

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
May 2012

Meeting Events

Family Improv night, Friday, 4/27

All families are encouraged to come to the meetinghouse at 6:00 pm on Friday, 27 April, for silly skits and improv games. Bring an entree/drink/side/dessert to share, and also dress-up clothes, props, costumes to wear and share. Most important, bring your best SKIT IDEAS!

Plant Swap and KISTA benefit

On Sunday, April 29, after the rise of meeting and during Community Lunch, Ann Jones and Meg Mitchell will run our second annual plant swap. Bring extras from your garden (labeled as to what they are, please), and take home different extras from someone else's garden. If you're a novice gardener with nothing to share, feel free to take some plants to get started. All this is free, but you're also encouraged to make a donation to the KISTA Trust to help our Nepali friends fund their educational pursuits.

First Day School Field Trip To Wall House Museum

First Day School wrapped up its study of historical "Quaker Heroes" in March with a field trip on March 18 to the Richard Wall House in Elkins Park. We met our wonderful guides, Jack and Mary Washington, and started the tour with a short film that was narrated by Richard Wall himself, speaking to us from the 1680's! The Walls, a Quaker family, emigrated from Cheltenham, England, first arriving in Pennsylvania on the same fleet of ships that brought William Penn.

Adult RE

The next Adult RE class begins on 6 May, for three weekly sessions beginning at 9:00 am. Under discussion is the Pendle Hill pamphlet, Four Doors to Meeting for Worship (available at the meetinghouse for \$5).

Design presentations 8 and 21 May

The coordinating committee will present the floorplans and details of the new meetinghouse from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Meetinghouse on 8 May and 21 May. Child care will be provided.

The purpose of these sessions is to acquaint (or reacquaint) you with the new meetinghouse floor plan and features as well as introduce you to our general contractor, Rob Reeves. The two sessions are intended to be the same, so you need attend only one session.

Most of us know a lot about the meetinghouse already but haven't seen the most recent plans. Some of you, however, have never seen anything other than the bulletin board. Please be sure to join us. There will be plenty of time to ask questions.

Recording Clerk News

At the April meeting for business, Storm Evans served as Recording Clerk for the first time. She has agreed to take on this role if we are willing to try a time-honored Quaker tradition for recording minutes. Under this process, at the end of each item of business, the group pauses in worship while the recording clerk writes a statement of the action or decision taken ("the minute"). The recording clerk then reads the minute to the Meeting for the Meeting to correct as needed, and approve. At the end of the Meeting for Business, the minutes are finished and approved, and ready to be distributed. This process is described in detail on FGC's website - <http://www.fgcquaker.org/ao/quaker-business-basics> . We feel that this method will not only reduce the time the recording clerk spends after Meeting for Business, but also will allow those present to approve the record while all are there and memories are clear, rather than a month later. We agreed to use this system on a trial basis into the fall; we'll re-evaluate it in October.

Special Meeting Email Addresses

You may have seen the handy list on page 29 of the new directory that illustrates how to reach committees and their clerks, as well as various officers of the Meeting, by email. If you'd like a version of that list to post near your computer, click to download such a document - <http://www.chfmnewsletter.org/2012-05/EmailCheatsheet.pdf> .

