

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting  
April 2013

## Monthly and Quarterly Meeting Events

### Eileen Flanagan Talk Draws Crowd

On Sunday, March 24, while enjoying wonderful potluck contributions, 24 members of Chestnut Hill and other local meetings heard Eileen Flanagan describe her experiences in civil disobedience at the White House as a representative of the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT). The event was coordinated by 350.org and the Sierra Club (their first foray into civil disobedience). Eileen joined forty-seven other people, including some celebrities and well-known environmental leaders, in handcuffing themselves to the White House fence.

### Successful grounds clean-up day

Cyane Gresham thanks the great crew that came out on Saturday, 23 March, to spruce up the grounds around our sweet "old" meetinghouse. They had beautiful weather and the results of their work look terrific. When you see any of the Friends in this picture, be sure to thank them for their labors. You won't see Miyo Moriuchi in the picture because she took it, but she also participated actively in the clean-up. From left to right: Mike Quirk, Ann Jones, Dennis Trach, Jean Warrington, Joe Byers, Cyane Gresham, Michelle Hitz, Martha Rose, Bob Reynolds.

### Upcoming Adult Religious Education classes:

- Sunday, March 31: Howard Lesnick on his Top Ten most beautiful passages of poetry in the Hebrew Bible
- Sunday, April 7: Howard leads a discussion, "Is the Bible more than great literature?"
- Sundays, April 14 and 21: Heidi Heller leads a discussion of Alain deBotton's Religion for Atheists about the positive impacts of religion.
- April 28: Outdoor meeting for worship (weather permitting).

### Some schedule ideas to think about

As Friends look ahead to our life in the new meetinghouse, some are discussing ideas about different ways to structure our Sunday schedules to encourage wider participation. All such changes are very much in the early proposal stage, when input from the community at large would be especially helpful. Click here to open a short anonymous survey - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10gcTa90Q\\_mxN3nAgo5\\_1FMjHksXKoHq7rSKFqMLxRww/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10gcTa90Q_mxN3nAgo5_1FMjHksXKoHq7rSKFqMLxRww/viewform).

### Meeting Retreat

The retreat, originally planned to be off site and overnight, has been changed to an afternoon and evening of fun and getting to enjoy each other at the meetinghouse, where we will gather at 3:00PM. Several people have offered to lead games, some of a quieter nature and some more active games. There will be fun activities for a wide range of ages. Weather permitting, we will go across the street to Ellen, Ernie and Kathy's back yard for a picnic supper, campfire, s'mores, and singing, ending with a short intergenerational worship time. If the weather is not cooperative we will stay at the meetinghouse, and end around 8:00PM. We are still gathering games and activity ideas, so if you have suggestions please contact Kathy Miller (kathy.miller127@gmail.com).

### Annual Plant Swap on May 5

Gardeners, start your roto-tillers! But before you till under those extra hellebores that you've been meaning to get rid of, think about digging them up on Saturday, May 4, so you can bring them on Sunday, May 5 to the Meeting's third annual Plant Swap. Gardeners bring extra plants to give away; wannabe gardeners ask grizzled gardening veterans for advice, and everyone takes away some new plants to try. Everyone also has the opportunity to make a free will offering, which this year again goes to the KISTA Trust to benefit our Nepali neighbors. (See following article!)

And speaking of KISTA ...

News from Elizabeth Walmsley on changes to the KISTA Trust: "We have been away for a while, restructuring - and now we're back! Originally KISTA was offering a micro-loans program for education for the Bhutanese-Nepali refugee population who lived in the northwest area of Philadelphia. Following our members when they moved, KISTA has also now moved to northeast Philadelphia. Seeing the potential for a larger pool of applicants in the northeast, I met with the leader of the community, Mr. Madhav Sharma."

#### April Calendar

Sun., 31 March, 9:00am - Adult FDS: Favorite poetry in the Hebrew Bible - Social Room  
Sun., 7 April, 9:00am - Adult FDS: "Is the Bible more than great literature?" - Social Room  
Sun., 7 April, 12:00pm - Community Lunch - Social Room  
Sun., 7 April, 12:30pm - Worship & Ministry Committee meeting - Middle School room  
Mon., 8 April, 7:30pm - Care & Counsel Committee meeting - Mickey's house  
Tue., 9 April, 7:30pm - Men's Spiritual Support Group - Middle School Room  
Wed., 10 April, 6:00pm - Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting - Social Room  
Wed., 10 April, 7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting - Gathering Room  
Sun., 14 April, 9:00am - Adult FDS: discussion of Religion for Atheists - Social Room  
Mon., 15 April, 7:00pm - Outreach Committee meeting - Jean's house  
Mon., 15 April, 7:00pm - Office & Administration Committee meeting - Office  
Wed., 17 April, 7:00pm - Religious Education Committee meeting - Social Room  
Sun., 21 April, 9:00am - Adult FDS: discussion of Religion for Atheists - Social Room  
Sun., 21 April, 12:30pm - Monthly Meeting for Business - Worship Room  
Thu., 25 April, 6:30pm - Campaign Committee Meeting - Social Room  
Sat., 27 April, 3:00pm - Meeting Retreat - Social Room (but see article )  
Wed., 1 May, midnight - May newsletter deadline - via email -  
Sun., 5 May, 12:00pm - Plant Swap - Rear entrance to meetinghouse

#### 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 - 10:30 am to 11:30 am

#### Interested in Re-using and Sharing?

Sarah Whitman is putting together an email list of those who would like to reuse and share stuff with each other. This group would be interested in using the belongings of others to avoid buying, and be willing to lend out, give, or sell items they no longer need.

