



NEWS

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Creekside Cultural Center! We're very excited about this new and amazing part of our lives. We hope you will share your wishes and dreams, your wants and needs, your skills and resources with us.

Our vision is that this will become a "home" for the whole community to build relationships with each other through healthy and educational activities. We envision music, art, science, history, quiet time for reading and visiting, playing board games, eating comfort foods, gathering to build a community that reaches beyond our usual social circles, and draws in each person according to their own interests and abilities.



This will be an experiment in consensus building. Our bylaws state that every member will have equal say over each area of the operations that interest them, and complete veto power over any change in the mission, vision, values, or focus of the organization. We will have three concentric circles of our government. The first and most important is the membership. The second is the board of advisers who will join by volunteering to work on committees or as consultants in their own fields of expertise and interest, and the third is the board of executive directors who will be chosen each year by the membership to perform the operational functions of the center according to the guidance of the membership and advisers. The key to this type of organizational structure is that the power and energy flow inward from the members, not outward from the people "running" things.

For the first year, Victoria Odhner will be the executive director for operations, getting the finances and all the regulatory and legal systems in place, creating schedules and policies, etc. Suzanne Evans is the secretary who is keeping all of our records, strategically looking at our processes and procedures, and coordinating many of our internal operations. Matthew Synnestvedt is the President and will guide us all in learning to govern through consensus, and be a spokesperson and a master "listener" for people's input. Solomon and Tirah Keal have expressed interest in being involved in programming, and Sam and Anne Marie Yoder are considering being on our finance committee. What do you want to create, do, or participate in?

In the past two months we have purchased a property, registered our business name, filed articles of incorporation, created our first bylaws, developed our initial board of directors, dealt with inspectors, contractors, banks, and donors, organized the first few events for the Center, drafted a logo, ordered business cards, arranged utilities, and so much more. The next steps involve finalizing the application for non-profit status and executing a development campaign to build funds needed for our needed building improvements, equipment purchases and sponsorships of programs. We are looking forward to getting on with the REAL business of the cultural center – helping all of our members, friends, and neighbors grow and learn and have the most interesting, fulfilling lives possible.

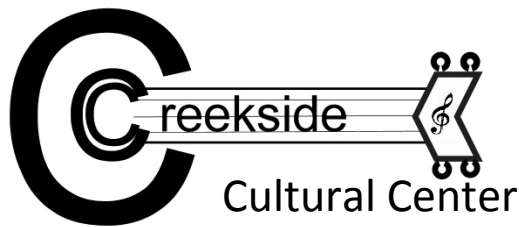
In April and May we will experiment with a variety of programs and activities. By June we hope to have organized a number of reliable weekly and monthly programs for specific interests as well as special and one-time events, speakers, performers, and activities. So far, we have planned monthly open mic nights, poetry readings, potlucks and nature programs. We plan to have weekly open house evenings, dances, and concerts. We're hoping to be able to fund at least one "big name" performer a month. Let us know who you'd like to see!

