

Meeting Events

Thanks to all who joined us for the Quaker Seder on April 19. We took turns telling the biblical story of Passover and offering prayers for peace and freedom in the present day. We learned about the symbolic foods on the seder plates, decorated by the First Day School students, and left a space at the table for the Prophet Elijah. Then we all enjoyed a potluck meal and tasty desserts.

FDS Update: We still need volunteers to help teach the K-5 group, even for just one or two First Days. RE committee helps develop the lesson with you and provides support and materials. Please contact Betsy Robertson if you are interested.

Summer is almost here! First Day School curriculum covers September through June, and then we rely on members of the meeting community to work with the kids in the summer months. We welcome all ideas! Do you have a favorite activity, talent, career, social concern or interest to share? Start thinking of ideas, and figure out when you'll be here this summer. We'll start sign-ups for summer in June.

Lower Lot Clean-up

Volunteers were blessed with wonderful weather on Saturday April 9: the day dawned clear and cold, turning warm later. Coordinator and 'crew chief' Cyane Gresham arrived early to lay out tools, bags for trash, and cartons to collect recycling. Storm Evans brought coffee and water. Phil Jones helped carry a table for sign-in sheets. (Click the picture to see it enlarged.)

Over 23 people turned out for the workday: the youngest were Isabella and John Mazzacaro, ages 3 and 5. John Roberts wielded a chainsaw with skill while Bob Reynolds hauled away loads of brush. Susan Edens provided landscape and weeding expertise. Bob and Sam Davis were an effective father-son team. Signe Wilkinson and Jon Landau brought daughter Nikka and dog Ginger to help gather trash. John Florence and others pitched in.

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., 1 May -- Outreach Committee Meeting -- MS room, 9-10:30
Sun., 1 May -- Community Lunch -- 12:00 pm at Meetinghouse
Sun., 1 May -- Plant Swap -- following community lunch, outside
Sun., 1 May -- Worship & Ministry Committee Meeting -- 12:30 pm in the office
Sun., 8 May -- Forum: Science Denialism -- 12:00 at Meetinghouse; child care
Sun., 15 May -- Meeting for business -- 12:30 pm at Meetinghouse
Tues. 17 May -- Election Day; CHFM is a polling place all day
Tues. 17 May -- Men's Support Group -- 7:30 pm in Middle School room
Sat., 21 May -- Workday -- 9am to noon at meetinghouse
Sun., 22 May -- Meeting for worship on lower lot -- 9:00 am
Tue., 24 May -- Peace & Concerns -- 7-8:30 pm at Meetinghouse (4th Tuesdays)
Tues., 31 May -- June newsletter deadline -- midnight, via email -

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

May 1 Plant Swap

On Sunday, May 1, after the rise of meeting and the community lunch, step outside to enjoy the CHFM Plant Swap. If you're a gardener, bring plants of which you have too many (not to include dandelions), and leave with other gardeners' bounty. If you're a beginner gardener, you're still welcome to take plants even if you have nothing to offer in exchange.

May Forum: Science, Galileo and the Rise of Science Denialism

Derrick Pitts, Chief Astronomer, The Franklin Institute, will discuss how, during the renaissance, Galileo engaged in a titanic struggle with the Roman Church to meld science and religion in new way. Although the effort failed, he succeeded in pushing the practice of science to a new level of empirical investigation where testability and proof are 'king'. Why then do we allow school districts to reject proven scientific tenets, principles, and laws? What do we expect the effect of this denialism of science to be on our society overall? Can science and religion co-exist today? Join us on Sunday, May 8, a little after 12:00. Child care is available.

Our Growing Community Did we meet the challenge?

When last month's newsletter was sent out, we didn't know if the Campaign Committee had managed to meet the challenge of an anonymous member to raise \$300,000 between September 1, 2010, and March 31, 2011. We knew we were close, but final figures weren't yet in. But on Sunday, April 3, Campaign Committee clerk Jon Landau announced that we had actually raised...

Germantown Meeting throws us a party

Our f/Friends at Germantown Monthly Meeting have responded to our presentation on our new building at their business meeting by offering to host a party for us on Friday, June 10. They've urged us to invite Friends from all seven meetings in Philadelphia Quarter for an evening of food and fellowship. Food will include at least some vegan options, with potluck desserts welcome. Mark your calendars now and join us from 6:30 to 9:30 on Friday, June 10 at Germantown Meeting, on Coulter Street between Germantown Avenue and Greene Street.

A new email update

On Thursday, April 28, you should have received a short email from the Campaign called "Building Updates." Its primary focus is on getting timely news to friends of our new meetinghouse project who are outside our immediate community. That list includes Friends from other meetings and retirement communities, as well as many non-Quakers who have asked to be kept informed about the new building. And it includes you, too. (Click picture to view it full size.)

Mystery stone staircase in the Park: Chapter 2

Several Friends who attended the April 9 cleanup day took a little side trip into the stretch of Fairmount Park that adjoins our building lot. We found the stone staircase that descends from the ridge down to the level of Cresheim Valley Drive. Many have been curious about those stairs, and about something called the Woodward Rock Garden, which shows up on some maps of Fairmount Park in that area. A letter to the editor of the Chestnut Hill Local provoked two replies to requests for information about the mysterious

construction. Rina Fesnak, who is a poll watcher at our meetinghouse polling place, says she remembers walking to that area to take family photographs. She lent us several, two of which appear in this week's Chestnut Hill Local (page 12). (Click each small picture here to see it enlarged in a new window.)

