

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting  
June 2013

#### PQM June 2 Program Meeting and potluck picnic

After some followings and leadings, Spirit provided with a piggy-back on an event that is already happening within the Quarter on 2 June: the Southwestern Burial Ground Annual picnic hosted by Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and Arch Street. It will be an Outdoor Meeting for Worship at 11:00 with potluck picnic to follow at Southwestern Burial Ground, 236 Powell Lane, Upper Darby, PA 19082 -

#### Silent auction of furniture

Much of the furniture in our current meetinghouse is not going with us down the hill. Friends who are interested should look for the silent auction bid sheets for about 22 different items (including several of the worship room benches) at the rise of meeting for the next several Sundays. The minimum bid is specified in most cases, and your bid must be at least \$5 more than an existing bid to be valid. (The wedding bench is going with us down the hill; it is not for sale.)

#### Adult Class schedule

June 9 and 16 at Adult Classes at 9am: Sabbath Economics: Living God's Abundance and Justice in Our World Today -- In a world economy dominated by globalism, consumerism, and corporate capitalism, are there any meaningful alternatives? How does our faith empower us to respond? In these two sessions, we will explore the various economic values, teachings, and practices of biblical Israel in the Hebrew Bible (continued by Jesus and the early church). We will reflect on how these biblical values seek to nurture a human community of reverence, abundance, equity, and care for creation. We will discern the implications for our own economic and spiritual practices - as individuals, as communities, as congregations, and as citizens of the global economy.

#### Move schedule

As many Friends know by now, our date to move into the new meetinghouse has been pushed back to Thursday, 25 July. While the delay is frustrating, it also means that we have more time to prepare by packing up what we are taking with us and getting rid of what we aren't. We have an agreement of sale for our current building with United Cerebral Palsy Association, our neighbors across the driveway. While a closing date in mid-July was originally announced, UCPA has graciously consented to move that back to accommodate our shifted move date.

#### June Calendar

Sun., 2 June, 12:00pm - Community Lunch - Social Room  
Sun., 2 June, 12:30pm - Worship & Ministry Committee meeting - Middle School Room  
Mon., 3 June, 7:30pm - Coordinating Committee meeting - Gathering Room  
Tue., 4 June, 10:30am - Ad hoc 5-day tenant group meeting - Gathering Room  
Wed., 5 June, 7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting - Gathering Room  
Thu., 6 June, 7:00pm - Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting - Gathering Room  
Sun., 9 June, 9:00am - Adult Class: Sabbath Economics (CC) - Social Room  
Sun. 9 June, 12:00pm - Forum: One last book forum (CC) - Worship Room  
Mon., 10 June, 7:30pm - Care & Counsel Committee meeting - Mickey's house  
Tue., 11 June, 7:30pm - Men's Spiritual Support Group - Middle School room  
Tue., 11 June, 6:30pm - Outreach Committee meeting - Venue TBA  
Fri., 14 June, 6:00pm - Clerks' Meeting - Social Room  
Sun., 16 June - Last collection day for Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry food cupboard  
Sun., 16 June, 9:00am - Adult Class: Sabbath Economics (CC) - Social Room  
Sun, 16 June, 12:30pm - Meeting for business (CC) - Worship Room  
Mon., 17 June, 7:00pm - Office & Administration Committee meeting - Office  
Wed., 26 June, midnight - Deadline for July newsletter, via email  
Thu., 27 June, 6:30pm - Campaign Committee meeting - Social Room  
Sat., 29 June, 8:30am - Trip to Turrell Exhibit in Easton - Parking Lot  
Sun., 30 June, 12:00pm - First Day School graduation - Worship Room  
Sun., 30 June, after graduation - Blue Moon Potluck - Social Room

Every Sunday

Early Meeting for Worship - 9 - 10am in worship room; also outdoors on 4th Sundays

Adult Class - 9:00 am to 10:00 am (CC)

