

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting

July 2013

Monthly and Quarterly Meeting Events

Blue Moon/FDS potluck/picnic

This Sunday, 30 June, being the fifth Sunday of the month, is of course a Blue Moon Potluck. And the RE Committee has traditionally held a picnic at the end of the First Day School year. So we're combining the events; friends should bring summery food to share, and be prepared to eat outside if the weather favors that. And even if you forget to bring something, come anyway, as there's always enough.

Friendly First Sundays @ Stapeley

Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, of which we are a member, has committed to providing the handful of Friends residing at Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley a potluck meal and fellowship to precede their monthly meeting for worship. This effort is under the guidance of our own Tricia Walmsley, who reminds all that even if it's not "our turn" to host, our Friends there are eager to meet, eat and worship with Friends from any meeting. The next one is on Sunday, 7 July; contact Tricia Walmsley for details.

Five-Day-a-Week tenant negotiations

As many of you know, one of the cornerstones of our decision to build a new meetinghouse was the Meeting's desire to use the meetinghouse more than one day a week. We have used the term "Five-Day-a-Week Tenant" over the years to express that concern. Several months ago, we had our first possibility of a Five-Day-a-Week Tenant. A local Quaker school approached us, exploring the possibility of offering a program for five to eight young children that would require renting our nursery five days per week, ten months of the year, starting in September 2013.

We formed an ad hoc committee looking at the feasibility of this relationship. The committee comprises George Benz, Ginny Christensen, Storm Evans, John Florence, Dona Garrettson, George Garrettson, Dan Heider, Irene McHenry, Meg Mitchell, and Jean Warrington.

The committee was enthusiastic about the possibility of this relationship and reported the details at June Meeting for Business. The committee agreed to update the meeting through the electronic bulletin throughout the summer.

July Calendar

Mon., 1 July, 7:30pm - Coordinating Committee meeting - Gathering Room
Sun., 7 July, 5:00pm - Friendly 1st Sundays @ Stapeley - 6300 Greene Street
Wed., 10 July, 7:30pm - Finance Committee - Gathering Room
Sat., 13 July, 3pm - 9pm - Historic Fair Hill Community Festival - see article
Sat., 20 July, 9:00am - noon - Packing Day - Old meetinghouse
Sun., 21 July - Called meeting for business (brief) - Worship Room (CC)
Wed., 24 July - PYM Annual Sessions begin - Muhlenburg College
Fri., 26 July, 7:00pm - Keycode party: Explore the new meetinghouse - 20 E Mermaid Lane
Sat., 27 July, 9:00am - noon - Move #1 - Both meetinghouses
Sun., 28 July, 9:00am - Outdoor worship on the patio behind the new meetinghouse
Sun., 28 July, 10:30am - Regular meeting for worship in the old meetinghouse
Sun., 28 July, 11:30am - Tour new meetinghouse
Wed., 1 August, - August newsletter deadline - midnight, via email
Sat., 3 Aug, 9:00am - Move #2 - Both meetinghouses
Sun., 4 Aug, 9:00am - Early worship - New meetinghouse
Sun., 4 Aug, 10:30am - Regular meeting for worship - New 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 Summer Activities - 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Summer activities for children

First Day School takes a breather for the summer, but the Religious Education Committee still organizes a schedule of adult volunteers (always paired with an experienced RE person) to do fun activities with whatever kids show up. Betsy Robertson or Jean Warrington would be delighted to sign you up for a Sunday; find them first!

New website: getting your account

The new website has more and more content on it, and now it's much easier to request an account. We had hoped to have transferred the URL www.chestnuthillquakers.org to point to the new site, but there's too much else going on; that will come soon.

To request an account, follow [this procedure](#), worked out and documented by Dan Evans. If you run into problems, call Phil Jones or Terry Foss for assistance.

New procedure for greeters

The Outreach Committee makes sure that there are two f/Friendly faces, one at each door to the worship room, every Sunday morning starting at about 10:15. One of those Friends stays in the Gathering Room with latecomers, opens the door at 10:45, and ensures that the double doors to the FDS area close behind our young ones as they depart for their activities.

Greeting is fun! But the mechanics of signing people up have proved cumbersome, so Outreach is adopting a method used by other nearby meetings. We'll assign all regular attenders a Sunday (well in advance), will send each greeter a sheet spelling out the duties, and will remind you in the middle of the week preceding your turn with a phone call or email. Watch the upper right-hand corner of the newsletter for the list of greeters for the month. (But not now; we'll start this in September. This month the names listed are people we wish we could have as greeters. Be prepared to be asked to stand in for one of them on short notice!)

News about the move Keycode Party

Come explore the new meetinghouse on Friday, July 26, from 7pm to 8pm. This will be a simple celebration of our access to the meetinghouse where you will meet the professionals responsible for designing and building the meetinghouse. Bring cookies to share, if you wish.

Move and worship schedule

- July 20, Packing Day: Committees and volunteers from 9am to noon
- July 21, 10:30 Worship: Announced as "goodbye" to our meetinghouse although one more meeting will be held there as time of transition or passage.
- July 26, Keycode Party: New Meetinghouse 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Members and attenders invited to celebrate the new meetinghouse before we move our stuff in.
- July 27, Move #1: 9:00 am to noon; nursery and gathering room left intact except for boxed stuff
- July 28, 9:00 Worship Outdoors: New Meetinghouse terrace (folding chairs will be down from the old meetinghouse).
- July 28, 10:30 worship: Old Meetinghouse - Childcare provided as usual. New Meetinghouse will be unlocked after 10:30 worship.
- August 3, Move #2: 9:00 am until finished (nursery moved; sold furniture taken away)
- August 4, 9:00 and 10:30 Worship: New Meetinghouse. Transition complete. We now live at 20 East Mermaid Lane.
- August 10, Cleanout Day: Last cleaning of the old meetinghouse before closing on August 15.

