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Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

March 2011

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Meeting Events

Two late February events are happening on the last Sunday of February:

Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting at CHFM, 2/27

On Sunday, February 27, we play host to Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting. Friends from other meetings will be with us for worship and a lunch to follow, and then meet to take up the business of the Quarter. This session's focus is on the work of Peace & Social Concerns committees of the seven meetings in our quarter. Please make our visitors welcome.

Meeting for those who have lost someone

Miyo Moriuchi and Carolyn Schodt are both personally drawn to the comfort of worship-sharing and reflection as they live into these new days without Miyo's father and Carolyn's mother. All friends who have experienced the loss of a dear one, either recently or even some time ago, are invited to join together for an evening of remembrance and reflection. [Read more »](#)

Two retreats in March

Silent Retreat, March 5

During the retreat we will try several different spiritual practices based in silence. [Read more »](#)

Being open to Leadings of the Spirit, March 26

The focus for this day is on practices each of us can do to be open to the leadings of the Spirit – both as individuals and as a meeting community – and nurturing our faithfulness to follow those leadings. [Read more »](#)

March Forum: Working for Peace at High School for Peace and Social Justice

How does a Philadelphia public high school bring into practice the theme of peace and social justice? The Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice is a close neighbor of Chestnut Hill Meeting, a small school (not a charter!) located on the campus of Covenant Church just up Germantown Avenue toward Mt. Airy. The Meeting has supported special projects at the school over the years with grants from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and proceeds from our tag sale. Clearly, we have interest and hope for the goals of this new school but need to know more about it. [Read more »](#)

Forum Sunday is March 13; the program begins at 12:00 after a brief break for light refreshment. Childcare is provided.

March Calendar

See the [printable meeting 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., 6 Mar.** – Outreach Committee meeting – 9-10:30am in middle school room
- **Sun., 6 Mar.** – Worship & Ministry Committee meeting – 12:30 pm
- **Sun., 6 Mar.** – [Community lunch](#) – at rise of meeting
- **Sun., 6 Mar.** – Friends Hospice Board Meeting – after lunch
- **Mon., 7 Mar.** – [Trip to Flushing Meeting](#) & PS1 – Leave @ noon; return 11:00pm
- **Fri., 11 Mar.** – [Trip to Flushing Meeting](#) & PS1 – Leave @ noon; return 11:00pm
- **Sat., 12 Mar.** – [Art Show](#) drop-off – 10:00am to 2:00pm
- **Sun., 13 Mar.** – [Art Show](#) – in Gathering Room through next week
- **Sun., 13 Mar.** – [Forum: Peace High School](#) – 12:00 at Meetinghouse
- **Mon., 14 Mar.** – Care & Counsel meeting – Mickey's house, 7:30pm
- **Tue., 15 Mar.** – Men's Spiritual Group – 7:30pm in middle school room
- **Sun., 20 Mar.** – [Inquirers' Breakfast](#) – 8:30am
- **Sun., 20 Mar.** – [Art Show](#) – in Gathering Room; last day
- **Sun., 20 Mar.** – Meeting for Business – 12:30 (lunch, child care)
- **Tue., 22 Mar.** – Peace & Social Concerns meeting – 7:30pm at meetinghouse
- **Thu., 24 Mar.** – Campaign Committee meeting – 6:00pm at meetinghouse
- **Wed., 30 March** – April newsletter deadline – midnight, via [e-mail](#)
- **Every Sunday**
 - Early Meeting for Worship – 9 - 10am in meetingroom
 - 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

Annual Art Show

Our annual Art Show will be on display Sunday, March 13, through Sunday, March 20. Your creations in almost any medium (except perhaps ice or snow) may be dropped off at the meetinghouse between 10:00am and 2:00pm Saturday March 12. We hope to have some things made by First Day School as well as items from adults. If you need to arrange another time for drop-off, have questions or would like to help, please contact Roberta Foss.

