

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting  
September 2012

Greeting for meeting

Have you noticed the two friendly people who stand by the entrances to the worship room every Sunday morning? Now it's your turn to be one of these Friendly greeters. And it couldn't be easier. Follow this link - <http://doodle.com/zaxbsd9x2ayv5ak6> and enter your name; then check the date(s) when you'd like to greet. When you've made your choices, scroll w-a-y over to the right to click the Save button. We'll send you a sheet explaining the duties of the greeters in detail, and a reminder phone call or email the week before your scheduled day. It's a great way to meet people! (Really.)

Forum: Public Education and Friends

What should we know? What should we do? How do the challenges, strengths, and needs of the public schools in our city relate to our concerns and testimonies? Our guest speaker on Sunday, 9 September, will be Eric Braxton, graduate of Friends Select School and founding director of the the Philadelphia Student Union. Eric has also worked for the Philadelphia Education Fund and presently is the Executive Director of the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing - <http://www.fcyo.org/>. We will also be joined by Bill Madeira of the PYM working group on public education. Light fare will be provided after the rise of Meeting and the program will start as close to noon as possible. Child care will be provided.

Quaker Young Adults serving Philadelphia

Philadelphia has been asked to support a Quaker Voluntary Service house - <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/> . Young (post-college age) adults living in community doing volunteer work for one year in local agencies that do good work. The primary purpose is to give young adults an intensive service experience in a Quaker setting. The first house has opened in Atlanta and they hope to open another next year in Philadelphia. Are you interested in supporting this? Do you have thoughts about Chestnut Hill Meeting's involvement? Philadelphia Quarter needs to know there is true commitment to say "yes" to:

"[A] working group would be involved in making contacts with local service and social change agencies, seeking a house to rent, finding inexpensive ways to furnish the house, and providing ongoing spiritual and personal support to the volunteers once they arrive. The working group would also report to the sponsoring meeting(s).

"One meeting would need to assume responsibility for administering the funds that will be raised to support the work during the first two years and specifically dedicated to the Philadelphia project." This will be considered at a called Quarter business meeting in late afternoon on September 16 (timing set by a grant with a September 30 deadline). Please let Peace and Concerns know your questions and any thoughts [peace@chestnuthillquakers.org](mailto:peace@chestnuthillquakers.org). You can also contact Meg Mitchell, [clerk@chestnuthillquakers.org](mailto:clerk@chestnuthillquakers.org)

Spiritual Formation retreat: still room for more

Are you eager to deepen your spiritual life with a group of like-minded Friends? There are still spaces available for the opening retreat, September 21-23, at St. Gabriel's Retreat Center near Scranton, which begins a nine-month experience of study, prayer and membership in a small spiritual support group. Contact Jeff Perkins or Carolyn Schodt for more information. To register, contact Susan Thompson (Newtown Friends Meeting).

September Calendar

Sun., 2 September, 12:00pm - Community Lunch - Social Room  
Sun. 9 September, 9:00am - Outreach Committee Meeting - Middle School Room  
Sun., 9 September, 12:00pm - Forum: Friends and Public Education - Worship Room  
Sun., 9 September, 12:15pm - Worship & Ministry meeting - Middle School Room  
Tue., 11 September, 7:00pm - Peace & Social Concerns meeting - Stapeley in Germantown  
Tue., 11 September, 7:30pm - Men's Spiritual Support Group - Middle School Room  
Wed., 12 September, 7:00pm - Finance Committee - Gathering Room  
Sun., 16 September, 12:30pm - Meeting for Business - Worship Room  
Sun., 16 September, 3:30pm - Called Quarterly Meeting - Germantown MM

Wed., 19 September, 7:30pm - RE Committee meeting - Social Room  
Sun., 23 September, 9:00am - Early meeting for worship on Building site - weather permitting  
Sun., 30 September, 12:45pm - RE Committee meeting - Social Room  
Wed., 1 October, - October newsletter deadline - midnight, via email

#### Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship - 9 - 10am in worship room; on lower lot on 4th Sundays  
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 for children - 10:30 am to 11:30 am

#### Ninth Month Query

This month's query is on the Ministry of Outreach; the link takes you to the PYM website. <http://www.pym.org/content/queries#09>

#### New Meetinghouse News

Meetinghouse construction update

After our joyous (if soggy) ceremonial groundbreaking on May 15, we waited eagerly for construction to begin in earnest. And it finally has begun: on Friday, 24 August, a surveyor visited the site to mark the boundaries for the crew that began clearing the site on Tuesday, 28 August. You really need to come see the transformation for yourself.

