Our plan is to hold these meetings on the fourth Sunday of each warm-weather month until the new meetinghouse is built.

When we arrived for the meeting it was raining and we planned to cancel our plans and move inside until Dion and Christine appeared with a large tent open at the sides. We decided to meet after all. So as huddled masses under the tent we delighted in the outdoor meeting despite the weather.

In addition to several wonderful messages, we heard from a robin, a mourning dove, a cardinal, a blue jay, a winter wren, and a red-bellied woodpecker. Our next lower lot meeting will be on May 23rd at 9 AM, weather permitting (or not).

Jon Landau

Friendship with Weavers Way Co-op



Last December George Benz and Carolyn Schodt met with Glen Bergson of Weavers Way Co-op to give an early neighborly welcome to the new co-op store front in Chestnut Hill. We shared our plans for our new meetinghouse and learned that Weavers Way had considered the lower lot in their search for new space. Glen heard of our interest in becoming a center for learning about living sustainably. His recommendation was to include the capacity for viewing films, an important learning tool and community builder, and a needed resource in the Chestnut Hill/Mt Airy area. We learned of the connection we share with Awbury Arboretum, where farming takes place using seedlings started by inmates in the Philadelphia prison system. We are pleased to note that Weavers Way General Membership Meeting is taking place at the Meetinghouse on Sunday, May 23, beginning with a barbeque at 4pm.

June Forum heads-up

Many Friends look forward to our June Forum, traditionally one where readers share books they've been excited about in the past year. This year that will take place again, but in addition, anyone who has read Eileen Flanagan's book, *The Wisdom to Know the Difference*, and wants to discuss it with the author and other Friends, can do so at this Forum on 13 June.

May Calendar

See the [printable May calendar](#), which shows other groups' uses of the building as well as our own.

Links in the list below jump to more information about the event.

- **Sun., 2 May** — [Community Lunch](#) — 12:00 pm at Meetinghouse ([see article](#))
- **Sun., 2 May** — Worship & Ministry Committee Meeting — 12:30 pm
- **Mon., 3 May** — Care & Counsel Committee Meeting — 7:30 pm at Mickey's
- **Sat., 8 May** — Film, [The End of Poverty](#) — 7 pm — Green Street Meeting
- **Sun., 9 May** — Forum: (listen for announcement) — 12:00 — Meetinghouse (Mural Arts Tour originally scheduled for this date was cancelled)
- **Tue., 11 May** — Men's Spiritual Support Group — 7:30 pm at Meetinghouse
- **Wed., 12 May** — [Meeting for Holding in the Light](#) — 7 - 8 pm at Meetinghouse
- **Sun., 16 May** — Meeting for business — 12:30 pm at Meetinghouse
- **Sat., 22 May** — [Tribel Concert](#) — evening at Green Street Friends Meeting
- **Sun., 23 May** — Early worship on lower lot — 9:00 am at Lower Lot
- **Tue., 25 May** — Peace & Concerns — 7-8:30 pm at Meetinghouse (4th Tuesdays)
- **Sun., 30 May** — June newsletter deadline — midnight, via [e-mail](#)
- **Every Sunday**
 - Hymn-singing, in Social Room by piano — 9:45 am to 10:15 am
 - Early Meeting for Worship — 9 - 10am in meetingroom
 - Meeting for Worship ([see note](#)) (childcare available) — 10:30 - 11:30 am

- o First Day School — 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Activities of Friends

Eco-Justice Day on 15 May

Join with a new PYM working group, the Eco-Justice Working Group, to explore how we might live into a prophetic witness around eco-justice. The Eco-Justice Working Group was formed to discern, embody, and share a prophetic vision of right relationship and to call on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to help bring it forth. Join in dynamic discernment, spirit-led planning and action as Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends respond to the vital needs of our planet and its people. This will be an occasion to learn what other Friends are doing, identify our most potentially powerful strategies, and discover things you can do as an individual and as part of newly forming coalitions.

A continental breakfast, full lunch, and childcare will be provided. Saturday, May 15, 2010 (9 AM-4 PM) at Burlington Meeting House, Burlington, NJ. For more information or to RSVP contact Patricia Finley, Clerk (P& C SC) at: at 215-204-5736; finleyp@temple.edu.

Can you help our Bhutanese friends?

In recent weeks, you may have met Kul and Hari Subedi family and Krishna Tamang with his wife Rita and their 3 year old son, Kalayan. These two families arrived in the U.S. in February after 18 years in a Nepalese refugee camp as a result of Bhutanese “immigration” policies. They are under the short-term case management of Lutheran Children’s and Family Services for assistance in setting up their new lives here. Social Security, health checks, education, English lessons, living arrangements and, above all, jobs, have to be dealt with, and in an alien language and culture. A few members of CHFM have been meeting with the Subedis and Tamangs to find ways to support them. The four young men of the Subedi family all have a reasonable working knowledge of English, although it is still difficult for them to speak and pronounce it. Their parents and the Tamang family know almost no English.

