

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, April 2011 Newsletter

Meeting Events

Quarterly Meeting at CHFM

In February, 45 Friends from the Philadelphia Quarter met at Chestnut Hill with a new format for PQM. Representatives from six meetings shared the work of their Peace and Social Concerns committees.

- Frankford Friends: the diverse, caring community of Frankford Friends School
- Green Street: the second Saturday film series
- Central Philadelphia MM: focus this year on the war in Afghanistan with speakers, films, actions
- Fourth & Arch: increased vitality of the meeting after two years of Quaker Quest
- Chestnut Hill: work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Fair Hill Burial Ground
- Germantown Meeting: Minute on Racism
- Earth Quaker Action Team: direct action to pressure PNC Bank

[Read more about the meeting »](#)

Chestnut Hill Meeting's Spring Retreat

March was a rich month with a spring retreat sponsored by the Worship and Ministry Committee. The theme was Listening to Spirit in Our Lives. It was led by Marcelle Martin, author, and, until recently, the Quaker Studies teacher at Pendle Hill.

Marcelle introduced the group to several simple practices for opening up to God, or Spirit, or Light and accepting spiritual healing and growth. These involve images of being rooted into the Ground of our Being; gratitude; and breath prayer, a way to consciously receive and release not only air, but also peace, wisdom, love, compassion. Click to [download a full description of the retreat as a PDF file](#).

Marcelle has also written a follow-up essay on some of the themes she covered in the retreat. [Click to download it as a PDF](#).

Les Francophones

Picture taken at a recent gathering of the group that Sarah Whitman has gathered to speak French. See [the invitation to join them](#) in the sidebar to the right.

First Day School News

First Day School Committee is hosting a Seder / potluck supper at the Meetinghouse on Saturday, April 16, 4:30-7 PM. The Seder dinner marks the first night of Passover, a holiday that celebrates freedom and commemorates the Exodus story of Moses leading the Hebrews out of Egypt. Most likely, the dinner Jesus shared with his disciples, the "Last Supper", was a Passover Seder. For more about what it is and what to bring, [read more »](#)

As First Day School wraps up a year-long study of the New Testament, we will be exploring how Jesus' lessons can be of value to kids as they grow up. We need two volunteer teachers to work with the younger children (grades K-5) each week, starting on April 17 and ending on June 19. For dates and more about what supports you'll have, [read more here »](#). [Please email](#) or call Betsy Robertson if you are interested.

Middle Schoolers service projects – Stewardship of meeting grounds; cleaning up around the lower lot; spiffing up the play areas; organizing FDS books and supplies; learning what committees do to take care of our buildings (old and new); baking, to raise money and for meeting lunches; collecting and processing books for local school libraries. Please let Hannah Mazzaccaro or Meg Mitchell know if you have clean, children's and young adult books appropriate for an elementary school library. Non-fiction, biographies, and reference books are especially desirable, and fiction is welcome too.

Sweet picture

Trude Fuchs (l) and Iyanna White (r) at Christmas Breakfast, 2010. Trude was 99 when this picture was taken; she turns 100 in November of 2011. Hollister Knowlton characterizes her as the “Energizer Bunny” for her ability to rally from apparent health crises. She is in the Health Care Unit at the retirement center formerly known as Stapeley (now Wesley Enhanced Living). If you want to visit, you might check with the second floor nurses’ station to make sure she’ll be in when you arrive.