#### News of Friends

Ed Lanahan, husband of Carol Lanahan, died at home on Thursday morning, 30 August; his family was with him. Friends may make memorial contributions to the National Parkinson Foundation. [http://www3.parkinson.org/site/TR/Events/General?pg=tgreeting&fr\\_id=1080](http://www3.parkinson.org/site/TR/Events/General?pg=tgreeting&fr_id=1080)

Marcelle Martin writes:

"Dear Friends at Chestnut Hill Meeting,  
"I miss you, but follow your news by reading the newsletter and the minutes. I am grateful for my continuing connection to you, and I find it to be a source of support. At the same time, I feel I'm where God wants me to be right now, and that I have lots to learn while I'm here.  
Love to all, Marcelle"

#### Outside the Meeting

##### Getting your game on

Sarah Whitman will be teaching "Sports Psychology Skills for Casual and Competitive Athletes" for the Mt Airy Learning Tree. This two-session class is for both casual and competitive athletes who want to perform better and enjoy their sport more, and for coaches who want to help their players with mental toughness. Participants will learn sports psychology skills such as imagery, relaxation, positive psychology and mindfulness. These skills can improve focus, increase positive thinking, help handle pressure and anxiety, and increase mental toughness, confidence and enjoyment of the game. The classes will be held Saturdays, 10/6 and 10/13, 10am-noon at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, just up Germantown Avenue in Mt Airy. More information is at the Mt Airy Learning Tree website.

##### Is the Voter ID Law Stealing Your Vote?

Come to a forum on Sunday, September 9th, 3:00 p.m. at the Summit Presbyterian Church, 6757 Greene St. (corner of Westview). Learn about ways the new law may impact voters in Philadelphia, and be inspired for action! The featured speaker is John Jordan, Philadelphia Director of Civil Engagement of the NAACP. Representatives from the Commission of Elections, and the League of Women Voters will also be present with information on registration. Refreshments, all welcome. To learn more about the law or how to join the PA Voter ID Coalition, go to the Committee of Seventy's website, <http://www.seventy.org>. Jean Warrington and Judy Morgan are working with anyone from our Meeting interested helping get out the word about the new Voter IDs.

##### Non-violent communication practice

Friends interested in a Nonviolent Communication (NVC) practice group, new attender Judy Morgan would like to hear from you. She says, "NVC is an approach developed by Marshall Rosenberg that emphasizes empathy for others' underlying needs in conflict situations. It's compatible with the Alternatives to Violence Program that CHFM is already involved with, but a little different in focus. See more information here: <http://cnvc.org> I've found it very helpful over the years, but it does require continual work to stay in an empathetic and open space, and having a practice group makes it easier, and more fun, to keep at it!" Judy Morgan, 267-385-5049

#### Hospitality needed for AVP

AVP Facilitators are coming from Massachusetts, Maryland and Virginia to join local AVP Facilitators in offering a BASIC Workshop to the teachers and support staff of a nearby middle school dealing with a high level of violence. Dates are Monday evening, 9/3, through Thursday, 9/6. Have an extra bedroom? Call Miyo Moriuchi at 717-634-0612. Can you be a grocery shopper for suppers and breakfasts? Call Carla White at 215-844-5174.

#### First Day School begins

The First Fay School "school year" officially begins 9 September. The FDS/RE committee invites parents to come to the middle school room at noon (at the rise of meeting) on 9 September for a quick hello and orientation to the FDS year. Children will be studying the Old Testament this year.

#### Celebrating the International Criminal Court

The Philadelphia Global Initiative on the Rule of Law announces its kickoff event for a year of events celebrating the 10th anniversary of the International Criminal Court and the 225th anniversary of the signing of the US constitution in Philadelphia. Monday, September 10, 2012, from 2 - 6 p.m., at Free Library of Philadelphia, 1900 Vine Street, in the Montgomery Room. For more information, visit the UN Association's website: <http://www.una-gp.org/global.initiative> .

#### Some familiar faces on film

Last fall Jean Warrington and Marcelle Martin made a YouTube video to explain Quaker meeting for worship. Some members of Chestnut Hill Meeting participated in a special meeting for worship (for filming). The video also includes shots of CHFM Friends just after a meeting on the building site. Watch the video: [http://youtu.be/1\\_1py0xJ2VQ](http://youtu.be/1_1py0xJ2VQ) and, if you like it, share it with your F/friends!

#### Electronics Recycling again!

If you don't want to keep those dead or old electronics until next spring, eforce is doing a recycling event at area Whole Foods stores on Saturday, 8 September, from 9 to 1. Bring anything with a plug, as well as CDs, tapes, etc. Other events are listed on the eforce website. [http://eforcecompliance.com/collection\\_events\\_residential\\_2012.html](http://eforcecompliance.com/collection_events_residential_2012.html) The picture on their page comes from our spring event.

#### 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 adult-supervised activity (summer).

#### Poem: When We Listen

When we listen, we offer with our attention an opportunity for wholeness.  
Our listening creates a sanctuary for the homeless parts within the other person.  
That which has been denied, unloved, devalued by themselves and by others.

That which is hidden.  
In this culture, the soul and the heart too often go homeless.  
Listening creates a holy silence.  
When you listen generously to people they can hear the truth in  
themselves, often for the first time.  
And in the silence of listening, you can know yourself in everyone.  
Eventually, you may be able to hear, in everyone and beyond everyone,  
the unseen singing softly to itself and to you.

by Rachel Naomi Remen