

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
November 2011

Meeting Events

Falling for the Arts on a glorious day

Friends staffing our booth at this year's Fall for the Arts Festival were delighted by the overwhelmingly positive response of local people last Sunday to their plans to build a new meetinghouse with a Skyspace by light artist James Turrell. Intrigued by a photograph of Turrell's only other Skyspace in a meetinghouse (in Houston, Texas,) hundreds of festival goers slowed to talk to an enthusiastic Friend or supporter about the project. Many of those who stopped to chat had already heard of Turrell, a life-long Quaker whose installations are commissioned by art institutions and private collectors around the globe, and were excited to discover that in the summer of 2013 the site between Chestnut Hill and Mt. Airy would be home to a unique site-specific Skyspace. Like the Skyspace "Meeting" at the Museum of Modern Art's PS1 Gallery in New York, ours will have a retractable roof.

FDS Field Trip to Pennsbury Manor

The First Day School went to Pennsbury Manor on 23 October 2011. It was a beautiful fall day, perfect to enjoy our tour of the Manor and for sipping cider that we'd just smashed and pressed ourselves. We learned a little about life as William Penn would have lived it; we are studying Quaker History this school year.

During our car trip home, the children were asked to tell us something new they learned. Bennett Heider and Abby Trach both said they never knew that Penn kept slaves.

Much thanks to our parent volunteer drivers, Jude Brandt, Zach Duncan-Tessmer, Mike Quirk, and Dennis Trach.

Update on Friendly Fellowship survey

Perhaps you remember filling out a survey on line, or maybe Elizabeth Walmsley caught you with her clipboard and you signed up for some sort of social activity. That first step was meant to gauge the kinds of interests that might exist for different kinds of activities. The Outreach Committee is now analyzing the data collected, and will soon be contacting people who signed up, asking some of them to host a gathering (of whatever type they picked).

KISTA Update

Elizabeth Walmsley reports from the latest meeting of the KISTA Trust working group that its members are refining their search for career possibilities, investigating Certified Nursing Assistant and Beauty School training among others. They are also planning to re-schedule the Night in Nepal, originally planned for October 22, to a date during the spring break at Chestnut Hill College, where two of the KISTA members work.

November Calendar

Sun., 6 Nov. -Worship & Ministry committee meeting - Middle School room, 12:15 pm
Sun., 6 Nov. - Community Lunch - Social Room, 12:00-1:30 pm
Sat., 12 Nov. - Workday - 9 am-12 pm
Sun., 13 Nov. - Inquirers' Breakfast - Social room, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Mon., 14 Nov. - Care & Counsel committee meeting - Mickey's home
Tue., 15 Nov. - Men's Spiritual Support - Middle School room, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sun., 20 Nov. - Meeting for business - Meeting room, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Sun., 27 Nov. - Meeting for worship on lower lot, weather permitting - 9:00 am
Wed., 30 Nov. - December newsletter deadline - midnight,

Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship - 9-10 am 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

Forum: Religion and Politics in Modern Turkey

Sarah Sharp, meeting member and social studies teacher at William Penn Charter School, will speak about "Religion and Politics in Modern Turkey," using material and insights gathered from her summer 2011 participation in the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad entitled "American Issues in Global Context: Turkey in the World." She will draw from her writings and images assembled in her blog - <http://sharpsturkeyblog.wordpress.com> as part of the presentation, as well as other materials. Some of the topics that she will cover in particular are religious pluralism, the Kurdish populations, hydropolitics, and economic concerns as they affect modern Turkish life.

Next Inquirers' Breakfast

Every so often the Outreach Committee invites newcomers and seekers to breakfast at the meetinghouse. We gather at 8:30 am for light breakfast fare (coffee, tea, bagels, etc.), and a couple of Friends talk briefly about how they came to be a part of this community. It's very informal, and many who have been around the Meeting for a long time enjoy hearing these stories too. So join us on Sunday, 13 November, at 8:30am in the social room; you don't have to be a newcomer, just curious, Friendly, and perhaps a little bit hungry.

This is also a good occasion to bring a friend who has been asking you about Quakerism but is cautious about jumping straight into meeting for worship.

November workday

George Benz of the Property Committee cordially invites you to a meeting cleanup workday on Saturday, November 12, from 9:00 to noon. The Property Committee provides some tools, but feel free to bring your own, and definitely bring your own gloves. There will be seasonally appropriate beverages and refreshments (aren't donuts always in season?).

Our Growing Community Official Campaign launch event

On Wednesday, October 26, the Campaign Committee hosted a launch party to inform the wider community that our capital campaign to raise funds for the new meetinghouse was now public. While we have been raising money within the meeting, and among selected people outside the Meeting, we have not until now been appealing to the Chestnut Hill/Mt Airy/Wyndmoor communities at large to join us. At the event, three speakers from the neighborhood who aren't part of the Meeting talked about their reasons for finding the project exciting. Glenn Bergmann, manager of Weavers Way Co-op, admitted that he had at one point had his eye on our building site as a possible home for the Chestnut Hill branch of the Co-op. But he was delighted to learn of our plans, and looks forward to using the new building as a meeting place for Co-op membership meetings.

Campaign says fond farewells to staff and consultants

October's Campaign committee meeting was one of mixed emotions. There was a great deal of joy over the positive response from the community and donors to the new meetinghouse and excitement about plans to spread the word more widely, as well as sadness (and a good deal of trepidation) at saying 'goodbye' to the seven paid staff and consultants that have helped us to varying degrees since 2007.