The U.S. Government provides support for new arrivals for 16 weeks, after which it is up to them to support themselves. There is rent to be paid, food to be bought, and so far, no jobs to bring in income. To that end, we are asking Friends to be on the lookout for possible jobs for these men. They are all honest, conscientious and eager to learn. The Subedis have some computer skills and have also had factory work experience in Nepal. Krishna is experienced in construction work. Landscaping businesses, supermarkets, places in need of janitors – these are possibilities we are considering. Do you have contacts or other ideas?

One more request. Durga Subedi, father of the family and a devout Hindu, has his large assortment of religious icons lined up on the floor of their in-home “shrine”. If you have a spare coffee table – or any table – looking for a home, please let us know.

The pressing needs of these two families provide many opportunities for our CHFM community to offer them support and spiritual hospitality. We would love to hear from anyone who has an occasional hour or two to spare to help with job application forms, finding a couple of half days of pre-K for Kalayan, high school registration for Hari, transport to English classes or to the grocery store, or very basic English teaching. All ideas and enthusiasms welcome! Contacts: CarolynSchodt@lycos.com or walmsley127@verizon.net. And see the [sidebar item for links to more information](#).

Do you seek a deeper spiritual experience?

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Spiritual Formation Program's Opening Retreat is planned for September 24-26, 2010 at St. Gabriel's Monastery and Retreat Center in Clarks Summit, PA. This retreat begins the nine-month program designed to support Friends to take seriously the movement of the Spirit in their lives. The opening weekend retreat initiates you into a program of readings, a daily spiritual practice of your choice, the support of small group for monthly meetings in your homes. The PYM website offers [sample reading lists and the unedited evaluations of past participants](#). Brochures are posted on the Meetinghouse bulletin board. For individual accounts, ask these Friends who have taken the program: Johanna Barbati, Diane Dunning, Dan and Storm Evans, Jackie Fields, Viv Hawkins, Nancy Kassam-Adams, Cornelia Kietzman, Hollister Knowlton, Howard Lesnick, Laura Melly, Miyo Moriuchi, Jeff Perkins and Carolyn Schodt.

Outside the Meeting

New Gardens at Fair Hill

Friends have been working at Fair Hill, North Philadelphia, to build gardens with community partners. The PYM youth group during Interim meeting on second Saturdays has joined with neighbor children to ready the 12 raised beds at Fair Hill for summer gardening. Down the street, Hannah House residential treatment center in the old St. Bonaventure Church wants to turn a big, over-grown lot into vegetable gardens. This lot has been cleared by residents and volunteers from FHBG and students from Quaker Schools. The next steps are building the raised beds, bringing in topsoil and planting. A few blocks away, an elementary school needs partners to build gardens so the children can grow vegetables and flowers at school. Friends who would like to help can call Jean at 215-870-8348.



Middle schoolers from Penn Charter worked with volunteer Peter Warrington to clear a lot for vegetable gardens.



Neighbor children worked with PYM youth coordinator Ben Camp and FHBG volunteers on gardens.

Interfaith Green Fair

The first ever Interfaith Green Fair takes place on Sunday, 16 May, 1-5 pm, at Mishkan Shalom, [4101 Freeland Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19128](http://www.mishkanshalom.org). The fair is a place to learn about an exciting array of environmental programs, services, and goods that can help us to create a more sustainable world. Visit vendor booths, participate in workshops, and learn how to green your home, community, and the world. Sponsored by a broad spectrum of faith and environmental groups, the Fair is free and open to the public. So please bring your friends and spread the word.

Vendors will be displaying green products and explaining a wide variety of green practices in fields such as clean energy, water conservation, residential energy efficiency, and transportation. Environmental organizations will distribute materials on advocacy opportunities existing at the city, state, and federal levels.

Workshops occurring throughout the afternoon include:

- Public Policy for Environmental Action
- Home Energy Efficiency
- Greening Houses of Worship
- Draft Dodgers from Recyclables
- Spiritual Practice and Environmental Stewardship

- Car Free in Philly
- Water Conservation & Rain Barrels
- Urban Farming

Most exciting are the more than 20 faith and environmental groups that are cosponsoring and organizing this Fair. So please join us and make the connection between values and the environment. For more info and updates, contact mlenzi@comcast.net; download the [flyer](#). See [list of sponsors](#).

A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

Robert Frost

Newsletter Feedback

The newsletter is compiled by Phil Jones with the help of many others. Please send your comments, suggestions and questions about the newsletter by [e-mail](#). Your feedback is important!