Foundation of the Month May's Foundation of the Month is the Nararo Foundation We want to approach this local, Northwest Philadelphia foundation and request a grant of \$10,000. The proposal is a short one, and should emphasize the benefits the new meetinghouse will bring to the community. It's not a difficult proposal to write - a great one to start with if you haven't written a proposal before. If you're interested, send Ann an email - ann.tydemansolomon@gmail.com or call her at 215-848-1405. Thanks!

Outside the Meeting PA Grassroots Advocacy Training with FCNL

Pennsylvania senator Bob Casey will be a key player in upcoming debates about creating a Renewable Energy Standard, and he needs to hear from constituents on the issue. FCNL environmental lobbyist Marcia Cleveland will share strategies for talking to Casey. Participants will learn grassroots lobbying skills that are applicable to a wide variety of issues. Sunday, May 1, 2011, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Friends Center, 1515 Cherry Street.

Wissahickon East Project

Across Cresheim Valley Drive from us, the Wissahickon East Project (WEP) and many neighbors successfully stopped a housing development on six acres of Cresheim Creek land (corner of Woodbrook and Anderson). This summer Fairmount Park will take ownership of the land, which will allow WEP to start planning, clean-up and reclamation projects. This effort aligns neatly with our hopes for the section of Fairmount Park that adjoins our building site, where we hope to partner with Friends of the Wissahickon. For more information on WEP's plans, attend the Community Park Planning Meeting on Saturday, May 14, 2011, 12:30 to 3:00 PM at Grace Epiphany Church, Gowen and Ardleigh. See the Wissahickon East Project website - <http://www.wissahickoneast.org> for more information.

Quote

"To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is itself to succumb to the violence of our times. Frenzy destroys our inner capacity for peace. It ... kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful."

Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander, by Thomas Merton
Suggested by Cyane Gresham

Letter from the clerk

On Easter morning, for early meeting at 9am, twelve Friends brought chairs into a close circle on the lower lot as the sun rose through the white pines. After the hour, we shook hands and rose, feeling joy, peace, and renewal together.

On Tuesday night, the Peace and Concerns committee came for a meeting to consider Germantown meeting's Declaration on Racial Justice - http://www.chfmnewsletter.org/201105/Germantown_Meeting_Declaration.pdf .

How fortunate we are to be part of this vital, loving community. As always, if you have questions, comments, suggestions. please call or

email me or any of the committee clerks listed in the directory.

With gratitude,
Jean Warrington

Interfaith Green Fair

Sunday, May 1st, 2011 1-5 PM at Germantown Meeting, West Coulter Street between Germantown Avenue and Greene Street. See GMM's website for details. - <http://www.germantownmeeting.org/interfaith-green-fair>

The grass is always greener

Please consider taking a turn maintaining our lawn this year. Our lightweight mower is easy to operate. The lawn mowing rota is posted; sign up! Direct questions to Bob Reynolds - bobreynolds@comcast.net&Subject=Lawn%20Mowing at 215 880-3166, or any member of the committee.

May 21 Workday

The May 21 workday will focus on yard cleanup and sprucing up around the meetinghouse. 9am to noon; coffee and treats provided. Please bring gloves and tools.

Helping Parkway Peace H.S.

Parkway Peace High School needs judges for senior projects in May, and Friends each year offer to help in a three-hour session. Please contact Mary Day Kent - mdaykent@verizon.net?Subject=Peace%20HS if you can offer one afternoon or evening.

Education fund for Quaker events

Need help attending Quaker workshops or events like FGC and Philadelphia annual sessions? The Education fund can supplement the costs. We especially encourage those who have not applied before. Find the form on our website. Return to anyone on Care and Counsel or email to Meg Mitchell - mitchellmarg@verizon.net . Paper copies are available in the gathering room.

Quarterly Meeting: Outreach

On Sunday, June 5, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting convenes at Frankford Meeting. Outreach Committees of all seven meetings of the quarter will discuss what they are doing with others. Download the flyer with full information.

CHFM on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chestnut-Hill-Friends-Meeting/115719455173670?ref=ts> Nikka Landau has set up a Facebook page for Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting. If you're already a Facebooker, go to this page - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chestnut-Hill-Friends-Meeting/115719455173670?ref=ts> , click the Like link and you'll be alerted to new posts on that page.

Are you considering counseling?

The Friends Counseling Service is a network of Quaker mental health professionals under the care of PYM designed to serve Quaker members and attenders. The mental health professionals in FCS have been chosen because of their counseling experience and a commitment to Quakerism. Some financial support is available if needed.

In our meeting, Betty Hartzell (therapist) and Sarah Whitman (psychiatrist) participate as therapists in the Friends Counseling Service, and Phil Jones provides help with IT services. Although Betty and Sarah don't provide mental health services to those in our Meeting, either would be happy to share information about FCS. Information is also available from the PYM website - <http://pym.org/committee/friends-counseling-service> .

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.

Allergy Reminder

Friends are reminded that a member of our community has a severe allergy to strawberries, and has to leave the building if they are present. So please don't bring strawberries in any form to any meeting social function or meal.

Meeting for Worship

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

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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