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

Children's First Day school - 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Trip to see "James Turrell Perspectives" in Easton

The Campaign Committee is organizing a group trip to Easton, Maryland, combining a visit to the current Turrell exhibition at the Academy Art Museum -

[http://www.academyartmuseum.org/exhibitions/exhib\\_james\\_turrell.html](http://www.academyartmuseum.org/exhibitions/exhib_james_turrell.html) and seeing the Third Haven Friends Meeting - <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> (built in 1684, the oldest meetinghouse in continuous use in North America). This expedition is also intended to help with last stages of fund-raising for our 2013 meetinghouse (newest meetinghouse not yet in continuous use in North America!).

Clarification of newsletter and bulletin frequency

Newsletter: The newsletter is published monthly, usually on the Friday preceding the first weekend in the month. If the month in question starts early in the week (i.e., Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday), then the newsletter goes out on the Friday before the last weekend in the preceding month.

New Meetinghouse News

Update on Skyspace opening

Our plan is to take possession of the new building in late July, but that is not when the James Turrell Skyspace will open to the public. First of all, James Turrell needs to come and program the lighting that accompanies the dawn and dusk "shows" that are so characteristic of his works. In addition to that, we plan to have openings just for the meeting community before we invite the public in. Around the public opening we expect to hold several events; planning and scheduling those are parts of the job of the newly hired Skyspace coordinator, Nikka Landau. (See next item.) For more about James Turrell, visit his newly revamped website - <http://jamesturrell.com> .

Skyspace coordinator hired

As discussed at the May business meeting, the Meeting has hired Nikka Landau, daughter of Signe Wilkinson and Jon Landau, for a period of six months as part-time coordinator of the Skyspace. She will set up the scheduled public openings, help recruit and train volunteer hosts, and plan outreach activities to let the wider Quaker community and the general public know how and when they can visit. You can reach her with your thoughts and questions about the Skyspace at [skyspace@chestnuthillquakers.org](mailto:skyspace@chestnuthillquakers.org) .

Landscaping update

We look forward to the new meetinghouse as well as 22 trees and shrubs that will be planted around it. They will need watering from sometime in July at least into September. Those willing to volunteer for the 'Watering Team', please let Cyane know ([cyane.gresham@gmail.com](mailto:cyane.gresham@gmail.com))

News of Graduating Friends

The editor apologizes in advance for having missed any graduates in any of these categories.

Eighth Grade/First Day School:

- Moxie Duncan-Tessmer, who will be going to George School

High School:

- Sam Lovett-Perkins, son of Jeff Perkins and Ken Lovett, and a stalwart member of the Child Care staff, graduates from the Science Leadership Academy this month, and in the fall heads off to Northeastern University in Boston.
- Graham Roberts, son of Shannon and John Roberts, graduates from Springfield High School and heads to West Philadelphia to enroll at Drexel.

Law School:

- Trudy Rebert, Miyo Moriuchi's daughter, graduated Yale Law School on 20 May, 2013. Having received a Skadden Fellowship for public service, Trudy will be working for the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice for the next two years.

## Outside the Meeting

### Heschel-King follow-up

More than 400 people participated in last January's Heschel/King festival held at Mishkan Shalom. There was much enthusiasm at the time for continuing the momentum in some way. In April, a dozen plus representatives from various faiths gathered at the home of Robert Peters (of Germantown MM) to begin planning for an event in 2014. Others are welcome to join the group, which has a google group and will hold its next planning meeting as a pot luck on Sunday June 2 at the Unitarian Church of Germantown on Lincoln Drive.

### NPIHN jazzes it up!

Interfaith Hospitality Network of NW and NE Philadelphia (NPIHN) urgently needs financial support and is holding an all-day mini jazz festival. NPIHN had shared a building and some office systems with Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM), so when NIM suddenly closed its doors, NPIHN had to pick up the slack.

