

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
November 2012

Meeting

Friends from the seven meetings in Philadelphia who make up Philadelphia Quarter met on 29 October at Unity Meeting in Frankford to discuss "What Quakers Believe." Chestnut Hill sent a report. Friends agreed that we need to let seekers know who we are. Britain Yearly meeting has a simple card, "What do Quakers Say," with very brief talking points from Faith and Practice.

Adult class offerings

Adult class meets in the Social Room at 9am Sundays; the current topic is "The Ten Commandments in everyday life." Shirley Philips is leading a discussion of Losing Moses on the Freeway: the 10 Commandments in America and the Decalogue films of Krzysztof Kieslowski: on 4 November, we'll watch a film, and on 18 November we'll discuss it; on 25 November (Sunday after Thanksgiving), book discussion. Call the office in advance to request childcare.

November Calendar

Sun., 4 November, 12:00pm - Community Lunch - Social Room
Sun., 4 November, 12:30pm - Worship & Ministry committee meeting - Middle School room
Mon., 5 November, 7:00pm - Outreach Committee meeting - Barbara B's house
Tue., 6 November, 7:00am-8:00pm - General Election Polling Place - Social Room
Sat., 10 November, 9:00am-noon - Workday (see note)
Tue., 13 November, 7:00pm - Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting, at Stapeley
Tue., 13 November, 9:30pm - Men's Spiritual Support Group - Middle School Room
Wed., 14 November, - Finance Committee meeting - Social Room
Wed., 14 November, - NPIHN Empty Bowl Dinner - Chestnut Hill College
Sat., 17 November, 9:30am-noon - Friends Counseling Service Working Group meeting, Worship Rm
Sun., 18 November - NO MEETING FOR BUSINESS; see note
Wed., 21 November, 7:30pm - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - St. Paul's Chestnut Hill
Sat., 24 November, 10:30am - Warren Witte & Yoma Ullman's wedding - Worship Room

Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship - 9 - 10am in worship room; also on building site on 4th Sundays
Adult Religious Education class, 9:00 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

November Workday

Another Workday will take place on Saturday, 10 November, from 9 am to noon, ending promptly. You can help work outside; bring gloves, clippers and a saw if you have them. You can help winterize inside putting plastic on the windows, etc. Snacks and drinks are provided. We have a great team and everyone is welcome! Contact for questions is Cyane Gresham.

Forum: Eileen Flanagan's trip to Africa

Join us at noon on November 11 to hear meeting member Eileen Flanagan share about her travels in South Africa and Botswana over twenty-five years after finishing Peace Corps service there. Using photos from the trip, she will focus on how the two countries have changed in that time, how they differ from each other, and how climate change is affecting them both.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

Cliff Cutler, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at the top of the hill as sent the following invitation: "I would like to try an interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 21 at Saint Paul's in Chestnut Hill, with no sermon and the congregation as the only choir. Each faith group would offer a story, a song, a thanksgiving.

New Meetinghouse News

DesignPhiladelphia2012 Presentation

On Thursday, 11 October, Chestnut Hill Friends and a few others journeyed to Arch Street Meeting House in Old City for a presentation by John Andrew Gallery and Jordan Bastien, both of our Meeting. John, who is executive director of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, talked about the place of Quaker meetinghouses in the array of houses of worship of all kinds that have been built here.

News of Friends

George Garrettson on the small screen

Friends might recognize a familiar face in this Newsworks.org story about Arch Street Meetinghouse - <http://youtu.be/VkN0oat63p0> . George has been an interpretive guide at that building for many years; here he talks about the building's importance to the city and to Quakers.

Living in the Kingdom of God

John Gallery, in addition to being executive director of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, has written and/or edited a number of books, not all of them on architectural subjects. A recent example is his book, Living in the Kingdom of God, which he has just republished with some corrections and amplifications as a paperback and also as an ebook, available on Amazon.com - http://www.amazon.com/Living-Kingdom-God-ebook/dp/B0099ALBNW/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1351887979&sr=8-2&keywords=living+in+the+kingdom+of+god

John encourages anyone who has read the book to leave a review there (as your newsletter editor has done); apparently knowing that others have read it helps people decide to buy a book from Amazon.

Outside the Meeting

Election 2012 Work

A group of us will be working at the Chestnut Hill Obama Campaign 10 am - 2 pm on Saturday, November 3, to help get out the vote. Work will involve door-to-door canvassing (we'll be sent to areas that most need it), phone calling, or office work as needed. We will meet at Jean and Peter Warrington's home (319 W Springfield Ave.) afterward for sandwiches and snacks! If interested, please contact Jean (215-242-6974) or Judy Morgan (267-385-5049). This is a crucial election for peace, justice, and so much that we care about!

