

HISTORIC
FAIR HILL

Site: 2901 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19133
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www.historicfairhill.org

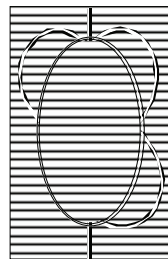
A peace-making urban green space

About Historic Fair Hill

Historic Fair Hill is a 300-year-old Quaker burial ground where many who worked to end slavery and promote equality are buried. The National Historic Site on the Underground Railroad Network is 4.6 acres at 2901 Germantown Avenue in north Philadelphia. We encourage you to visit to walk under the great trees and pay respects at the graves of great reformers. The garden program is Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. The Cambria St. pedestrian gates are unlocked. Tours and programs are given for school and other groups.

Check website for hours at www.historicfairhill.org or contact info@historicfairhill.org

SUMMER 2016 ISSUE



HISTORIC FAIR HILL

FINAL RESTING PLACE OF LUCRETIA AND JAMES MOTT; ROBERT AND HARRIET PURVIS

Learning from History

By Carolyn Singleton

In 1686 George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends, dedicated six acres of land in his will to be “a meeting place, a school-house, a burying-place, a play-ground for the children in town to play on, a garden to plant with physical plants for lads and lasses to know simples, and learn to make oils and ointment.” Today, we are honoring those wishes in new ways.

Although the Meetinghouse was closed in the 1980's, people still come to meditate and enjoy quiet and serenity and on occasion to hold religious

services. Though no one has been buried here for 50 years, we care for the historic burying place and honor the legacy of reformers like Lucretia and James Mott and Robert and Harriet Purvis, who struggled for freedom and equality. School children write essays about Robert Purvis during Black History Month and are aware that we all share a responsibility to keep the torch burning for justice and equality.

Throughout the year, the site is “a playground for the children in town to play on.” The fenced 4.5 acres are

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HFH Youth Group meeting

Learning from History *continued*

clean, peaceful, green, and open to the neighborhood. In spring, seventh graders play flag football with their teacher on the grassy field. Third graders rake and jump in piles of fall leaves. Summer camp children run relay races around the brick carriageway.

Historic Fair Hill is an urban garden where young people learn to grow food. It is “a garden to plant with physical plants for lads and lasses to know simples” (medicinal herbs). We learn about fruits and vegetables and the vitamins and minerals they contain. We dig, plant seeds and harvest. We learn to identify leaves and seeds of some of the 30 species of trees.

Historic Fair Hill is an outdoor “school-house.” On field trips, young children use their five senses to explore. Second graders look at ants and worms through small magnifying glasses. Older students tour neighborhood murals of the history of social justice in Philadelphia. A student is proud to see that a mural artist is Latino like him. They ask to meet Peaches Ramos, our block captain and local hero, who is painted on one mural at 9th and Indiana.

Students learn about the struggle for social justice. At the “Healing Walls” murals on Germantown Avenue, we discuss justice and redemption for prisoners. George Fox was imprisoned in the mid-1660s for his religious beliefs, and he advocated for prison reform. He met a young woman in jail for robbing her master. Fox wrote to the judge arguing

that the death penalty for stealing was contrary to the law of God. Fox wrote some words to be read at the gallows. At the last minute the woman was not executed but returned to the prison where she converted to Quakerism.

Were he alive today, Fox likely would have opposed the disparity in sentencing by laws like the Anti-Drug Abuse Acts of 1986 and 1988 that penalized impoverished offenders disproportionately. These laws were amended by the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 signed by President Barack Obama. In 1985, there were fewer than 600,000 people incarcerated in the USA. By 1995 there were more than one million. By 2005, the correctional population of those in jail, on parole, and on probation was seven million people.

In engaging young people with issues that are contemporary and historic, we honor the past and learn from it.

Author Carolyn Singleton also works with incarcerated and recently released people and their families.



Outreach coordinator Carolyn Singleton (right) with Essay Contest winner Jamilette Rivera and her mother

Fairhill community events

Working together, HFH and its partners are bringing resources, some jobs, opportunities for children, and more gatherings for caring community. Holidays, the essay contest, neighborhood beautification, and the summer festival are times we gather with music and food and celebrate community.

