

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
May 2013

Monthly and Quarterly Meeting Events

Annual plant swap is back

On Sunday, May 5, Chestnut Hill Meeting gardeners will bring extras of items from their gardens (but not the weeds), to exchange them for plants that others are offering that they themselves don't yet have. But don't be put off if you're a total novice who's just learning to identify the weeds. You can take proffered plants without having brought something to exchange. And in either case, you're encouraged to make a contribution to the KISTA trust to help support our Nepali refugee friends.

Why write letters?

19 letters were sent in April, at the request of FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) to support a Senate resolution endorsing the efforts of peace builders in Kenya, including many Kenyan Quakers. Thanks to all of you who participated! But exactly why is the monthly FCNL letter-writing table worth a few minutes of your time?

Adult class: a new way of studying scripture

Hevruta is a term that refers to a pair of people engaged in studying Jewish texts together in a particular manner. We'll learn about this approach on Sunday, 5 May, at the 9:00am adult class in the Social Room. Traditional Jewish text study is about exploring different aspects of a text and wrestling with (considering, responding to, arguing with, riffing on) both what you find in the text and what you and your hevruta have to add. In this wrestling process, you and your hevruta are creating something new with this text. Under the guidance of Irene McHenry and Beulah Trey, we may first talk about Torah in general, and then experiment with this way of reading a part of these scriptures. Beulah Trey is a co-founder of the Philadelphia Mussar Leadership Institute - <http://www.mussarleadership.org>. On the following Sunday, Friends will continue this study in pairs, but without Irene and Beulah in attendance.

May Calendar

Sat., 4 May, 8:00 am - Spiritual Formation mid-year retreat - Worship & Social Rooms
Sun., 5 May, 9:00 am - Adult Class: Hevruta scripture study - Social Room
Sun., 5 May - Silent auction of furniture begins - Entire meetinghouse
Sun., 5 May, 12:00 pm - Annual Plant Swap - Meetinghouse yard
Sun., 5 May, 12:00 pm - Community Lunch - Social Room
Sun., 5 May, 12:30 pm - Worship & Ministry Committee meeting - Middle School Room
Mon., 6 May, 7:30 pm - Coordinating Committee meeting - Gathering Room
Tue., 7 May, 7:00 pm - Ad hoc committee on Opening - Social Room
Wed., 8 May, 7:00 pm - Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting - Social Room
Wed., 8 May, 7:00 pm - Finance Committee meeting - Gathering Room
Sun., 12 May, 12:00 pm - Forum: Impact of Art on Worship - Worship Room
Mon., 13 May, 7:30 pm - Care & Counsel Committee meeting - Mickey's house
Tue., 14 May, 7:30 pm - Men's Spiritual Support group - Middle School Room
Wed., 15 May, 7:00 pm - RE Committee meeting - Social Room
Sat., 18 May, 9:00 am - Mindfulness Meditation Retreat - Worship & Social Rooms
Sat., 18 May, 9:30 am - Office & Records sub-group meeting - Office
Sun., 19 May, 12:30 pm - Meeting for Business - Worship Room
Tue., 21 May, All day - Election Day; meetinghouse is a polling place - Social Room
Thu., 23 May, 6:30 pm - Campaign Committee meeting - Social Room
Wed., 29 May, - June newsletter deadline - midnight, via email -

Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship - 9 - 10am in worship room; also on lower lot on 4th Sundays
Adult Class most Sundays, 9:00 am in Social 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

AFSC wants to know what we think

WHAT: Philadelphia Quarter is holding two "Listening Sessions" to hear views and ideas about program work for social and economic justice in metropolitan Philadelphia that AFSC might consider taking on.

WHO: All who are involved with (or concerned about) social and economic justice work in the Philadelphia area are invited. "Listeners" from AFSC will be present. Please feel free to extend this invitation to others who would be interested.

Mindfulness meditation retreat on Saturday, 18 May

From 9:30 to 2:30 on 18 May, Irene McHenry will guide a full range of mindfulness practices including sitting, walking, gentle movement, mindful listening, eating meditation, and compassion practice. Join us to explore the transformative possibilities in each moment of our lives. Please bring a bag lunch; tea, juice and water will be provided. Bring a pillow or cushion to sit on, if desired. Register by email to reeniemac@gmail.com.

Marcelle Martin to speak to adult class on 19 May

Marcelle Martin, a member of Chestnut Hill Meeting, has been living in Richmond, Indiana while completing two books about early Quakers. The first book tells the stories of many amazing people who played a role in the beginnings of Quakerism, and who brought the Quaker message to the colonies. She was awarded the Mullen Writing Fellowship at Earlham School of Religion this spring while working on a second, shorter book about the Quaker Spiritual Journey. She will share with us ten elements of the spiritual experience of early Quakers that may be important elements of our own spiritual experience today, individually and as a community. Her blog post on the Ten Elements of the Quaker Spiritual Journey - <http://awholeheart.com/2012/12/10/ten-elements-of-the-quaker-spiritual-journey-2/> gives a brief overview of what she'll be talking about with us. How is our spiritual experience similar, and how is it different? What can we learn from early Friends to help us understand how God is at work in and among us today?