Friend in the news

Our member Liz Robinson was in the news recently. The organization that she heads, [Energy Coordinating Agency](#), has received a grant from the Department of Energy. Read the [full story from The Inquirer](#).

Friend looking to buy a house

Please contact Cos Cosgrove if you have any leads on a small house in Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy, or Wyndmoor. Range: \$150,000 to \$250,000 approximately. Fixer-upper okay. Thanks. (coscosgrove@hotmail.com or 610-828-2398).

Employment assistance at FUMCOG

[First United Methodist Church of Germantown](#) welcomes you to use its computer resources in your job search on May 1st (and every first Saturday) from 10 am - 12 pm. Click to see a [map of FUMCOG's location](#).

Texas Travel Tip

The March issue of the *Texas Monthly* ran a list of 100 things to do in the Lone Star State before you die. [Number 44: Relax at the Live Oak Friends Meetinghouse, in Houston](#).

More info on Bhutan

For those who would like to learn more, Nepalese refugee families have been [profiled in the Inquirer](#); there's also a [Wikipedia entry](#).

The End of Poverty

For more on the showing of this film at Green Street Friends Meeting on Saturday, 8 May, see [this synopsis of the film](#).

Considering counseling?

Are you considering counseling? Friends Counseling Service is a network of Quaker mental health professionals for Quaker members and attenders which is affiliated with PYM. Counselors are available with a variety of expertises and include psychologists, social workers, therapists, family therapists, and a psychiatrist. The mental health professionals in the Friends Counseling Service have been chosen for this service because of both their counseling experience and a commitment to Quakerism. Some financial support is available if needed.

Both Betty Hartzell (therapist) and Sarah Whitman (psychiatrist) participate in the Friends Counseling Service, and although they don't provide services to those in our Meeting, either would be happy to share more information about this service. Information can also be obtained from the [PYM website](#).

Peace Garden for new meetinghouse?

Some members of the Campaign Committee began dreaming about possibilities for the outside space of our new meetinghouse. One particular idea about a peace garden is percolating and we are looking for folks who might be interested in working on it as a proposal for funding. With Carol Franklin's landscape expertise, we want our outdoor spaces to be contemplative, using native plantings, and be a resource to the larger community. What if we could connect our property, via footpaths, as a destination point for Wissahickon Park hikers? What if there was a pathway connecting the Cresheim Valley spur which abuts our property? Cyane Gresham, Carolyn Schodt and Lynn Mather are planning to meet with Friends of the Wissahickon, and would welcome you in this exploration.

Update on web work

The newly formed Meeting Communications committee has begun tackling a couple of large tasks: management of the various contact list that the Meeting maintains, and reorganization of our meeting web site. Thanks to serendipitous timing of these efforts with a new offering from FGC, we'll be

among the first monthly meetings to tackle both of these projects with web-based solutions organized by FGC technical staff. Chris Pifer of FGC is meeting with us, both as a “fly on the wall” to observe our process, but also as a consultant and guide. He'll document how we go about using the tools that FGC will provide (for the technically curious, they are Drupal for the web site, and integrated with CiviCRM for list management).

One of our earliest efforts is to find out what the meeting community wants and needs from the Meeting's web site. We'll be gathering a focus group to give us directed feedback, but we'll also be sending out a link to a questionnaire that you can answer on line. Watch for that in the coming weeks, perhaps in the June newsletter.

Interfaith Green Fair Sponsors

Academy of Natural Sciences' Center for Environmental Policy, Catholic Coalition for Justice & Peace, **Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting**, Chestnut Hill College Graduate School, Com for Justice of Sisters of St. Joseph, First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Germantown Jewish Centre, Germantown Monthly Meeting, Green Jobs Philly, IHM Social Justice Team, Mishkan Shalom, Neighborhood Interfaith Movement, Pa. Interfaith Climate Change Campaign, Penn Future, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Social Justice Office, Shalom Center, Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Justice Office, Religious of the Assumption, St. Vincent de Paul, Sisters of St. Joseph Earth Center, Summit Presbyterian Church, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, UUCR Social Justice & Community Action Ministry.

Tribel Concert & Dessert Buffet

On 22 May, Tribel presents a concert at Green Street Friends Meeting in Germantown. [Download a flyer with details](#), including how to get tickets (from Ellen Deacon).

Community Lunch

Community Lunches occur on the first First Day (Sunday) of the month from 12:00 - 1:00pm and are provided by the Hospitality Committee. All are welcome.

Meeting for holding in the Light

In the gathering room, there is a book where you may write your joys and concerns to hold in the Light. On the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, there will be a special meeting for worship to focus on what was written.

Meeting for Worship

Children are welcome in meeting for worship from 10:30 to 10:45, when they leave to attend First Day School.

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
100 E. Mermaid Lane
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