May Calendar

Fri., 27 Apr. 6-8pm - Family Improv night - Social Room
Sat., 28 Apr. 2pm-5pm - PYM Listening Session - Plymouth Friends Meeting
Sun., 29 Apr. 4pm-7pm - PYM Listening Session - Burlington (NJ) Meeting
Sun., 29 Apr. 12-2pm - Blue Moon potluck and plant swap - Back Porch area
Mon., 30 Apr, 7:30-9 - Coordinating Committee - Gathering Room
Tue., 1 May, 7:00pm - Peace & Social Concerns Committee - Stapeley Hall
Sun., 6 May, 9:00am - Adult RE class - Middle School Room
Sun., 6 May, 12:00pm - Community Lunch - Social Room
Sun., 6 May, 12:15pm - Worship & Ministry Committee - Middle School Room
Tue., 8 May, 7:00pm - Design Presentation - Worship Room
Tue., 8 May, 7:30pm - Men's Spiritual Support Group - Middle School Room
Wed., 9 May, 7:00pm - Finance Committee - Office
Sat., 12 May, 9-12 - Work Day - Around the meetinghouse
Sun., 13 May, 9:00am - Adult RE class - Middle School Room
Sun., 13 May, 12-1pm - Forum: Nepali Refugee Stories - Worship Room
Mon., 14 May, 7:30pm - Care & Counsel Committee - Mickey's home
Tue., 15 May, 8:30am - Groundbreaking for the new building Building site
Wed. 16 May, 7pm - Property Committee - Gathering Room
Sun., 20 May, 9:00am - Adult RE class - Middle School Room
Sun., 20 May, 12:30 - Meeting for Business - Worship Room
Mon., 21 May, 7:00pm - Design Presentation - Worship Room
Sun., 27 May, 9:00am - Early meeting for worship - Worship Room and building site
Sun., 27 May, 12:00pm - RE Committee - FDS area
Wed., 30 May, - June newsletter deadline - midnight, via email

Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship - 9 - 10am in meeting room; 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 Forum: Nepali neighbors' stories so far

This month's Forum focuses on the story of our Nepali refugee friends and some individual Friends, and how they came to be linked. Elizabeth Walmsley, a member of the Meeting, will facilitate. Elizabeth has been working closely with this community for the past two years and will help tell the story of our Nepali refugee friends and their experiences before and after coming to the USA. Other Friends will share their experiences of working with them. This will be an opportunity for us to learn about this community within our community.

Light refreshments will be served @ 11.30. Childcare is also provided.

New Meetinghouse News

Groundbreaking for the new meetinghouse

Join our meeting community at 8:30 am on Tuesday, 15 May, for a short groundbreaking ceremony to kick off actual construction on our building site. We've invited some dignitaries to make brief remarks: two members of City Council, the Mayor's Chief Cultural Officer, the president of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the executive director of Friends of the Wissahickon are all confirmed. But mostly we want you to come and enjoy this exciting next step.

Connelly Foundation Grant

On 12 April we heard from the Connelly Foundation that they had awarded us \$25,000 to build a "new meetinghouse [to] serve as an anchoring institution that will help to strengthen the diverse Northwest Philadelphia community. With additional space, [the Meeting] will be able to expand its outreach to homeless families and refugees, to provide a place for community groups to meet and to offer educational programs, films, lectures, workshops and community events."

Knight Foundation Grant

On Monday, 23 April, we received confirmation that the meetinghouse project was among the 35 groups and individuals awarded grants in this second year of a three-year program. Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge is a \$9 million initiative funding innovative projects that engage and enrich Philadelphia's communities. With a tradition of welcoming people of all faiths, Chestnut Hill Meeting will open its James Turrell Skyspace at least twice a week at dawn and dusk at regularly scheduled, published dates, with opportunities to open it more frequently upon request. Its design was donated by Turrell.

It takes a Meeting to raise a grant

Signe Wilkinson writes: Just a note to say thank you for the great group effort that made the Knight award possible. From Nikla's first drafts and Ann's many tinkering, to Dan Evans and Jon Landau's messing with our budgets, to Storm and Jean's careful culling of the many details we needed to send it off, to the many others who helped in smaller or less visible ways, this grant has a lot of Friendly fingerprints! And, I have to add a shout out to Nikka Landau (and our Comms team) who had the press release checked (and re-checked) by Knight and ready to go promptly after the announcement.

News of Friends

Friends who attended the recent Quakerism 101 series may be interested to read Ben Lloyd's blog posts from his journey to Kenya for the Friends World Committee on Consultation conference, just concluded. There are seven posts in all; here's a link to the last <http://showmanshaman.wordpress.com/2012/04/18/kenyapost-1/> once you're on the blog you can find the others.

Look for Signe Wilkinson's letter to Friends Journal (May 2012) about the Lucretia Mott biography she read recently.