There is still work to be done in our neighborhood. The social policy class of Bryn Mawr School of Social Work did a three-month Needs Assessment with focus groups, interviews, and questionnaires in the 50-year-old Crossroads Community Center and the Christ Centered Church for returning



Neighbors potting plants at summer festival

citizens. The study was an opportunity for neighbors to be heard and to plan what they can do together.



Social work grad students and neighborhood representatives.

Historic Fair Hill Board

C. Baird Brown, *President*
Philip Jones, *Vice President*
Stephen Kaufman, *Treasurer*
Katie Day, *Secretary*

Trustees

Betsy Caesar	Donald T. Little
James Glackin	Darlene Lomax-Garrett
Dwayne Grannum	Denis Lucey
Sally Harrison	Peaches Ramos
Jean Hurd	Miriam Fisher Schaefer
Margaret Leyden	

Historic Fair Hill Staff

Allen Baker, *Groundskeeper*
Bri Barton, *Garden Manager*
Carolyn Singleton, *Outreach*
Jean Warrington, *Director*



Historic Fair Hill school partnerships

HFH supports our Fairhill neighborhood public schools through nature and history field trips, reading volunteers, and library support. Teachers are devoted, students are eager, and HFH is a community partner. This year, HFH staff and volunteers provided 1500 hours of reading support to 200 children K-4, guided 600 children on nature and history field trips, re-opened the school library at Julia deBurgos School, and gathered partners to build and expand two school gardens.



The newly reopened deBurgos School Library



Reading buddies at deBurgos School

Historic Fair Hill gardens



Nina and Alyssa, Temple U garden interns

In five gardens and three small orchards, HFH staff and volunteers, neighbors and friends grow hundreds of pounds of fresh organic produce for our Fairhill neighborhood. The children water with the hose, eat strawberries, cherries, and carrots, and learn how food grows. The youth group learns teamwork, persistence and the skills of gardening.

Thanks and Welcome

We thank you for your support to carry on the work of the Quaker reformers buried here. We honor Lucretia Mott and Robert Purvis, abolitionists and early advocates for women's rights, who are pictured on the great wall murals across the street. HFH offers community gardens, partnerships with public schools, and

community events. You are welcome to visit on second Saturdays for history tours and gardening. Consider joining the reading buddies one morning a week or collecting books for our school libraries. Visit our website, call us, and then come visit and join in the joyful work in Fairhill.

Jean Warrington, Executive Director



Jean Warrington (right) with Bri Barton, Carolyn Singleton and field trip guides

Mark Your Calendar!

Summer Festival and PQM Picnic—Saturday July 9, 3-7 p.m.
Annual Boat House Fundraiser—Sunday September 18, 5-8 p.m.
Revolutionary Germantown Festival—Saturday, October 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Orchard Harvest Day—Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Christmas Star Lighting—Saturday, December 10, 3-5 p.m.
MLK Day of Service—Monday, January 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Black History Month Essay Contest Event—Saturday, February 11, 1-3 p.m.
Tree Tenders Spring Planting —Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Astronomy Night April TBA 7:30-10 p.m.
Second Saturdays: Tours and family days—Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Visit historicfairhill.org/events/ for more details

Thanks to Friends of Fair Hill

Individuals

Mickey Abraham
 Alison Anderson
 Phil Anthony, Meg Mitchell
 Phyllis Babcock
 Nelson Baitzel
 Dick Bansen
 Gregory Barnes
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 Alan Bayersdorfer, Cyane Gresham
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 Baird and Carol Brown
 Geneva Butz
 Betsy and Sandy Caesar
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 Virginia Christensen
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Allen Hilles Fund
 Eagles Youth Partnership
 Historic Germantown
 Hardy Plant Society
 Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial

Madwoman Project Charlottesville Community
 Patricia Kind Family Foundation
 Philadelphia Cultural Fund
 Union Benevolent Association
 William Penn Foundation

Quaker Meetings and Organizations

Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
 Friends Central School
 Friends School Haverford
 Germantown Friends School
 Green St. Monthly Meetin
 Gwynedd Monthly Meeting
 Jeanes Hospital
 Lansdowne Friends School
 Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia

Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting
 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
 Plymouth Meeting Friends School
 Swarthmore Friends Meeting
 West Chester Monthly Meeting
 Westtown School



The wonders of Astronomy Night



Can you see what's up there?