

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting November 2013 Newsletter

Telling AVP stories

Carolyn Schodt reports on the role Chestnut Hill Meeting has played in her involvement with the Alternatives to Violence Program. “Twenty-three AVP facilitators arrived at Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting on September 4, 2012, to prepare for the BASIC workshop Sept 5 – 7, 2012. Joining our Kensington team, the traveling AVP volunteers came from Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts. The experience gave meaning to the words ‘way opening.’ Chestnut Hill Meeting became our evening dining room and debriefing place. Carla White, Miyo Moriuchi, Lynn Mather and others generously arranged meals and housing.” Call the office to request a copy of Carolyn’s full report, which talks about how she came to be involved, and brings us up to date on current events in the local AVP community.

Calling for more website authors!

More and more people are requesting accounts on the Meeting’s new website, and there are more and more articles and documents of interest there. What’s missing is content provided by people in the Meeting besides the web team (Terry Foss and Phil Jones). One of the primary components of the website is the ability for others in the community, once they have been selected by a committee, to create new posts themselves. Let’s say that Care & Counsel Committee wants to let the meeting community know about services available to assist in preparing for a wedding. They have several documents they’d like to post, and some procedures and guidelines for prospective participants in a marriage. A member of Care & Counsel would be authorized to post these items on behalf of Care & Counsel.

But how will that C&C member know *how* to create a post, once authorized to do so? So glad you asked: a member of Central Philadelphia MM, Kevin Taylor, has created a toolkit with numerous components all designed to help the novice become adept at creating, editing and deleting posts. You can check out Kevin’s tutorials online – *but only if* you have an account on our website. If you still don’t have such an account, it’s never too late to apply for one by following the procedure in the July newsletter (see archives).

Celebrating Thanksgiving with Friends

Over the last few years, under the loving care of Carolyn Schodt and Howard Lesnick, several F/friends have shared Thanksgiving dinner at the meetinghouse. We shall be holding “open house” Thanksgiving dinner again this year on the *Friday following Thanksgiving* organized by Tricia Walmsley; exact time to be announced. All, including children, are welcome. Please contact Tricia by email (walmsley127@verizon.net) or by phone (215) 248 1514 if you would like to participate.

Tricia is also again organizing an “open house” on Christmas afternoon at the meetinghouse. Contact her if you would like to participate on December 25th.

Thanking those who built our building

On Thursday, 7 November at 4:30, we’ve invited all the workers who had a hand in the construction of our building (and their families) to come see that evening’s sunset Skyspace opening. Friends from the Meeting are encouraged to attend as well to meet these people and thank them in person for their fine work. If you plan to come, please let Nikka Landau know at skyspace@chestnuthillquakers.org.

Saving our trees

Property Committee work days bring challenges and even thrills. In this picture, two intrepid (and nameless) Friends work to free a tree we want to save from the grip of invasive vines.

There is another workday on November 9 from 9 am to 12. Jobs indoors and out, and snacks provided!



Planning for life (and taxes) post-DOMA



Several Friends have been discussing the impact of the recent demise of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) on same-sex couples, particularly with respect to taxes and legal issues. Laura Melly, Jude Brandt and Grace Moses have identified two resource people, one knowledgeable in matters of finance and the other (Dylan Steinberg) on Marriage Equality Litigation in Pennsylvania. They have organized a workshop on Sunday, 24 November and sponsored by Care & Counsel Committee, to share what they've learned with same-sex couples, their straight allies and friends in Philadelphia Quarter. The event will begin at 2:30 pm in the Social Room and run for 1-1/2 hours. Those in attendance will be invited to remain for the Skyspace opening, which begins that day at 4:30pm.

In related news, we were asked by Philadelphia Quarter to give a response on marriage equality. Chestnut Hill has supported same gender marriages for over two decades. Those working on our minute are Jeff Perkins, Lynne Shivers and Laura Melly.

November Calendar

- **Sun., 3 November, 12:00pm** – Community Lunch – Social Room
- **Mon., 4 November, 7:30pm** – Coordinating Committee meeting – Committee Room
- **Thu., 7 November, 4:30pm** – Construction Skyspace Event – Worship Room
- **Thu., 7 November, 7:00pm** – Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting – Committee Room
- **Mon., 11 November, 7:30pm** – Care & Counsel Committee meeting – Mickey's house
- **Tue., 12 November, 7:00pm** – Property Committee meeting – FDS 3
- **Wed., 13 November, 7:00pm** – Finance Committee – Office
- **Thu., 14 November, 7:00pm** – Outreach Committee meeting – Committee Room
- **Sun., 17 November, 12:30pm** – Business Meeting – Worship Room
- **Sun., 17 November, 12:30pm** – Young Adult Friends committee meeting – Committee Room
- **Mon., 18 November, 7:00pm** – Office & Admin Committee meeting – Committee Room
- **Wed., 27 November, midnight** – December newsletter deadline – by email
- **Thu., 28 November, 4:00pm** – Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck – Social Room
- **Fri., 29 November, Time TBA** – Thanksgiving dinner with Friends – Social Room
- **Every Sunday**
 - Adult Class, 9:15 am to 10:15 am in Gathering Room; or Hymn-singing – 9:45 am to 10:15 am in Social Room
 - Meeting for Worship (childcare available) – 10:30 - 11:30 am
 - Children's First Day school – 10:30 am to 11:30 am