April Calendar

See the [printable April 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., 3 Apr. – Outreach Committee meeting – 9:00am to 10:30am in Middle School room
- Sun., 3 Apr. – [Community Lunch](#) – at rise of meeting, in Social Room; all welcome
- Sat., 9 Apr. – [Meeting clean-up](#) – 9:00am to noon
- Sun., 10 Apr. – [Forum: Friends House Moscow](#) – 12:00pm in meeting room; childcare available.
- Sun., 10 Apr. – [Presentation on Nepal](#) by Lynn Mather – 7:15pm at meetinghouse
- Mon., 11 Apr. – Care & Counsel meeting – 7:30pm at Mickey’s home
- Sat., 16 Apr. – [Fair Hill Burial Ground Clean-up and Egg Hunt](#) - 10am to 1:00pm
- Sat., 16 Apr. – [FDS Seder](#) – 4:30 - 7pm in Social Room
- Sun., 17 Apr. – Meeting for Business – 12:30, following lunch; child care available
- Tues., 19 Apr. – Men’s Spiritual Group – 7:30pm in Middle School Room
- Thurs., 21 Apr. – Campaign Communications Committee meeting – 7:00 to 9:00pm at meetinghouse
- Tues., 26 Apr. – Peace & Social Concerns meeting – 7:30pm at meetinghouse
- Wed., 27 Apr. – May newsletter deadline – midnight, by [e-mail](#)
- Thur., 28 Apr. – Campaign Committee meeting – 6:00 to 8:00pm at meetinghouse
- Sun., 1 May – [Plant Swap](#) – Parking lot after community lunch
- Every Sunday
 - Early Meeting for Worship — 9 - 10am in meeting room; also on [lower lot on 4th Sundays](#), weather permitting
 - 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

Meeting Clean-up Day: Saturday April 9

The Property Committee invites you to a joint work day Saturday April 9 from 9 am to 12. We will work together to clean up trash and make the Lower Lot more appealing; or you can work to spruce up the Meetinghouse.

Please come and bring kids, friends, neighbors. Tools are welcome: pruning saw, shovel, broom, loppers, handsaw, bucket, tarp, rake, for example. Please dress for safety and the weather:

- long sleeve shirts and pants
- cap, dark glasses, jacket: whatever you need to be comfortable
- GLOVES – very important!
- no open shoes or sandals; please wear close-toed shoes

Please come and let’s have a good time together! If you can’t come April 9, there are future workdays scheduled for May 21 and June 18. Questions? [Cyane Gresham](#) (814) 386-9710

April Forum: Friends House Moscow

On Sunday, April 10, the Forum committee offers a presentation on Friends House Moscow by Patricia Stewart, a current board member. Friends House Moscow is an initiative of Quakers worldwide which seeks to encourage spiritual growth and the development

of a civil society on mutual trust and community cooperation. Priorities are: supporting those interested in Quakerism, providing training in alternatives to violence, promoting alternatives to military service, protecting and providing services for underprivileged groups and promoting a culture of voluntary social work. The presentation starts at noon after the rise of meeting and a brief snack.

Fair Hill Burial Ground Clean-up and Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and spring garden clean up will happen at historic Fair Hill Burial Ground. Come gardeners of all ages and join in the fun. Gardening and clean-up 10AM to noon. Easter Egg hunt is at noon. Visit [Fair Hill Burial Ground's web site](#).

Our Growing Community

Have we met the challenge?

As of press time for the newsletter, final word was not in from Campaign Committee clerk Jon Landau whether the meeting community had made \$300,000 in new pledges and gifts since September 1, 2010. Friends may recall that the goal was to raise that amount, set as a challenge by an anonymous member of the meeting community, who in return will give \$100,000 additional. Jon expects to have the final figures and will announce them at rise of meeting on Sunday, April 3.

Party for CHFM to be given by Germantown Friends

Germantown Meeting is planning a party for the Quarter to celebrate the new Chestnut Hill meetinghouse project. Tom Grabe is organizing this for Germantown, to be held on Friday, June 17. Chestnut Hill Friends will help cook the simple meal. Volunteers should call or [e-mail Jean Warrington](#) to offer help.

Foundation of the month

As we reach out to ask additional foundations for their support for the new meetinghouse, we are finding a need for additional help in writing proposals. For the next few months, the newsletter will profile a foundation and ask for a volunteer to “adopt” the foundation and help get a proposal written and out the door.

To find out what foundation is this month's poster child, and to learn how our grant writer will help you, read more.

Outside the Meeting

PYM's “We Can Do It” Day

The theme was Including the Children, so you might not be surprised that Friend Christie Duncan Tessmer of our meeting (and PYM) helped organize this day-long workshop. Sue Betts, Hannah Mazzacarro, Carla White and Jean Warrington attended. Here are some thoughts they brought back to CHFM.

For a list of the ideas generated at this workshop, [click here](#).

Poem

Religious Consolation

One size fits all. The shape or coloration
of the god or high heaven matters less
than that there is one, somehow, somewhere, hearing
the hasty prayer and chalking up the mite

the widow brings to the temple, A child
alone with horrid verities cries out
for there to be a limit, a warm wall
whose stones give back an answer, however faint.