Film night at Green Street Meeting: The Weather Gods

The issues of peace, equality, and environmental stewardship converge in this stunning film on how climate change is impacting three different regions of Africa. A joint venture between Greenpeace Africa and UHURU Productions, it was directed by one of South Africa's leading filmmakers, Rehad Desai.

NPIHN Empty Bowl Dinner, 14 November

Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (NPIHN) holds its annual fund-raiser, the Empty Bowl Dinner, at Chestnut Hill College on Wednesday, 14 November, at Chestnut Hill College. You get: a simple supper of (delicious) soup, and a beautiful handmade bowl to keep. NPIHN gets to continue and expand its wonderful programs. Read this Newsworks.org article - <http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/neighborhoods/mt-airychestnut-hill-/item/30094-empty-bowl-dinner> about last year's event.

Kody Hersh's fund-raiser at Green Street Meeting, Friday 11/30

Did you know? This February, Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns will be having its annual Midwinter Gathering outside Philadelphia, in the Pocono Mountains. On Friday, November 30th, join us for a family-friendly fundraiser with live music, dancing, games, treats, and silent auction. Find out more about FLGBTQC and the Midwinter Gathering, connect with other area Friends, and have fun!

Historic Fair Hill Projects

Historic Fair Hill projects One of our service projects in the city is at Historic Fair Hill - <http://www.historicfairhill.org> , a Quaker burial ground on Germantown Ave in N Philadelphia. Volunteers bake pies each Thanksgiving for the community dinner and this year, the dinner will be on 17 November. Let us know if you'd like to bake a pie. On 4 November from 1-2 pm at Fair Hill will be a talk about the life and times of Isaac Watkins (buried there) by his great grandson. And reading buddies in the local elementary schools will begin in November. Call Jean for details. 215-242-6974.

Interested in helping get the Quaker Voluntary Service House going?

Meet with Christina Ripoley, Executive Director of QVS for an organizing session on Tuesday, 13 November, 7-9pm Germantown Friends Meetinghouse. If you can't attend and are interested in any part of it, contact Jack Malinowsky - malfrazer@aol.com or Meg Mitchell - mitchellmarg@verizon.net.

Friends Historical Association seeks Office Manager

Friends Historical Association is seeking a person for office work in Haverford about six hours a week. \$15-\$20/hour. Read full job description. - http://www.haverford.edu/library/fha/FHA_Office%20Manager_job%20desc_2012.pdf Interested persons should email a rÃ%sumÃ%, cover letter, and names and contact information for three references - friends.historical1873@gmail.com . Review of applications begins in mid-November and continues until Office Manager is selected.

November Business Meeting

Because of several schedule conflicts, clerk Meg Mitchell has re-scheduled the November business meeting for Sunday, 2 December. (We don't normally have a business meeting in December.) If there is something you want placed on the agenda, please send it to agenda@chestnuthillquakers.org well in advance of the meeting.

Introduction to "Spiritual Formation"

The excellent year-long Quakerism experience will be described on Sunday, 11 November, at 9am. Leaders Carolyn Schodt and Jeff Perkins hope that twelve Friends will sign up for the group, to begin in January at our Meeting.

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.)

Please don't bring anything with strawberries in it to a potluck or community lunch; a member of our community is highly sensitive to strawberries.

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: I happened to be standing, by Mary Oliver

I don't know where prayers go,
or what they do.
Do cats pray, while they sleep
half-asleep in the sun?
Does the opossum pray as it
crosses the street?
The sunflowers? The old black oak
growing older every year?
I know I can walk through the world,

along the shore or under the trees,
with my mind filled with things
of little importance, in full
self-attendance. A condition I can't really
call being alive
Is a prayer a gift, or a petition,
or does it matter?
The sunflowers blaze, maybe that's their way.
Maybe the cats are sound asleep. Maybe not.

While I was thinking this I happened to be standing
just outside my door, with my notebook open,
which is the way I begin every morning.
Then a wren in the privet began to sing.
He was positively drenched in enthusiasm,
I don't know why. And yet, why not.
I wouldn't persuade you from whatever you believe
or whatever you don't. That's your business.
But I thought, of the wren's singing, what could this be
if it isn't a prayer?
So I just listened, my pen in the air.