

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
January 2012

New Year's Eve worship

Carolyn Schodt and Howard Lesnick will be opening the meetinghouse and building a fire in time for worship at 11:00 on Saturday night, New Year's Eve. Interested Friends should feel free to join them.

New Clerks

At a called meeting for business on 8 January, the Nominating Committee will present its slate for two officers of the Meeting: Meg Mitchell, clerk, and Carla White, assistant clerk. They will ask for approval of this slate at that time. Both Friends are well known to the meeting. Meg is long-time clerk of Care & Counsel, and Carla, the current assistant clerk, has served on almost every committee since her childhood in this Meeting.

A note from the outgoing clerk

Thank you, friends, for your part in our community life that makes the clerk's job always interesting and mostly positive. We believe there is light in everyone, that we are all valuable in our seeking, and so we have a democratic religion. We govern and sustain our society as volunteers. I have found that the more I give this community, the more I receive. Jean Warrington

Joyous Christmas!

The First Day School children were involved in two Christmas events this year - a pageant and an ornament sale - both of which were wonderfully received and supported by the meeting. On December 18th, the children presented a joyful program of songs and Bible readings telling the story of the first Christmas.

A BIG thank you to Tricia Walmsley for making it all happen! Middle School students were led to create and sell hand-painted ornaments (made/decorated by all the children, from the nursery to 8th grade), successfully raising \$110 to donate to the SPCA and SHARE - www.sharefoodprogram.org .

What's ahead in FDS

Thank you to everyone who helped teach and support First Day School this fall. The children learned about George Fox, Margaret Fell, James Nayler, and William Penn, and they took steps back in time to experience what life was like for early Quakers and for early settlers here in Pennsylvania.

New Christmas Traditions

Our meeting celebrated the return of the light this Christmas with two new gatherings.

* On December 18, fifteen Friends and neighbors gathered at the meetinghouse to tune up and then set out with candles to sing for Mermaid Lane neighbors. Andi the flautist gave the hardy group a solid foundation and neighbors opened their doors, waved out the windows, and brought out cookies for the carolers. When they were very cold, they returned to the meetinghouse for hot cider and cocoa and visiting in the candlelit meeting house. Thanks to Kathy Miller and Ellen Deacon for organizing.

* On Christmas Eve, friends gathered again in the quiet meeting room

lit by candles and the fire. We sang a few carols with guitar accompaniment and then shared a reading of the Nativity story from the book of Luke, and A Christmas Memory by Truman Capote. Friends came forward to light a candle and share a wish or memory. When we sang Silent Night, the little table was glowing with the light of all the candles we had brought together. Thanks to the Warrington family for sharing this Christmas tradition from Journey's End Farm.

Friendly Eights: Remember them?

One could be forgiven for thinking that Friendly 8s had fallen by the wayside for this season. Your Outreach Committee members apologize for the delay. We have been looking at ways to help the groups keep functioning, rather than foundering as they have had a tendency to do after just one meeting due to the busy-ness of Friends' lives. To that end, we are trying a different approach this time.

We are setting up the groups, appointing host(esse)s, and setting the dates of your gatherings.

January Calendar

Sat., 31 Dec. -- New Year's Eve worship -- 11:00 - 12:00 pm in Worship Room
Sun., 1 Jan. -- Community Lunch -- at rise of meeting, in Social Room
Sun., 8 Jan. -- Worship & Ministry Committee meeting 12:15 in Middle School room
Sun., 8 Jan. -- Called business meeting for Nominating slate at rise of meeting
Mon., 9 Jan. -- Care & Counsel Committee meeting -- Mickey's home
Sun., 15 Jan. -- Meeting for Business -- 12:30 pm in Worship Room;(CC)
Tue., 17 Jan. -- Men's Group -- Middle School room
Sun., 22 Jan. -- Discussion of "Four Doors to Quaker Worship " 9:00 am, Social Room (CC)
Tue., 31 Jan. -- February newsletter deadline -- midnight

Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship -- 9 - 10am in meeting room
Hymn-singing, in Social Room by piano -- 9:45 am to 10:15 am
Meeting for Worship (childcare available) -- 10:30 - 11:30 am
First Day School -- 10:30 am to 11:30 am

New Meetinghouse News

Nice mention in the Chestnut Hill Local

In his year-end review - <http://chestnuthilllocal.com/blog/2011/12/29/looking-for-a-better-year-in-2012/> of the news in 2011, Chestnut Hill Local editor Pete Mazzaccaro decided to focus on the good things that are happening - or are about to happen - in the neighborhood, including this item:

"Off the business path, there has been a lot of other news to look forward to. Soon, construction will begin on a new Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting House that will bring with it a Skyspace installation by the internationally respected artist James Turrell."

Contractors's Pre-Bid Conference

The six contractors that have been selected by the Client Committee and our project manager, John Howard, to bid on the project attended a pre-bid conference on December 21. The next step is for them to prepare their bids and submit them.

Trips to the Turrell Skyspace in New York City

Heidi Heller is organizing winter trips to the Turrell Skyspace at the Modern Art Museum PS1 Annex in New York. If you haven't been able to go on one of these trips but want to, contact Heidi. Cost for transportation, museum admission, and Italian restaurant dinner is about \$35.