Strange, the extravagance of it – who needs
those eighteen-armed black Kalis, those musty saints
whose bones and bleeding wounds appall good taste,
those joss sticks, houris, gilded Buddhas, books
Moroni etched in tedious detail?
We do; we need more worlds. This one will fail.

John Updike
from *Americana and Other Poems*. © Alfred A. Knopf, 2001.

Looking for a sign

Lost: one large corrugated sign, green and white, with arrow pointing to Chestnut Hill Meeting. Also missing: black metal water-filled base with 2 springs to hold the sign. Anyone with information, please contact Elizabeth Walmsley or just return it to the back porch of the meetinghouse. Better yet, keep it at home for the week then, put it out on Stenton Avenue again next Sunday. No questions asked, all gratitude given!

Report from Nepal

On Sunday, 4/10, at 7:15 pm at the meetinghouse, Lynn Mather will present on her recent trip to Nepal, including homestays with Quaker Nepali families and visits to refugee camps where our two local “adopted” families, the Subedis and the Tamangs, lived for 18 years. Some of these family members will be present to contribute. Arrive at 6:30 for light supper of Nepali Dal Bhat with homemade yogurt.

Francophones, unissez-vous!

Voulez-vous pratiquer parler francais avec une group si gentile? Notre prochaine soiree sera Vendredi, le 29 Avril. Nous allons discuter le film *Etre et Avoir* (apres le regardez en avance). Si vous voulez regarder le film avec des autres, nous allons le voir Vendredi, le 15 Avril. Des questions? [Ecrivez Sarah Whitman](mailto:Sarah@whitman.org).

Efficiency apartment near Meeting

Need space for guests coming for a weekend, week, or month? An economical, fully furnished efficiency apartment, located right across from our meetinghouse, is available for short-term rentals. Call 215-247-8105 or email kathy.miller127@gmail.com for rates and availability.

Meeting Directory: Last Call!

Not included in the directory and want to be? Send your info to directory@chestnuthillquakers.org Include name(s), address, phone, email(s), family members who should be included. Please check your record in the current directory and send any changes. Especially if you are a couple or the parent in the household and we don't indicate that with a “(?)” please let us know.

Bach joins the Kista Fund

I (Lynn Mather) have been performing unaccompanied Bach on viola at area churches since February and continue to do so. My initial motive was to provide incentive for me to study Bach's Cello Suites (yes, played on viola here) by arranging performances. A second motive has joined the first: to promote the Kista Fund (KF).

Upcoming: (The “odd” times reflect the start of Prelude music, preceding the service)

» Sat 4/2, 10:40 am, Seventh Day Adventists, 8700 Germantown

» Sun 4/3, 3:50 pm, St Martin-in-the-Field, Willow Grove Ave at St Martin's Lane, Evening Vespers

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; this isn't a potluck. All are welcome.

Lower Lot Meeting for Worship

Weather permitting, we hold meeting for worship outdoors on the site of the new meetinghouse on the fourth Sunday of every month from 9:00am to 10:00am. Dress for the weather. Park at the far edge of the UCPA parking lot (away from the current building) and walk down the stone steps to join us.

Plant Swap (first annual?)

Gardeners with an excess of plants they'd like to share should dig them up and bring them to Meeting on Sunday, 1 May. After the community lunch that day, if you brought plants to exchange, you can trade for others' offerings. If you don't bring something to give away, pay what you like for what you take, to benefit the Kista Fund. Contact [Ann Jones](#) with questions or to offer to help.

Honoring Seasoned Friends

As part of Community Lunch on Sunday, June 5, 2011, we are planning a Celebration of Well Seasoned Friends, our oldest age group, who have given so much to our meeting. We will have punch and cake, some singing, and a short presentation. For information, contact Sue Betts, convenor of the planning group.

Letter From Japan

From an American woman, Anne, living and teaching English in Sendai: "I am now staying at a friend's home. We share supplies like water, food and a kerosene heater. We sleep lined up in one room, eat by candlelight, share stories. It is warm, friendly, and beautiful." [Read more »](#)

Meeting for Worship

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