Inquirers' Breakfast, March 20

The members of the CHFMs Outreach Committee invite you to come and enjoy a short talk, some Friendly discussion and a simple breakfast at the meetinghouse during our next Inquirers' Breakfast, Sunday March 20. We'll start breakfast at 8:30, and general talk at about 9 a.m. Bring any questions or thoughts you may have about Quakers or Quakerism. Bring a friend or two if you like. You'll be able to enjoy the last day of the CHFMs Art Show too! All are welcome: old-timers, recent attenders, young or old or in-between. For the very young, childcare is provided. [Read more »](#)

Our Growing Community

Meeting the Challenge

This month we passed a major milestone in completing the design phase of our new meetinghouse efforts. Thanks to inspired work by our client committee with the involvement and support of the entire meeting, we now have a design for a meetinghouse that is both in keeping with Quaker values, and at the same time, capable of serving as a base for future generations of Quakers to serve the world.

While this is a remarkable accomplishment, it only becomes meaningful if we now bear down and complete the task by raising the necessary funding to build the meetinghouse. In this regard we are moving closer and closer to a critical deadline. A member has offered to extend her pledge by \$100,000, if, by March 31 of this year, the meeting as a whole gives new gifts or pledges or extended gifts or pledges totaling \$300,000. The Meeting has responded generously to this offer and we are now within [Read how close »](#)

Outreach to Other Quakers

A small sub-group of the Campaign Committee has been scheduling visits to neighboring meetings and Quaker retirement communities to spread the word about our meetinghouse project. We have already been warmly received at Medford Leas Retirement Community in New Jersey and at Germantown and Downingtown Monthly Meetings. We have visits scheduled for Kendal Retirement Community and at Abington Monthly Meeting, and are pressing ahead with other dates. We take a PowerPoint presentation that explains why we're building a new meetinghouse, shows some of the features of the new structure, and summarizes ways these other Friends can help. If you'd like to join Meg Mitchell, Jean Warrington, Phil Jones and Ginny Christensen on one of these visits, let any of us know. We usually go in pairs, and having a third pair of hands is very helpful.

Germantown Meeting's gracious offer

While these visits to our Quaker neighbors (see above) don't include an overt plea for financial support, some of these other Friends have felt moved to make contributions. Germantown Meeting has gone even further. While they aren't in a position to make an outright gift, they have offered to host a party that we might use as a fund-raising event for the project. The Campaign Committee is in the very early stages of working out the details, so stay tuned for more news about this lovely offer from one of our neighbors down Germantown Avenue.

Two more trips to PS1 and Flushing Meeting

We' planning two more trips to New York to visit Flushing Meeting and the James Turrell Skyspace called *Meeting* at PS1. The museum closes at 6:00, which is now earlier than sunset. But we have persuaded the museum to open the room *just for us* on two evenings in early March: Monday, March 7, and Friday, March 11. If you are interested in going, please contact [Ann Jones](#).

Community partnerships with parkland

Cyane Gresham has been meeting with community groups eager to partner with CHFM for clean up, hiking, and biking trails in the Fairmount Park land adjacent to the new building site. Watch for a workday on the new lot and hillside with a look at park land, some time in April.

Part of a Larger Network: There are exciting possibilities, involving environmental partners: [See who they are »](#)

Outside the Meeting

Friends Hospice to Meet at Chestnut Hill



The board of trustees of Friends Hospice will be joining us for worship on March 6 and holding its monthly board meeting afterward. The board meeting will be open to anyone wishing to hear about the work of the hospice in providing home-based end-of-life care to all who may need it, without regard to ability to pay and with particular attention to the needs of those who are poor, homeless, or mentally or physically disabled. The board hopes that all who are interested in this social witness will make an effort to join them at this meeting.

