

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting  
January 2013

Monthly and Quarterly Meeting Events

Children's Holiday play

Their silver time machine took Liam and Aidan Kleitz to four cultures and times to visit children celebrating Hanukkah, Epiphany, Kwanzaa and a new holiday in 2200 when global warming was reversed. Moxie Duncan-Tessmer and Lilly Basgall were the celebrants with changes of costume, and younger children presented scenarios of different cultures. Tricia Walmsley and Grace Moses accompanied the singers, and after the show, Friends ate cookies and sang Christmas carols.

A Magical Christmas Dinner at Chestnut Hill Meeting

We greeted each other with surprise and joy, for we did not know who or how many to expect. In front of a cheery fire, we sipped eggnog or hot cider, with cheese and crackers. In the First Day School room we set up the long tables side-by-side to create a square, with table cloths, candles and greenery. We had music playing in the background.

January's Adult RE topic

On Sundays, 6 and 13 January, Bob Rosenwein will lead a class on God: A Biography, by Jack Miles. "In this 'brilliant, audacious book' (Chicago Tribune), a former Jesuit marshalls a vast array of learning and knowledge of the Hebrew Bible to illuminate God -- and man -- with a sense of discovery and wonder." You don't need to have read the book.

Spiritual Formation Program Opening Retreat

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting's Spiritual Formation Program begins Friday, 25 January, at 5pm at the Meetinghouse. Participants travel on a spiritual journey of taking up a daily spiritual practice of their choice, participating in a small spiritual friendship group to share their spiritual life, and engage with selected readings in a monthly reading group of all participants. "We focus on paying attention to the 'still small voice' and growing in our faithfulness," the planners explain. The participants in this SFP year will all be members of our meeting community, providing a unique opportunity for that kind of shared deep fellowship in our home community.

Caroling on Mermaid Lane

Ellen Deacon reports that "the caroling (on 12/23) was a great success. We had 15 or so folks, caroled many houses along Mermaid Lane and two neighbors on Ardleigh, one of whom said she had been caroled in Norristown but never here (she's from one of the old Italian families that settled this neighborhood and built Chestnut Hill; Buon Natale!). Tricia Walmsley 'held down the fort,' and we lingered over hot chocolate, tea and goodies in front of the fire for a lovely time after the singing along Mermaid Lane. We will do it again next year, Lord willing."

January Calendar

Fri., 4 January, 7:00pm - Heschel-King Festival - Mishkan Sholom Synagogue  
Sat., 5 January, 9:00am - Heschel-King Festival - Mishkan Sholom Synagogue  
Sun., 6 January, 12:00pm - Community Lunch - Social Room  
Sun., 6 January, 12:30pm - Worship & Ministry Committee meeting - Middle School Room  
Tue., 8 January, 7:00pm - Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting - Lynne Shivers' apartment  
Tue., 8 January, 7:30pm - Men's Spiritual Support group - Middle School Room  
Wed., 9 January, 7:30pm - Finance Committee - Office or Gathering Room  
Sun., 13 January, 12:00pm - Forum on Time Banks - Worship Room  
Mon., 14 January, 7:30pm - Care & Counsel Committee meeting - Mickey's house  
Wed., 16 January, 7:00pm - RE Committee meeting - Social Room  
Wed., 16 January, 7:00pm - Client Committee meeting - Gathering Room  
Fri., 18 January, 6:00pm - Clerks' quarterly potluck (6pm) and meeting (6:30) - Social Room  
Sun., 20 January, 12:30pm - Meeting for Business - Worship Room  
Thu., 24 January, 6:30pm - Campaign Committee meeting - Social Room

Fri., 25 January, 5:00pm - Spiritual Formation Opening Retreat - Social Room, Worship Room  
Sat., 26 January, 8:30am - Spiritual Formation Opening Retreat - Worship Room, Social Room  
Wed., 30 January, midnight - February newsletter deadline - via email

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Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship - 9 - 10am in worship room

Meeting for Worship (see note ) (childcare available) - 10:30 - 11:30 am

Children's First Day School (Religious Education) - 10:30 am to 11:30 am

First, second and fourth Sundays

Adult Religious Education, 9:00am to 10:15am, Middle School room

Third Sundays Hymn-singing, 9:30am to 10:15am, Social Room

New Meetinghouse News

Floors!

Workers continue to erect the steel frame of the building, and now the second floor actually has a floor (as does the first). We can begin to see where stairways and elevator will go. The steel frame of the Worship Room includes the crucial supports for the cover of the James Turrell Skyspace, and its fabrication requires a bit more time, but we should see it going up in the next couple of weeks.

News of Friends

Paintings and Photography

Terry and Roberta Foss will have an exhibit of his photographs and her paintings at Stapeley Hall (Wesley Enhanced Living) in Germantown from Saturday, 5 January to Sunday, 31 March. There will be a reception on Sunday, 13 January, from 2 - 4.

