

Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
Report to the Meeting for the period January 2017 to January 2018

1. Requested that a working group be formed to work on the Syrian Refugee Crisis. This group is now active.
2. Requested that City Council hold hearings on Climate Change which they did.
3. Slavery in Philadelphia. Organized a public meeting with author-historian Philip Seitz. The book by this title documents slaveholding by the Chew family of the Cliveden mansion on Germantown Avenue and how that wealth that slavery provided lasted that family for several generations. The author believes present day descendents of slaves are helped by knowing this history. About 25 copies of the book were sold.
4. Organized a public meeting on June 30 showing the film "13TH" about the 13th amendment which freed slaves but had an exception for prisoners which led to many abuses. Between 30 and 40 people attended each of these meetings with a number from the community.
5. Reviewed applications for funding peace and social concerns organizations at the request of Meeting members who participate in them. These were approved by the Monthly Meeting.
 1. EQAT Earth Quaker Action Team \$800 (Eileen Flanagan)
 2. Friends of the Wissahickon \$150 (Cyane Gresham)
 3. Wissahickon East Project \$200 (Cyane Gresham)
 4. Planet Philadelphia \$450 (Kay Wood)
 5. United Nations Association of Philadelphia \$750 (Mary Day Kent)
 6. Crossroads Community Center \$1000 (Jean Warrington)
 7. Black Liberation and Community Development Project \$600 (Ellen Deacon)
 8. MathCorps Philadelphia \$500 (Roger and Patricia Walmsley)
 9. Friends of Cresheim Trail \$50 (Cyane Gresham)
 10. Friends of Vernon Park \$200 (Cyane Gresham)
 11. Abington Free Library Adult Literacy Program \$300 (Meg Mitchell)

These groups and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee appreciate the support of the Meeting.

6. Legislative Letter writing. We asked members to write to senators on healthcare on Jan 15, to telephone to senators on healthcare on June 11, and to send preprinted postcards on Gun Control on Nov 12 and Tax Reform on Nov 19.
7. We asked the Meeting to sell at cost yard signs saying "Hate has no home here" Others suggested a more positive message-"Wherever you came from, we are glad you are our neighbor." Marlana Santoyo and Storm Evans carried out getting and selling the both types of signs.
8. Linda Rosenwein wrote letters to local mosques to visit and express support for muslims who are disrespected. Through the Interfaith Center she contacted Quba Masjid, Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Mosque, Philadelphia Masjid, and Al Aqsa mosques on behalf of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Ten CHFM members attended Quba Masjid, 4637 Lancaster Ave in May and were well received.
9. We arranged a noontime forum on behalf of Friends Committee on National Legislation lead by Emily Temple a local volunteer.
10. We asked Rebecca Heider to explore joining POWER. One of our members attended a POWER meeting and was favorably impressed. We are still exploring this.
11. We tabled the survey of Meeting members about their peace and social concerns activities and experiences .
12. The work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee has relied largely on 4 families. In addition to the work of the committee, 2 members produce an environmentally oriented radio program twice a month. Another member sent postcards to all 100 senators on healthcare, and on the budget. Another member has attended demonstrations on the gas pipeline in PA and other demonstrations. We hope others will join the committee. Several members will retire this spring.

Action Item for the Monthly Meeting

1. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee and the Refugee Working Group request that the Refugee Working Group be a subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns and that Marlana Santoyo be the designated liaison.