#### New Meetinghouse News

Still looking for a few good volunteers

Jordan Bastien (mom of Luc and Rowan) will be coordinating our "friendly volunteers" (sometimes referred to as docents), who will open the meetinghouse and the Skyspace for the regularly scheduled public openings. A number of members of the meeting community have expressed an interest in helping, and Jordan has received numerous offers from outside in response to a building update that was sent out to the larger list of friends of this project. If you want to know more about what this service entails, please send an email to Jordan; it's not too late to volunteer in a friendly sort of way.

#### Landscape Working Group

Another effort that is recruiting volunteers less formally has been formed by Cyane Gresham of the Property Committee. She is looking for people with energy and enthusiasm for working on the landscaping of the new meetinghouse. If you haven't already told her of your interest, please contact Cyane (cyane.gresham@gmail.com) so she can let you know of their activities. Obviously they can't start planting until construction is finished, but that won't be long now.

#### News of Friends

Sarah Sharp's granddaughter, Talula Sarah Stamford James is the cherub who is delighting Sarah

Sharp, and has inspired some recent meeting messages. Sarah reports that her daughter Jesse and son-in-law Dan are naturals as parents, happily learning as they go. (And they have already learned to call on Sarah for frequent baby-sitting assignments.)

## Outside the Meeting

### Time4Time Community Exchange Kick-Off Party

Time4Time Community Exchange, a timebank co-founded by Chestnut Hill Meeting attendee Betsy Wallace and others, is an all-inclusive circle of people who share in giving and receiving services in exchange for time credits instead of money. Time4Time is having its Kick-Off party on Sunday April 7, from 3-5 PM at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. There will be good food, live music, and an opportunity to sign up and meet fellow timebankers! Bring a friend or family to the party and get 50% off the regular annual membership fees for both of you. Visit the website, [www.Time4TimeXchange.org](http://www.Time4TimeXchange.org) - <http://www.Time4TimeXchange.org> for more information on the Kick-Off Party. Click on "links" to download the member application.

### Free Firewood

The property committee reminds us that since our fireplace in the new meetinghouse burns gas, we will not need firewood after we move. We must leave the property clear of such stuff, so please help yourself. No need to talk to anyone; just come and get it on Saturday or on a Sunday afternoon when you can safely block the UCPA driveway for a short period.

### Looking for good homes

Please contact Storm Evans - [storm@evans-legal.com](mailto:storm@evans-legal.com) if you would like to give one or both of these computers a good home. The computers have been wiped of information and have the operating system newly installed. The computers are "tower" or desktop computers. There is no monitor for either one.

Gateway, Intel Core 2 CPU 2.4 Ghz; 2 GB RAM; 150 GB HD; Windows XP Service Pack 2 (no mouse or keyboard) Dell, Intel Pentium 4 CPU 2.8 Ghz, 2 GB RAM, 75 GB HD, Windows XP Service Pack 2, Mouse and Keyboard

### Consideration of alcohol policy

A group of Friends gathered on March 21 for a thoughtful period of worship-sharing on the topic of allowing alcoholic beverages in our building. We considered the importance of our policy, the joy of celebrations, responsibility for addiction support programs, the difference between temperance and abstinence, and many other aspects. Look for an announcement of the next opportunity to work on this subject. Contact Edward Sargent, Nell Kahil, Meg Mitchell, Dona Garrettson, Dylan Steinberg if you have thoughts or questions.

### 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: String Quartet

Art and life, I wouldn't want to confuse them.  
But it's hard to hear this quartet  
Without comparing it to a conversation  
Of the quiet kind, where no one tries to outtalk  
The other participants, where each is eager instead

To share in the task of moving the theme along  
From the opening statement to the final bar.

A conversation that isn't likely to flourish  
When sales technicians come trolling for customers,  
Office-holders for votes, preachers for converts.  
Many good people among such talkers,  
But none engaged like the voices of the quartet  
In resisting the plots time hatches to make them unequal,  
To set them at odds, to pull them asunder.

I love the movement where the cello is occupied  
With repeating a single phrase while the others  
Strike out on their own, three separate journeys  
That seem to suggest each prefers, after all,  
The pain and pleasure of playing solo. But no.  
Each near the end swerves back to the path  
Their friend has been plodding, and he receives them  
As if he never once suspected their loyalty.

Would I be moved if I thought the music  
Belonged to a world remote from this one,  
If it didn't seem instead to be making the point  
That conversation like this is available  
At moments sufficiently free and self-forgetful?

And at other moments, maybe there's still a chance  
To participate in the silence of listeners  
Who are glad for what they manage to bring to the music  
And for what they manage to take away.

"String Quartet" by Carl Dennis, from *Unknown Friends*. © Penguin, 2007.