Although four of the seven have said they plan to continue to volunteer with the Campaign, the level of their participation will be different and so, after attending to business, the group took time to acknowledge the contribution of each individual. They in turn expressed their thanks for having had an opportunity to be associated with this project and looked forward to joining us on the benches in the meeting room once the new building is open.

For a list of Campaign events coming in the next few weeks, see the top of the right sidebar .

Outside the Meeting NPIHN Empty Bowl Dinner

From our friends at NPIHN: The weather is still warm but we are already looking forward to this year's Empty Bowl Dinner! This Northwest Philadelphia signature event will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2011. Mark your calendar and make sure to tell your friends and family to come join us at this fun and family-friendly community event. Read the details of where and when Â» - http://www.chfmnewsletter.org/201111/2011_11-newsletter.org#EmptyBowl

Events celebrating Lucretia Mott, November 4-5, 2011

* Lucretia Mott Symposium at Swarthmore College Friday, November 4, 2011 from 2-5:30PM, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore, PA, Scheuer Room, Kolberg Hall. Panel discussion on the impact of Quaker abolitionist and woman's rights leader, Lucretia Mott, and to consider her place in American history

* Stone Marker Dedication at Fair Hill Burial Ground, Saturday, November 5, 10:00AM, 2900 block of Germantown Avenue in Philadelphia. With speaker Jamie Stiehm, writer, journalist and Lucretia Mott biographer

* Friends Historical Association Annual Meeting, Saturday, November 5, 1:00PM at Arch Street Meetinghouse, 320 Arch Street, Philadelphia. Speaker Carol Faulkner, author of Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America will speak on the topic, "Lucretia Mott: Radical Quaker, Radical Abolitionist"

Thanksgiving baskets for Northern Home

Friends may remember that last year, Colette Kleitz let us know about this project of the Northern Home; Colette is on their board of trustees.

Everyone deserves a Thanksgiving dinner for their family. A \$75 donation feeds a family for the holiday.

Weird Waste Day

Yes, it's that time of year again! Time to clear out your basement and closets and get rid of all of the "weird waste" sitting in your home. Time to recycle all of your old electronic items responsibly, so that they don't end up in a landfill. Weird Waste Day takes place on Saturday, November 12, from 1-4 pm, in the parking lot next to Valley Green Bank (23 W. Highland Avenue). Visit www.eforcecompliance.com - <http://www.eforcecompliance.com> for information about how your old items are processed. Volunteers should arrive at 12:30. We hope to see you then!

Bank Transfer Day

Many of us have watched with interest, or detachment, the peaceful protest that is Occupy Philadelphia as it has unfolded next to City Hall. Some from our community have been able to spend time there, working and/or worshipping with people camped there.

Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) existed before Occupy Philly, but has been working in conjunction with them on some actions. EQAT's primary focus is still ending PNC Bank's support of mountaintop removal by coal mining companies, but they are adding to this support for a movement endorsed by Occupy Philly: sending large national banks a message by moving bank accounts to small local banks and credit unions.

Poem Sometimes, I Am Startled Out of Myself,

like this morning, when the wild geese came squawking,
flapping their rusty hinges, and something about their trek
across the sky made me think about my life, the places
of brokenness, the places of sorrow, the places where grief
has strung me out to dry. Read the rest of the poem by Barbara Crooker, from Radiance.

Upcoming Campaign Events

The Campaign Committee plans the following events in the next few weeks. Now that the Campaign is public, we want to take our message to as many people as possible. If you can help out, or simply attend any of these as a Friendly Presence, please do so. Contact Phil Jones - philiphjones@comcast.net for more information.

- * Nov. 3-5 visiting shopkeepers on Germantown Ave with posters and postcards
- * Sat., Nov 12, 11 am -1 pm lower lot, hot cider and tours of building site
- * Tue., Nov 15, 7 pm - 8 pm Trolley Car diner
- * Wed., Nov 30, 7 pm - 8 pm Chestnut Hill Library
- * Mon., Dec 5, 7 pm - 8 pm, Springfield Township Library

New meeting secretary

Viv Hawkins, our meeting secretary for the last three years, has moved on to a full-time job with the Shalom Center, where she will be forming liaisons with other groups of many faiths working on peace-related causes. The Personnel Committee has offered the position of interim secretary to Phil Jones, who has accepted. You can usually find him at the meetinghouse on Mondays and Thursdays from about 10:00 a.m. to about 5:00 p.m., and can always reach him by email - secretary@chestnuthillquakers.org or by phone at 215-247-3553. (He loves to write about himself in the third person.)

Food for Business Meeting Lunch

We all appreciate the main dish Mickey Abraham provides for the third Sunday lunch before Meeting for Business. But we are in need of more "sides" to round out the meal. Please bring simple supplements such as grapes, clementines, veggies, dip, simple salad, bread, crackers, cut-up cheese, peanut butter and jelly, simple desserts. Let's show Mickey our support.

FCS Addictions Services

A discussion group, Working with Addictions, meets on the second and fourth Saturday morning of every month from 10:00 to 11:30 at Fourth & Arch Meetinghouse. In a safe, welcoming environment, members and attenders of the PYM community are invited to share their experiences and advice, and make connections with others facing the challenges of addiction. The bi-monthly meetings are confidential and are facilitated by a licensed professional counselor.

Questions? Please contact the leader, Bill Procyson at 484-680-6457.

Curious about co-housing?

Co-housing is a type of intentional community composed of private homes supplemented by shared facilities. An environmentally sustainable one is forming in Chester County in London Grove Township (out beyond Kennett Square); Scott Kelly, of RE:Vision Architects is one of those involved in ensuring that it is a green facility in all senses. Visit their website - <http://www.threegrovesecovillage.org/> for more information.

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.