On Sunday, 9 June, several of Philly's best groups will offer classic jazz and blues, bebop and Latin, including acclaimed classic jazz and blues vocalist Jeannie Brooks, and a rare performance of the amazing "Jazz Fiddler on the Roof" by Dr. Mark Kramer. Entry includes buffet by Centre Catering. For more information and tickets see <http://www.philashelter.org/jazzitup>, call 215-247-4663 ext 102.

### Timebank Newsletter

Whether or not you attended the Forum that Betsy Wallace gave on Time Banking, you'll be interested in seeing the e-newsletter she has created to keep members up to date (on time?) about what's going on in that group.  
<http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=7843cf87adb1cc4a9bfb06010&id=a8d126b3df&e=6a66e941ff>

### One last book forum

June 9. Book Forum. One more time. Bring a book (or 2) to share with others in the Meeting. Child care, light snack provided.

### Eileen Flanagan interviewed in British Quaker periodical

Our own Eileen Flanagan was interviewed about the activities of EQAT (Earth Quaker Action Team) in a British Quaker publication, Quakernomics, the Earth and Economy newsletter - <http://www.quakerweb.org.uk/blog/campaigns/earth-quaker-action-team-challenges-us-banks/> . She talks about EQAT's actions designed to persuade PNC Bank to stop funding mountaintop removal coal mining.

### 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).

The meeting's old website is still [www.chestnuthillquakers.org](http://www.chestnuthillquakers.org) - <http://www.chestnuthillquakers.org>

You can see the public part of the new website here -

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/chestnut-hill-friends-meeting>

If you have an account, log in to see more that isn't shared publicly.

Poem: Gate A-4

Wandering around the Albuquerque Airport Terminal, after learning my flight had been delayed four hours, I heard an announcement: "If anyone in the vicinity of Gate A-4 understands any Arabic, please come to the gate immediately."

Well—one pauses these days. Gate A-4 was my own gate. I went there.

An older woman in full traditional Palestinian embroidered dress, just like my grandma wore, was crumpled to the floor, wailing. "Help," said the flight agent. "Talk to her. What is her problem? We told her the flight was going to be late and she did this."

I stooped to put my arm around the woman and spoke haltingly. "Shu-dow-a, Shu-bid-uck Habibti? Stani schway, Min fadlick, Shu-bit-se-wee?" The minute she heard any words she knew, however poorly used, she stopped crying. She thought the flight had been cancelled entirely. She needed to be in El Paso for major medical treatment the next day. I said, "No, we're fine, you'll get there, just later, who is picking you up? Let's call him."

We called her son, I spoke with him in English. I told him I would stay with his mother till we got on the plane and ride next to her. She talked to him. Then we called her other sons just for the fun of it. Then we called my dad and he and she spoke for a while in Arabic and found out of course they had ten shared friends. Then I thought just for the heck of it why not call some Palestinian poets I know and let them chat with her? This all took up two hours.

She was laughing a lot by then. Telling of her life, patting my knee, answering questions. She had pulled a sack of homemade mamool cookies – little powdered sugar crumbly mounds stuffed with dates and nuts – from her bag – and was offering them to all the women at the gate. To my amazement, not a single woman declined one. It was like a sacrament. The traveler from Argentina, the mom from California, the lovely woman from Laredo – we were all covered with the same powdered sugar. And smiling. There is no better cookie.

And then the airline broke out free apple juice from huge coolers and two little girls from our flight ran around serving it and they were covered with powdered sugar, too. And I noticed my new best friend – by now we were holding hands – had a potted plant poking out of her bag, some medicinal thing, with green furry leaves. Such an old country tradition. Always carry a plant. Always stay rooted to somewhere.

And I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and I thought, This is the world I want to live in. The shared world. Not a single person in that gate – once the crying of confusion stopped – seemed apprehensive about any other person. They took the cookies. I wanted to hug all those other women, too.

This can still happen anywhere. Not everything is lost.