Outreach ... all the way to Russia

A few weeks ago a Russian woman, Anastasia, stayed with Miriam Schaefer through Hosts for Hospitals, and Miriam brought her to meeting for worship. Back home, she emailed Signe: "Thank you very much for your letter. I am already at home, we left just a few minutes after the meeting was over, and it took us about two days to get home. I was very impressed with the Quaker organization (I am sorry if it's not the right word to use), and I am going to read more about it. Thanks for the link (to Friends House Moscow). I will certainly join you if I am back to Philadelphia in the future. Greetings to everybody. Sincerely, Anastasia"

Please send notices of family and community events for future issues of the newsletter.

Outside the Meeting

Reaching out to Quakers at Stapeley in Germantown

Would you like to help the Quakers living at Stapeley/Wesley enhanced living stay connected to Philadelphia Quakers? The place many of us still call Stapeley, from when it was a Quaker retirement center, became Wesley Enhanced Living two years ago. Germantown Meeting has sent us a plan of local meetings having events and potlucks there. If you would be interested, particularly in helping with a potluck later this year on the first Sunday of a month at 5:00pm followed by a short worship at 6:30pm, contact Meg Mitchell.

Salt and Light: the 6th World Conference of Friends

Chris and Robin Mohr will host the documentary "Salt and Light" on Saturday, January 12, 2013, at 6:30 pm, as a way of reporting back from the 6th World Conference of Friends that they attended in April 2012. They will also speak briefly about their experience in Kenya and about the Friends World Committee. The 42 minute documentary has been created by filmmakers from Pacific Yearly Meeting. The film is appropriate for all ages, but probably of more interest to Friends over age 10. Child care and refreshments will be available. (Ugali - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ugali> will not be served.)

Heschel-King Festival

"... King and Heschel were ... spiritually grounded activists, witnessing to the power of faith in the service of social transformation ... they modeled putting faith into action, and today ... would urge us to collective action to address injustice and work for the common good." Chestnut Hill Meeting is one of the co-sponsors of this event. Visit Mishkan Sholom Synagogue's website - <http://mishkan.org/story/heschel-king-festival> for more information about the program and schedule.

#### NIM's MLK Event

Many Friends know that the Neighborhood Interfaith Movement recently had to close its doors quite suddenly. Several clergy who had been involved for many years are joining forces to ensure that at least one component of NIM's legacy continues: the annual Martin Luther King Day event. George Stern, former executive director of NIM, reports that the program will be held " at 3pm on Sunday, 20 January, at Germantown Jewish Centre. We set a theme: Working Together for Peace: Continuing the Legacy of MLK and NIM.

#### Thoughts on the roots of violence

Lynn Mather offers this excerpt from a longer statement by Dave Joseph of Public Conversations <http://publicconversations.org/> , in response to the events in Newtown:

I believe that violence only becomes possible when we have successfully dehumanized the Other (and ourselves) and shut down our capacity for empathy.

#### December Business Meeting minutes

Click to open or download a PDF file - (5 pages) of the minutes of the November business meeting that was held on December 2.

#### First Day School in the new year

The children's First Day School will resume their study of Hebrew Bible stories. Friends who would like to help in the classes should contact Hannah.

#### Tuition Assistance applications

Charlie Philips, speaking for the Tuition Assistance Committee, writes: Children of CHFM members who attend Friends school are invited to apply for modest tuition support. In the past this has been 5-7% of tuition, and the Yearly Meeting has contributed \$600-\$700. Please email Charlie Philips with the student's name, grade next year, school, and tuition amount by 20 January.

#### Lost & Found

Found: a portable "lantern" left behind by a caroler on 12/23.

Lost: a WHYY black nylon tote bag that was left on the pegs in the Social Room several weeks ago, empty, by Ellen Deacon, and taken perhaps by someone who thought it was theirs. But it was not...

#### MLK Day at Historic Fair Hill

Come join Friends and neighbors for the annual service morning followed by fire, hot chocolate and reading aloud from Dr. King's writings. This historic Quaker burial ground is located in the 2900 block of Germantown Avenue. Historic Fair Hill website <http://www.historicfairhill.com>, most recent newsletter - <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1145857/442b421236/547318251/b1177a9451/> .

#### Letter-writing table

On first and third Sundays, Judy Morgan plans to open a table in the corner of the Gathering Room for Friends to write letters to legislators about issues that FCNL brings to our attention as being of interest to Friends. She'll have paper, pens, stamps and addresses. She just needs you to write!

## 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 for First Day (Sunday) School.

## A list of Quaker Resources

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting: <http://www.pym.org>

Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting: <http://www.pym.org/philadelphia-quarterly-meeting>

Friends General Conference: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/>

Friends World Committee on Consultation: <http://www.fwccworld.org/>

Quaker United Nations Office: <http://www.quno.org/>

Friends Committee on National Legislation: <http://fcnl.org/>

## Poem: X

Whatever is foreseen in joy  
Must be lived out from day to day.  
Vision held open in the dark  
By our ten thousand days of work.  
Harvest will fill the barn; for that  
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.  
And yet no leaf or grain is filled  
By work of ours; the field is tilled  
And left to grace. That we may reap,  
Great work is done while we're asleep.  
When we work well, a Sabbath mood  
Rests on our day, and finds it good.

by Wendell Berry