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Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

December 2010

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Meeting Events

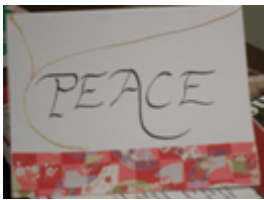
Reflection on CHF M Community-wide Social Witness

We believe the Spirit has been working within CHF M through several individual leadings, which are now coming together as a vision of a community wide social witness for our faith community. Within Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P & SC) this first surfaced around the Meeting's charitable giving, and then widened in scope as interest arose around the vision of a community-wide social witness.

In addition, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee believes it is important to tend to that Spirit from which our giving arises. How can we allow the Spirit to guide us in our charitable giving, not as an end in itself, but rather as one element of a faithful response to the needs of the world? [Click to read more, including a link to the rest of the committee's reflections](#) on a new approach to our social witness.

One member's plan for social witness

Elizabeth Walmsley announced this idea after Meeting on Sunday, 28 November. Here are more details; click the link below to download her full description.



“With the Subedi and Tamang families' support and permission, I am raising money to be gathered into an account that can be used to lend money to them for education, such as English classes and community college. The loans will be interest-free, ranging from very small amounts up to larger requirements, possibly \$1,000 or more. There will be a collaborative development between the families, myself, and any other volunteers to decide the exact structure and requirements of the borrowing and paying back process. [Read more »](#)

Leaf Raking at our Burial Ground

If you've ever wondered where our Meeting's burial ground is, you can find out on Saturday, December 4 from 9am to noon. Hint: It's next to Plymouth Meeting Friends School, at the intersection of Germantown and Butler Pikes in Plymouth Meeting. Tarps and extra rakes will be provided, but bring your own tarps and rakes (and gloves) if you have them. Help the Property Committee make this beautiful spot even more beautiful.

Fair Trade Sales at Meeting

During December, we will be taking orders directly from [the SEERV catalog](#), which has an extensive selection of Fair Trade handcrafts from many different countries, including holiday items. Orders placed by December 12th will arrive in time for Christmas.

A portion of the sales of the Equal Exchange products we sell are donated to the American Friends Service Committee. Profits realized from the sales of all of the products go to the stock the Meeting's coffee and cocoa supply. Any additional proceeds are donated to the Meeting.

[Read more »](#)

Please join us for Christmas Breakfast!



On Sunday, December 12, 2010, from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m., the Hospitality Committee will host the Christmas Breakfast, a Chestnut Hill Meeting community tradition for over 40 years! All are invited: members, attenders, and visitors! Potluck donations of food suitable for breakfast/brunch are requested. Contributions of fruit, juice, and coffee creamer are helpful. Meat and egg dishes are welcome, although many in our community are vegetarian and vegan. Several members of the community need gluten- and dairy-free items, so feel free to bring those also. Please NO strawberries, as a member of our community has a severe allergic reaction. (It's helpful if you bring a small label showing whether your dish contains meat or

dairy, or if it is vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free.) If you forget to bring something, come join the fun and enjoy the fellowship anyway. Food service will stop at 9:45. [Read more »](#) about helping to set up and/or clean up.

Middle school Friends fill and donate Thanksgiving basket

Lilly Basgall, Moxie Duncan-Tessmer, and Abby Trach display the Thanksgiving basket they filled (with the help of Sam Davis, and Megan and Luke Flanagan Volkert, not pictured) for distribution to a needy family by Northern Home.



December Calendar

See the [printable December 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.

- **Wed., 1 December** – Seasoning of AC and fireplace issues in new building – 7:00pm
- **Sat., 4 December** – Forum Committee meeting – Pauline Doyle’s home
- **Sat., 4 December** – Leaf-raking at our burial ground (Plymouth Meeting) – 9:00am to noon
- **Sun., 5 December** – Outreach Committee meeting – 9:00am to 10:30am in Middle School room
- **Sun., 12 December** – [Christmas Breakfast Potluck](#) – 8:45am to 10:00am
- **Mon., 13 December** – Care & Counsel meeting – 7:30pm at Mickey’s home
- **Note:** The Men’s Spiritual Group will *not* meet in December.
- **Thurs., 16 December** – Campaign Committee meeting – 6:00pm to 8:00pm at meetinghouse
- **Sun., 19 December** – Christmas Play by FDS children – at rise of meeting
- **Tues., 28 December** – Peace & Social Concerns meeting – 7:30pm at meetinghouse
- **Wed., 29 December** – January newsletter deadline – noon, by [e-mail](#)
- **Every Sunday**
 - Early Meeting for Worship — 9 - 10am in meetingroom; also on [lower lot on 4th Sundays](#)
 - Hymn-singing, in Social Room by piano — 9:45 am to 10:15 am
 - Meeting for Worship ([see note](#)) (childcare available) — 10:30 - 11:30 am
 - First Day School — 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Our Growing Community

Proposal for enhancing our internal fund-raising

A member of our community has introduced an exciting proposal for helping us reach our next fund-raising goal. Jon Landau, co-chair of the Campaign, read this letter at the November business meeting:

Dear friends, I write with a plan for helping to move us forward in our efforts to build a new meetinghouse. I believe we have made an extraordinary effort to date to raise the necessary funds for construction. Nevertheless I understand that we are roughly \$400,000 short of where we hoped to be with our internal fund-raising by April of next year, and we have approached virtually all people in the meeting community. It’s clear that if we are to get where we need to be, many of us who have already given will have to find a way to stretch and give more. I have already given a large gift to the meeting, yet if the meeting will join me in stretching gifts I am prepared to give more. What I would like to propose is that if the Meeting community will stretch gifts and give new gifts totaling \$300,000 by March 31, 2011, I will stretch my gift by an additional \$100,000 – and we will be back on schedule with our internal fund-raising.