Compost-Based Comics: Horticultural Humor Hits the Funny Pages

Our own Signe Wilkinson, editorial cartoonist at the Philadelphia Daily News, will speak at Morris Arboretum's mid-week lecture series on Wednesday, March 9, at 2pm. From the press release:



“It’s a kind of magic to turn a few lines of drawing into something recognizable, insightful, and funny at the same time. Explore the botanical and political landscape with Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Signe Wilkinson, a national treasure in our own backyard. Signe will give you a tour of her garden cartoons from her nationally syndicated strip, “Family Tree” and her illustrations with *Organic Gardening Magazine*. Of course she will wander into the wider world

of political penmanship with examples of her *Philadelphia Daily News* cartoons on local and national issues. Formerly a languid Chestnut Hill gardener, Signe moved to Center City and the hours she saved pulling weeds now go to fighting squirrels for dominance on her rooftop container garden. This talk NOT recommended for the humor impaired! See www.signetoons.com for more information about Signe Wilkinson’s cartoons.”

Poem

Mid February

The day is warm and dank as early summer.
Crows scream and pitch in the woods
like the ruckus of old women fighting
for the shreds of their lives.

A sudden silence – then the hum
of a black-winged cloud oozing
through the naked sky –
the ruckus begins again.

Under the layers of winter grey,
the farm is pale and muted, the barn doors
shut tight. The only animals in sight
an earth-brown squirrel and these harbinger birds.

I am waiting for the sun to shine again,
to learn how to unfurl my heart in its warmth.
These days, neither long nor short, bright nor dark,
wet nor dry, fill me with a sadness I cannot name.

Yesterday was Valentine's Day, a day of love and chocolate. My father, born eighty-one years ago, always bought red cardboard hearts full of truffles for my mother, my sister and me. Now he is gone.

This morning, the doctor taps his pencil against the screen. A six-week ultrasound.

There, that's the heartbeat.

A tiny flutter outlined by grey.

by Ann Campanella, from *What Flies Away*. © Main Street Rag Publishing Company, 2006.

Welcome Alice Ann Heider



Rebecca and Dan Heider proudly announce that Bennett and Graham Heider have a new baby sister, Alice. The facts:

- Alice Ann Heider
- born February 21, 2011 at 4:48pm
- weight 8 lb. 14 oz.
- length 22 inches

We look forward to welcoming her at meeting soon.

Maybe this item should be in the section called *Our Growing Community*.

Update on Trude Fuchs

Friends will be glad to hear that Trude Fuchs is back at Stapeley (Wesley Enhanced Living), in the Health Center while she undergoes therapy for her recently repaired hip. Hollister Knowlton, who visits almost daily, says that each day Trude has OT in the morning and PT in the afternoon. Hollister says, "I go with her when I can and do arm lifts and marches and ball bouncing and sometimes she really glows with energy and fun ... sometimes she seems to go through the motions in her sleep. But she is walking with a walker in PT, sometimes 50 feet or so."

[Read Hollister's recommendatinos for visiting »](#)

And we can all hold this 99-year-old Friend in the Light at any time – and all the time.

Kista Update

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously during the holiday season to help get KISTA Trust off the ground! KISTA Trust is an education loans project, where the money that we are raising will be lent in small amounts to local Nepali refugees to help with education such as English and other classes to help them become more employable. We now have a bank account at the Philadelphia Federal Credit Union, with a balance of \$813.77, and more is on its way.

[Read about plans for next steps, and see the Winter Catalog ».](#)

Nominating Committee's Work

March is the month when Friends will receive a call from the Nominating committee to ask which committee they would like to serve in the upcoming year. Committees are making suggestions for those who might enjoy particular

work. Quaker committee work at its best gets the work done and builds our community. Friends, especially new attenders, can look on the website for brief descriptions, ask others at meeting about the committees, look at the meeting schedule in the newsletter, call any committee clerk to ask about that committee's work. There is satisfying meeting work for all talents and schedules.

2011 Directory

George Garrettson will publish the new directory as soon as new committees are identified. Please check your entry and correct contact info, especially your e-mail. Send corrections to [Viv in the office](#).

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 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

[Meeting Web Site](#)

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!

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