This schedule is subject to change. Unforeseen needs may call for flexibility. Check the Meeting webpage for updates.

Furniture sold or donated

The silent auction for meetinghouse furniture that will not accompany us to the new meetinghouse brought \$1330 for the new meetinghouse fund. Thanks to Mickey Abraham, Joe Byers, Ernie Cuff, Eileen Flanagan, Roberta Foss, Katy Hawkins, Ben Heller, Ann and Phil Jones, Laura Melly, Miriam Schaeffer, Lynne Shivers, and Dennis Wint for purchasing the furniture.

We believe that all of the meeting room benches are sold or spoken for by nearby Quaker schools or meetings. The social room tables and unsold furniture in the middle school room have been donated to other good causes.

Thanks to everyone who purchased furniture or assisted with finding homes for the other items.

Please remember that we must use the "old" meetinghouse until after worship on July 28, so we will be releasing all furniture on Saturday, August 3. You must pay for and remove anything that you purchased by August 3 unless you make other arrangements with Storm.

Outside the Meeting

PYM Annual Sessions begin July 24

Gathering Together our Past, Our Presence and Our Future; July 24-28, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA: PYM friends of all ages are preparing to gather as one community, guided by spirit to conduct the business of the yearly meeting, worship together, learn from one another, develop and strengthen our relationships and have FUN! This year's Annual Sessions will be held on the Muhlenberg College Campus in Allentown, PA. Engaging programs are planned for everyone including the new "All Together Now," a daily opportunity for everyone to gather in multigenerational programs on topics engaging Friends of all ages and levels of experience.

This year there are no required program fees for attendance. While registration has already closed for housing, reserved meals and youth programs, a limited number of meal tickets will be available for purchase on site. The campus cafe will also be open for breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday for meal purchases. To learn more, please visit the PYM website at www.pym.org/annual-sessions-2013

QVS progress

Ross Hennessy, QVS coordinator, writes: "The staff and working group have been hard at work preparing for our inaugural year in Philadelphia. There are nine Volunteers who will be moving here in August for their year of service. They will attend Germantown Monthly Meeting and will be supported by the wider Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting. Each Volunteer will meet regularly with a Spiritual Nurturer, and we had a wonderful response from local Friends willing to serve in this role. We are blessed to have Walter Sullivan, who ran the Spiritual Nurturers program at Pendle Hill for many years, bring his experience to QVS as the Spiritual Nurturer coordinator. I am really looking forward to welcoming the nine Philadelphia Volunteers at the end of August, and ask that we all support them as a community in their year of service. If you would like to be involved in the Philadelphia program, please click here for ways you can help."

Exciting news about AVP

There is so much exciting news about the Alternatives to Violence Program in Philadelphia that it won't fit here. Here's a list of highlights:

- Dedicated space for a Center for Returning Citizens, to offer supportive services to people who have completed their incarceration and are returning to the community
- AVP was invited to develop a program for a school in trouble, with amazing results. This coming year, 7th and 8th graders at the school will participate in AVP workshops as a regular part of their schedule.
- In September, AVP workshops will be held for 455 students from two Philadelphia high schools

Greeters for July

July 7: George Fox | Margaret Fell

July 14: James Naylor | Robert Barclay

July 21: Lucretia Mott | Robert Purvis

July 28: Rufus Jones | Henry Cadbury

Called Meeting for Business on 7/21

We hope there will be a cool breeze as we consider, expeditiously at rise of meeting for worship:

- Nominating Committee's recommendation for the Chestnut Hill Community Association board
- Care and Counsel's recommendation for the next member of Nominating Committee
- Request for transfer by Ruth Pauly to the meeting at her new home in Wisconsin

News of Friends

Last month's newsletter mistakenly announced that Graham Roberts was headed for Drexel in the Fall. He is, in fact, enrolling at The College of New Jersey. (Drexel had been under consideration, and was a close runner-up.)

Community Lunch: No Community Lunch in July, as the first Sunday falls on the July 4 long weekend. We do have a Blue Moon potluck lunch/picnic on June 30.

Allergy Reminder: 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) or First Day (Sunday) school class (school year).

Website: The Meeting's new website, hosted on the FGC "Quaker Cloud", awaits a visit from you. Go to this address <https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/chestnut-hill-friends-meeting> to see all the public pages. To see the pages visible only to members of the meeting community, you'll need an account. If you don't already have an account, click the Log In link and on the next page, click Create One Now and follow directions.

Poem: A Final Affection

I love the accomplishments of trees,
How they try to restrain great storms
And pacify the very worms that eat them.
Even their deaths seem to be considered.
I fear for trees, loving them so much.
I am nervous about each scar on bark,
Each leaf that browns. I want to
Lie in their crotches and sigh,
Whisper of sun and rains to come.

Sometimes on summer evenings I step
Out of my house to look at trees
Propping darkness up to the silence.

When I die I want to slant up
Through those trunks so slowly
I will see each rib of bark, each whorl;
Up through the canopy, the subtle veins
And lobes touching me with final affection;
Then to hover above and look down
One last time on the rich upliftings,
The circle that loves the sun and moon,
To see at last what held the darkness up.

by Paul Zimmer