Eileen Flanagan has another blog post published in Huffington Post - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eileen-flanagan/moving-the-green-movement_b_1448301.html about EQAT and other faith-based groups' work against mountaintop removal financing by PNC Bank.

Outside the Meeting

EQAT Walk

The Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) is on the move, walking cheerfully across Pennsylvania and raising the issue of PNC Bank's financing of mountaintop removal coal mining. The walk will depart 30 April from Friends Center. All are welcome for breakfast at 8am and meeting for worship at 8:30. Please RSVP to give a sense of numbers. If you are interested in joining any part of the walk, please visit the EQAT website -

<http://eqat.wordpress.com/walk/> for the latest information and to sign up. Special opportunities include events in Lancaster on Saturday, 5 May, in Harrisburg on Monday 7 May, and at PNC national headquarters on 16 May! Chestnut Hill member Eileen Flanagan is coordinating outreach to other people of faith and green groups along the way, so if you have friends in Harrisburg or Pittsburgh who might be interested, please let them know about it or be in touch with Eileen for more details -eileenflanagan@juno.com.

PYM Spiritual Formation Program news

The program begins with a weekend retreat, 21-23 September, 2012 at a monastery retreat site. From there, participants return home to begin a nine-month program of spiritual discipline and study. Participants meet monthly in small groups and create a close, faith-evoking community for spiritual growth, mutual support and encouragement. The program culminates in a closing retreat, 14-16 June, 2013, with the theme of naming and claiming one's gifts and ministry.

Business Meeting Lunches

Hospitality is now providing first, third and fifth First Day lunches. The third Sunday Business Meeting lunches are a new project. The committee hopes it will evolve to a few coordinators and a set pool of volunteers ready to help a few times each year to cover 9 lunches for 50 people. Please encourage people to help as Hospitality takes on this extra task.

Peace High School panels

Senior Project Panel Presentations are due, and our friends at the Peace High School are once again in need of people to sit on these panels as judges. Each student panel will be about a half hour long allowing time for the 10-15 minute student presentation, questions and answers from the judges, and discussion among the panelists.

PYM Listening Sessions

Jean Warrington is facilitating two PYM Listening Sessions: Plymouth Meeting on Saturday, 28 April from 2pm-5pm, and on Sunday, 29 April at Burlington Meeting from 4pm-7pm. More info on PYM website. <http://pym.org/news/long-range-planning-listening-sessions-announced>

Mindfulness Meditation Retreat, 16 June

For the third year, Irene McHenry will offer her Mindfulness Meditation retreat at Chestnut Hill Friends meeting. Irene's teaching is clear and direct and helps students quiet their minds and open up to the present. Mindfulness is helpful for stress reduction, centering, and preparation for meeting for worship. "Irene is a gifted teacher who teaches a variety of approaches that make sense and are doable. Being in her presence for a day is a delight and a boost to my spiritual competence," says a Chestnut Hill Friend. A freewill donation will be accepted to benefit the new meetinghouse.

First Fair Hill Tree Tenders planting

On 14 April 14, CHFM's Miriam Schaefer, Jean and Peter Warrington, and Miriam's new truck joined the crew of neighbors to plant six shade trees. The city cut the sidewalk pits, and more neighbors came out to watch and sign up for their own shade tree in next fall's planting.

Directory Corrections

Dion Lerman's work email address: dll33@psu.edu

Katy Hawkins' husband's name: Dan

As you spot others, send an email to

directory@chestnuthillquakers.org , and Cc the newsletter newsletter@chestnuthillquakers.org .

When we've accumulated enough, the newsletter will carry a downloadable errata sheet that you can print and tuck into your copy of the directory.

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.)

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.

Poem Ingratitude, by Carl Dennis

Spring, I remembered you all these months.
I spoke of the green yard under the snow
To my slumped visitors.
I sobered the giddy neighbors.
"You may think you're still happy,"
I cautioned, "but recall the tea roses,
The lost leaves of the dogwood tree."