News of Friends

Ann and Phil Jones enjoyed the Christmas visit of his sister and brother-in-law (a retired architect) from Texas. One highlight was touring Beth Sholom Synagogue in Elkins Park, which has much to teach us about what it's like to live in/with a work of art.

Miyo Moriuchi heads to South Africa in January to attend the wedding of her daughter in a Quaker/Zulu ceremony.

Outside the Meeting

PYM Financial Stewardship survey

The Financial Stewardship Committee would like to hear from you about PYM's programs and services as they prepare to develop the fiscal year 2013 budget (which starts this coming July).

PYM, like many meetings and other organizations, is facing financial challenges. For instance, 2011 income was approximately \$800,000 less than 2010 income. This significant drop in income means that the Financial Stewardship Committee will probably present a much smaller budget in the year to come. They need our help.

NIM's annual MLK Celebration

Please join NIM as they welcome Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams as keynote speaker for their 29th Annual Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's theme is "Rediscovering the Beloved Community Through Service, Justice and Faith." The 2012 celebration will take place on Sunday, January 15, from 3-5 PM at Janes Memorial United Methodist Church, 47 E. Haines St., Philadelphia, PA 19144. In addition to District Attorney Williams, the event will also feature responses from local clergy, performances by local choirs and readings of the words of Dr. King.

Israel, Palestine, and the USA

What's happening over there? What does it mean to me? What can/should I do about it? Our neighbors at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church are planning a program on Sunday, March 25, 2012. It will be a public gathering of concerned Christians from Southeastern Pennsylvania to discuss the ongoing crisis in Israel/Palestine, the U.S.'s role, and what we can and must do as citizens and people of faith to bring attention to the issues concerning Israel-Palestine. Our goal is to build the movement of Pennsylvania-based Christians and allies to take action toward peace with justice for all peoples of historic Palestine.

There is a planning meeting to address these questions on Sunday, January 29, 2012, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the church, for representatives of area congregations with concerns about what has been happening in Israel and Palestine/Occupied Territories.

Poem

The Old Life (Excerpt)

December twenty-first
we assembled at the church festooned
red and green, the tree
flashing green-red lights beside the altar.
After the children of Sunday
school recited Scripture, sang
and scraped out solos,
they retired to dress for the finale,
to perform the pageant

again: Mary and Joseph kneeling
cradleside, Three Kings,
shepherds and shepherdesses. Their garments
were bathrobes with moth holes,

KISTA update

Our holiday cards were offered at Chestnut Hill Meeting on Sundays in December in exchange for donations, which helped our balance fly past \$3,100 as we start our second year! Happy Birthday KISTA, one year old on December 5th! Watch for more news about the upcoming Night in Nepal, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 17.

Next French conversation group meeting

The next French group is scheduled for Friday January 27 at 7:30. For questions or more information, email Cyane Gresham.

Turkey Revisited

Sue Betts is planning a follow-up to Sarah Sharp's Forum presentation on her studies in Turkey last summer. Sue and Sarah are planning the presentation for Sunday, March 25, after meeting for worship. If you would like to hear more about Sarah's travels in Turkey last summer (or missed the first chance and want to catch up), and if you think you would attend, please send Sue an email so that she can gauge the level of interest.

Welcome, Clare!

Clare Hyre came on board in November to teach our 3rd and 4th graders and help coordinate First Day School curriculum. Clare is a graduate of Guilford College, where she studied peace and conflict resolution and religious studies, and taught First Day School at Friendship Friends Meeting. She is currently the Education Coordinator for Saul High School's Henry Got Crops program (a CSA farming and education partnership with Weaver's Way). Clare is also working on new startup project called Cloud 9 Urban Rooftop Farm. Please join us in welcoming Clare!

Cresheim Trail tour

On Sunday, December 18, five CHFM Friends joined neighbors to hike a section of the future Cresheim Trail up behind the Trolley Car diner. Susan Dannenberg, coordinator of Friends of Cresheim Trail guided the group and showed a map of the seven-mile proposed rail-to-trail that will connect the Wissahickon to Montgomery County Parks. Friends who want to help can contact Susan.

Your event(s) on the meeting calendar

The new year is a good time to think about putting meetings of groups (not just committees) that conduct the Meeting's activities in the official online calendar - <http://www.quaker.org/chestnuthill/e-calendar.htm>. If you are clerk or convenor for such a group, please email the information about your group's meeting schedule. This is the best way to ensure that your event appears on the online calendar, that your claim on meeting space is established, and that you know who else might be using the building at the same time.

Four Doors to Quaker Worship

Adult discussion will be offered at 9:00 am on the 1st, 4th and 5th Sundays this winter in the social room, starting January 22. The pamphlet, Four Doors to Quaker Worship, will be available for purchase for \$5 in the office. Child care is provided. Sign up on the

bulletin board. And watch for notice of Quakerism 101 to be offered later in the winter. For more information, please speak to Miriam Schaefer, Jean Warrington or Roger Walmsley.

Address corrections

Warren Witte's phone number is now 215-518-2259.

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 (i.e., it's not a potluck). All are welcome. (We do have a potluck lunch on the fifth Sunday of the month, when there is one.)

Meeting for Worship

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