FCNL Letter-writing update

The FCNL letter-writing effort is off to a great start for the year! In October we sent 25 cards and letters to legislators to urge them to oppose reductions in SNAP, the federal food stamp program. The proposed \$39 billion in cutbacks over 10 years would result in millions more Americans going hungry, at a time when

unemployment and poverty levels are high. If you didn't get a chance to write a letter, you can still send one; a couple of sentences is sufficient, and contact information for legislators is at www.usa.gov. Thanks to all who helped our meeting voice our values on this important issue!

Friends Council on Education presents Mindfulness at our Meeting

Mindfulness in Learning & Life based on Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction is a 6-week course led by Irene McHenry, PhD, at the Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse. It's for teachers, parents, counselors and anyone living with and/or working with children, teens, and families. Using experiential practice and experimental inquiry in this 6-week mindfulness course, we will explore a variety of contemplative methods that increase core skills for living, learning and reducing stress. DATES: Mondays, February 3, 10, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 2014. TIME: 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Register now at www.friendscouncil.org under the Programs menu.

On sitting down in meeting for worship

Our new worship room makes moving around much easier than it used to be. Some suggestions for doing so efficiently:

- When you enter, use the edges of the room to get across, rather than cutting through the middle.
- If a bench is empty, please move to the center so that others may join you from the ends without having to climb over you.
- If your children are with you for the first 15 minutes of worship (a practice we encourage), once they leave for First Day School please move to the center of your bench to consolidate open spaces, making it easier for latecomers to find seating.
- Those waiting in the Gathering Room may enter the Worship Room through any of the six doors. To use one of the outside doors, leave the Gathering Room through its outside door and walk around to any door.
- Remember, if someone is speaking in meeting for worship, wait at the door until the speaker has sat down.

News of Friends

Liz Robinson



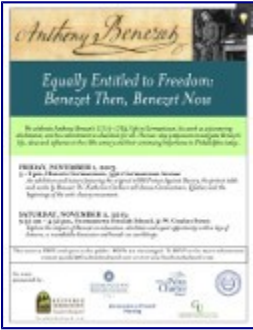
Liz Robinson, formerly of Chestnut Hill Meeting and currently at Central Philadelphia, is recovering from an accident on Aug. 25 in which she was hit by an SUV while biking. She sustained multiple wounds and fractures. She welcomes communications from friends at CHF. As of Wednesday, Oct. 9, she will be home and reachable by phone or email: 215-482-3743 or liz.rob2@verizon.net. **10/16 update from Liz's husband Paul:** "Liz has been home for a week now, sleeping well and getting around more & more. She'll attempt a visit to ECA (her work) on

Friday for several hours. She goes to outpatient Physical & Occupational Therapy at Novacare in Bala Cynwyd (only 10 minutes from our house) several times a week ... and she's sore from the workouts. We just returned from the Neuro-Ophthalmologist at UPenn Hospital where she had an in-depth assessment of her right eye, which remains covered. The doctor expects it will heal in time."

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

Outside the Meeting

Anthony Benezet, early abolitionist and activist, celebrated



An upcoming event celebrates anti-slavery and pro-public education activist Anthony Benezet, and is co-sponsored by GMM and GFS, as well as Historic Germantown and other groups. Click the illustration to enlarge it for details of the events, which take place on Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2.

Shared Security, a Quaker Vision of US Foreign Policy

Please join us for a conversation about Shared Security, a new joint AFSC/FCNL project to re-imagine U.S. foreign policy. The project seeks to promote alternatives to militarism, war, deadly conflict and climate crisis and to engage all who care about these issues in a renewed vision for shared security. For more information and to see the working paper, go to sharedsecurity.org.

Sunday, November 3rd, 12:30 p.m at Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting, Friends Center, 1515 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA 19102. For questions, contact Paul Ricker: phricker1@hotmail.com.

Looking at mass incarceration

“Remember those in prison as if you were together with them.” This passage from Hebrews 13:3 [in the Christian Bible] is the inspiration for a program on Saturday, November 16th, from 10-3 at Summit Presbyterian Church, 6757 Greene St., 19119 in Mt. Airy. At 10:00 we’ll show the film, *Broken on All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration & New Visions from Criminal Justice in the US*. At noon, free lasagna/salad/brownies! At 1:00 we’ll have an expert panel including the Defenders’ Association and Ready, Willing and Able. Come for all or part. RSVPs appreciated but not required, (215) 438-2825 or cpyrch@summitpres.net.