[Read more »](#)

Continuation of listening sessions

Sunday, December 5, 2010, from 7:00 to 8:30pm at the meetinghouse, Worship & Ministry Committee offers the first of two more listening sessions, with attention to our meeting community. The second session is proposed for later in January; the exact date has not been set. This first one will be facilitated by Jon Landau and Roger Walmsley. [Read more »](#)

Flushing Meeting/PS1 trips January 15th and 22nd



We have scheduled two trips to New York, on January 15 and 20, to visit Flushing Meeting and the James Turrell Skyspace, *Meeting*, at MoMA PS1. [Read more »](#), or [click here to download the invitation](#). If you’re interested in going on either of those dates, please [send an e-mail to Phil Jones](#).

NEA grant supports Skyspace public access

This month, the New Meetinghouse Project received a welcome endorsement in the form of a \$75,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts towards the costs of installing the Skyspace and making the artwork accessible to the public. Certainly, the extremely positive feedback we have received since the news was announced last week has helped to lift the spirits of all us working on the campaign. (And, given the back story to how this grant was submitted – late at night with quite literally seconds to go before the deadline after multiple computer failures – we have also been reminded that when it comes to grant-writing a sense of humor and dogged determination are vital!!) [Read more »](#)

Campaign Web site

The Campaign's web site has been revamped extensively, just in time for the announcement of the NEA grant. But there's lots more than just that exciting news. We have added a video about James Turrell's Skyspace, *Deershelter*, in Yorkshire Sculpture Park, thanks to the generosity of Yorkshire Quakers who sponsored the production of the film. We are especially excited about this show of support for our project from Quakers in the UK. Please [visit the web site](#).

Fourth Sundays on the lower lot

The weather outside is not yet what you'd call *frightful*, but the fire is already *so delightful*, thanks to Dennis Wint's portable fire pit. He brings it to the Lower Lot on fourth Sundays to warm those who gather for meeting for worship on the site where our new meetinghouse will one day be located. Come at 9:00 am, or any time thereafter; we provide metal folding chairs, though you can bring your own portable chairs if you like. Park at the downhill edge of our regular parking lot and walk down the steps to greet the light of the fire, and the Light.

Outside the Meeting

New AFSC General Secretary to speak at Green Street MM

Green St. MM invites Friends from Chestnut Hill MM and Germantown MM to join them on the second Sunday in December, the 12th, at Green St. MM Peace & Social Concerns program starting at 9:15 am. Shan Cretin, the new General Secretary of AFSC, will be the speaker. Friends are then welcome to join at meeting for worship which begins at 10:30.

Worldwide Candle Lighting Memorial Service

A Quaker Candle Lighting Memorial Service in conjunction with [The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting Service](#), will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The service will honor and remember children who have died at any age and from any cause. It will be held at Germantown Friends Meeting, 47 West Coulter Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144. All are invited to come at 6:30 p.m. for an informal gathering with light refreshments. [Read more »](#)

Quote: Parker Palmer on Community

“Friends are most in the Spirit when they stand at the crossing point of the inward and outward life. And that is the intersection at which we find community. Community is a place where the connections felt in the heart make themselves known in bonds between people, and where tuggings and pullings of those bonds keep opening up our hearts.”

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!

Lost and found

A light yellow jacket with hood that may have been left at Newtown Meeting at Christine Olinger's memorial service is now with Warren Witte. Please [contact Warren Witte](#) to claim it.

Light my fire

If you're interested in helping to ensure that we have fires in the meetingroom fireplace on cold winter Sundays, please [contact Irene McHenry](#) to volunteer your services. Irene is the coordinator of this effort.

Monteverdi in Venice

Choral Arts (the group that Amey Hutchins and Dylan Steinberg sing with) and Piffaro (the Renaissance Band) present a [concert performance of Monteverdi's *Vespre della Beata Vergine \(1610\)*](#) on Sunday, 5 December, at 4:00pm at First Baptist Church, 17th and Sansom. (The address in the announcement linked to above is incorrect; that building currently has no heat.)

Yet more music, on December 11

A week after the Choral Arts concert, you have two chances to hear [Mendelssohn Club's *A Feast of Carols* concert](#), right in Chestnut Hill; Phil Jones is a member of this group. Choose between the 4:30pm and 7:30pm performances at St. Paul's Chestnut Hill. If you order tickets on line, get the singer's discounted price by using the code "Jones" in the [online ticket purchase form](#).

Change of Address

Elizabeth Walmsley | 219 East Willow Grove Avenue, Apt K5 | Philadelphia, PA 19118. Same phone number as before: 215-704-3065.

Tuition Assisance

The Tuition Assistance Committee gives modest grants for the schooling of children of members who are in Friends schools. If you are a member of our Meeting whose child will be in Friends school next school year and you have not previously applied for a grant, please [contact Charles Philips by email](#).

Pat Witte with the Comfort Quilt

Several years ago, quilters within the Meeting made a lovely quilt to convey the love and care of the Meeting, to be lent to anyone from our community who needs it. Here's Pat Witte being comforted; she's beginning a second round of chemotherapy, and is delighted that she no longer has to travel to Center City for the treatments.



Est-ce que tu aimes parler français?

A group of people interested in speaking French is meeting together once a month or so. All levels of speaking ability are welcome. Our next meeting will be Saturday, Dec 18. [Contact Sarah](#) if you'd like to attend or be on the email list for future meetings.

Death of a Friend

Those who know Joan Broadfield (former PYM staff) will want to know that her husband Ed died after an illness of several weeks. Friends can send cards to Joan at 2430 Lindsay Street, Chester, PA 19013-4614.

Meeting for Worship

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

Link to the Meeting's web site

www.chestnuthillquakers.org

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
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