New Meetinghouse News

A profoundly moving experience

The Client Committee has been assured that we will be getting a certificate of occupancy and the keycode to the new meetinghouse on June 14. The Finance Committee has been told that the date for closing on the sale of the current meetinghouse is July 15. So now it is time to talk about moving and cleaning out.

The Property Committee has developed a proposed schedule for accomplishing the move and clean out. The Property Committee will be developing suggestions for committees with responsibility for some areas of the meetinghouse and will send them to the clerks of those committees soon. If you have questions, please contact George Benz, Cyane Gresham, or Bob Reynolds.

Coordinating Skyspace openings

Three years ago, when the campaign committee applied for funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, we were advised to include in the budget money to pay a Skyspace outreach coordinator. Now that the Skyspace is close to opening, the committees have refined the task: management of the public opening of the Skyspace for six months. After the meeting decided to include a Skyspace installation accessible to the public, both the NEA and the Knight Foundation gave money to see that this would be done and done well.

Furniture silent auction

We have purchased new furniture for the meetinghouse, so some of the furniture that we have now will not be needed and must be removed from the current meetinghouse before it is sold on July 15. The Property Committee has decided to sell the unneeded furniture through a silent auction that will take place at the meetinghouse starting Sunday, May 5, and ending Sunday, June 9.

News of Friends

Outside the Meeting

PYM's Spring Family Overnight

Register by May 15th for Spring Family Overnight - <http://www.pym.org/calendar/events/spring-family-overnight/> ! Don't miss out on the best weekend ever, Saturday, May 18th 1:30pm through Sunday, May 19th 12:00pm. The location is Camp Dark Waters, 26 New Freedom Road, Medford, NJ; cost is \$35/person. Scholarship and work grants are available. Registration open now - <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=4f18d3> ! Contact Benjamin Camp, Children's Religious Life Program Coordinator & Youth Program Team Leader, for more information. Office: (215) 241-7228, Email: children@pym.org; www.pym.org/children - <http://www.pym.org/children> .

Let's turn down the heat

PYM's Peace and Concerns Standing Committee is sponsoring an interfaith gathering on climate awareness, action and fossil-fuel divestment on Saturday, 18 May, from 9:30 - 4:30 at Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street in Center City.

Worshipping at Wyck

We're invited to attend a special Sunday Meeting in the Historic Wyck Rose Garden. Wyck served as the ancestral home to nine generations of one Quaker family in Germantown, residing on the property from 1690-1970! On May 19th, a peak bloom day, they invite their Quaker Friends in to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the garden.

"If She Stood"

Don't miss two things at the Painted Bride this month! A memorable theatrical portrait (done as if it were a Quaker meeting!) of the remarkable abolitionist/suffragist women of Philadelphia, including the Grimke sisters, "If She Stood" - <http://www.paintedbride.org/performance-in-the-present-tense/if-she-stood/> runs this May 3, 4 and 5 at 8 PM.

Thanking our retiring clerks

The Meeting owes big thank yous to three people who have finished serving as clerks:

Hannah Mazzacaro - Religious Education Committee (First Day School)
Kathy Miller - Peace & Social Concerns Committee
Carla White - Assistant clerk of the Meeting

These are the people who got the emails and phone calls, took extra responsibility, made sure the programs happened or answers were found. Thank you also to everyone who served/serves on a committee, or makes something happen, or simply steps in to help.

EQAT vs. PNC

Earth Quaker Action Team made headlines on April 23 when it kept PNC Bank from business as usual at its annual shareholders' meeting. Here is a link to just one of the many articles - <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/breaking/protest-shuts-down-pnc-shareholder-meeting-684664/>.

Germantown MM member running for judge

A member of Germantown Meeting is running for public office. It's not an endorsement of a candidate, but a personal look at the role of Quakerism and other influences in Giovanni Campbell's life.

Job opening at Germantown Monthly Meeting

Germantown Meeting is looking to hire a part-time Secretary (30 hours/week). The Secretary handles Meeting communications and manages the Meeting Office. The job involves bookkeeping and other financial duties as well as maintaining Meeting membership and other records. The job requires good communication and computer skills and a friendly "can-do" attitude. For a fuller job description, email Tom Elkinton, Clerk of Office and Records (elks@netaxs.com). The deadline for applications, with resumes and references, is May 8.

Great story of peace activism

This Washington Post account - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/style/2013/04/29/the-prophets-of-oak-ridge/> of three peace activists whose trial begins next week is a compelling narrative. They broke into a "super-secure" uranium enrichment project in Oak Ridge, TN, to demonstrate its vulnerability.

Invitation from Lynn Mather

This Sunday after meeting for worship, and Plant Swapping , join in a Listening Session on Sustainable Practices addressing these questions (and over lunch):
What actions am I taking today that manifest love for Earth and life, including my own?

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.

Poem: Fixing Nitrogen

How exactly do bacteria
living on the roots of my beans
fix nitrogen anyway?

Is it like fixing someone's hair, or a leaky radiator, or a spaghetti dinner?
Is it like fixing a boxing match?
Or do they do it the way god fixed the stars in the firmament?

And what about this need we have to fix our lives?

As if we had a recipe
As if we had a clue what was going on under the hood
As if we could shave a few points and beat the odds
As if we weren't already blazing away in the brilliant dark.

by Tony Martin, in June/July 2012 Friends Journal