NPIHN Empty Bowl Dinner



Our friends at Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (NPIHN) are once again holding their annual Empty Bowl Dinner, on Wednesday, 20 November. This year it’s at the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia, just up the hill toward Mt Airy. Local restaurants donate fantastic soups and breads, and local artisans contribute handmade bowls. You can take the soup and bread home by consuming it on the spot; after you’ve emptied your bowl, you get to take that home too! See Mickey Abraham for more details.

Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at CHFM

A group of artists and animal welfare activists is renting our Social Room and kitchen on the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day (11/28) for a vegan potluck dinner. Their representatives said that anyone from Chestnut Hill Meeting who would like to join them is most welcome. They don’t require that guests be vegans, only that they bring a vegan dish to share.

Wissahickon East Project Clean-up Day

During our campaign for the new building we talked a lot about partnerships with other organizations working in our corner of the city. Wissahickon East Project has succeeded in preserving as parkland a 6-acre tract just across Cresheim Valley Drive from the part of Fairmount Park that abuts our land. Request their most recent newsletter for a summary of their accomplishments and their plans; included is a form for volunteering for their clean-up day on December 7.

Greeters for November

Note: If your date isn't convenient, feel free to contact someone whose date is later to arrange a switch. Please let the newsletter know (newsletter@chestnuthillquakers.org) so we can update our list.

November – 11/3: Patricia Conway & Nancy Cox | 11/10: Ernie Cuff & Ellen Deacon | 11/17: Sarah Sweeney-Denham & Jane Dorwart | 11/24: Sue Betts & Diane Dunning

December – 12/1: Christie & Zach Duncan-Tessmer | 12/8: Dan & Storm Evans | 12/15: Diane Fiske & Eileen Flanagan | 12/22: John Florence & Hunter Flournoy | 12/29: Roberta & Terry Foss

Documents from October business meeting: Call office for copies of the Draft Minutes of the October business meeting, the draft landscape plan, and the summary of the meeting on Religions and Gun Violence.

Feeding ourselves on 3rd Sundays: We are always looking for volunteers to contribute to a simple, coordinated lunch (not a potluck) on 3rd Sundays prior to Meeting for Worship for Business. We also need volunteers to set up and clean up this lunch. If you are able to contribute to the November 17th lunch, or are interested in being a regular contributor to 3rd Sunday lunches, please contact Rebecca Heider (rebeccaheider@yahoo.com) or sign up at (www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/3rdSunday1).

Directory Errors: Now that the updated directory is in print and (possibly) in your hands, we need your updates. Any errors in your address, phone number or email? Are you not in there at all, but feel connected enough that you want to be? Now that we're going to post an updated PDF version of the directory in the account-holders' area of the website, you don't have to wait until next year for an updated listing. Send your corrections and/or requests to directory@chestnuthillquakers.org.

Eileen Flanagan reports on EQAT action: Read member Eileen Flanagan's most recent *Huffington Post* blog entry about the non-violent civil disobedience actions taken by Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) to persuade PNC to stop financing mountaintop removal.

Steinway baby grand for sale, rent, or even loan: It is a Steinway model M built in 1923, 5'7" from front to back. The condition is so-so: it is fully functional, and tunable, but finish is cracked. Contact Lynn Mather: 215-247-8178, LynnMather@verizon.net

Diane Dunning's property for rent: Spacious guesthouse on secluded property in Blue Bell. Light-filled 2-bedroom apartment convenient to Ambler village, public transportation and schools, Blue Route and PA Tpk. Private patio, covered parking for 2 cars, ample storage, washer & dryer, dishwasher. Beautiful views, great neighbors. Available 1 Dec. \$1650 includes everything. If interested please contact Diane at artcoltd@verizon.net.

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.)

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).

Links to back issues: Visit www.chfmnewsletter.org, the archive with links to all back issues of the electronic newsletter.

Newsletter Feedback: The newsletter is compiled by Phil Jones and proofread by Roberta Foss; many others help. Please send your comments, suggestions and questions about the newsletter by e-mail. Your feedback is important!

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
20 E. Mermaid Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19118-3505

Poem: Unharvested

A scent of ripeness from over a wall.
And come to leave the routine road
And look for what had made me stall,
There sure enough was an apple tree
That had eased itself of its summer load,
And of all but its trivial foliage free,
Now breathed as light as a lady's fan.
For there had been an apple fall
As complete as the apple had given man.
The ground was one circle of solid red.

May something go always unharvested!
May much stay out of our stated plan,
Apples or something forgotten and left,
So smelling their sweetness would be no theft.

by Robert Frost