Tori



Calendar

Date/Time	Event	Notes
March 29th - Saturday - 10am-3pm	Workday - Clean up everything, get started building the bathroom, maybe install a main entrance door, move furniture, shed, and the stage s to the center.	We need as many people as we can for this!
March 30 - Sunday - 12:30-2:30pm	Our first potluck! You bring meal items, we'll provide the drinks and desert. family games and various brainstorming sessions to follow the meal.	RSVP if possible to 267-625-3559
April 5 - Saturday 10am-3pm	Workday - continue building bathroom, entrance door, build stage and install wireless internet.	
April 5 - Saturday 6-10pm	Family night at the movies. Popcorn and herbal tea for all. Pajamas and blankets welcome. Younger folks movie at 6 and older folks movie at 8.	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family Members Free!
April 6 - Sunday 2-4pm	Family Nature Walk - With Wade Mergen , Nature Educator. Wade is an endless source of amazement and wonder.	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family
April 11, Friday 7-9pm	Poetry and Short Story Writer's Open Mic - bring whatever you've been working on or would like to show off. Group discussion and readings.	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family Members Free!
April 12 - Saturday 6-8pm	Solomon Keal in Concert - Solomon will wow you with his breathtaking music - too classy to be called New Age and more uplifting and inspiring to be called Classical. Check his website at http://www.solomonkeal.com/	Free Event! Donations gladly accepted
April 19-27	Creekside goes to Florida! Group vacation to Cayo Costa State park. Price includes all transportation lodging and food. See http://www.mcgillicuttynet.org/cayocosta for details.	suggested donation \$285/adult Children less.
May 3, Saturday 6-9pm	Benefit Concert to pay for the bathrom. Bring your friends! Bands playing include the John Austin Trio, Richard Lodge and Friends, and The Eddie Bluestone Band! Artists on display: Jessie Toth, Functional Art, and Sarah Gersbach, Watercolors. Special guests may surprise you.	Suggested donation \$10 Members Free!
May 4, Sunday 12:30-2:30	Membership potluck - You bring meal items, we'll provide the drinks and desert. Special Guest to speak about consensus decision making , and various brainstorming sessions to follow the meal.	Free to current and potential members.
May 9th, Friday 5-8pm	Family game night. Come browse the library, have a snack, visit with people, and play a board game or two. Chess anyone?	Free Event! Donations welcome.
May 10th, Saturday 6-9 pm (tentative date)	DJ Fish will host a family dance party!	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family Members Free!
May 16, Friday 7-9pm	Poetry and Short Story Writer's Open Mic - bring whatever you've been working on or would like to show off. Group discussion and readings.	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family Members Free!
May 18 - Sunday 2-4pm	Family Nature Walk with Wade Mergen , Nature Educator	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family
May 23 - Friday 7-9pm	Fourth Friday Open Mic night for Musicians and Singer-Songwriters	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family
May 24 - Saturday 7-9pm	An evening of A-Capella Music with the Kempton New Church Men's A-Capella Group and the Kutztown Barbers	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family
May 25 - Sunday	Children's Open Mic and "each one teach one" event. This is your chance for your children to show off everything they love to do AND/OR to get a chance to teach another child something about what they enjoy.	Tips to be split equally among all performers!
May 26 - Monday	Memorial Day Picnic By the Creek - please join us! Family games and races, and more. Rain location is in the barn!	Free Event.
June 1, Sunday	Membership potluck - You bring meal items, we'll provide the drinks and desert. Entertainment TBA and various brainstorming sessions to follow the meal.	Free to current and potential members.
June 15 (tentative date)	Family Nature Walk with Wade Mergen , Nature Educator	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family
June 27 - Friday 7-9pm	Fourth Friday Open Mic night for Musicians and Singer-Songwriters	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family



Membership

Memberships in the center are \$75 a year for an individual OR a family (two adults and their children under the age of 18 living in the same household) and discounted memberships are available based on family income and volunteer hours. Every member is encouraged to get involved in the center in whatever way interests them.

This organization is NOT run by a small exclusive group. EVERY member has equal input into the programming, policies and procedures, and any other part of the running of the center that they have interest in. All members are invited to attend any meeting of the whole organization or of any committee, and any member who attends a meeting has input into and veto power over any change or new proposal.

Join before June 1st and get 4 guest tickets to "free for members" events.

All members will receive:

- A monthly potluck meal, meeting, and entertainment, which is free to members and ticketed to non-members.
- Free admission or reduced admission to additional selected events.
- Monthly e-newsletter.
- An e-mail address "@creeksidecenter.org" for personal use.
- Subscription to the podcast, discussion board, and other website features.

In addition, there are higher levels of sponsorship available, with benefits for each. The first \$75 of each sponsorship will be considered to be the membership fee. Please see our website for details.

Creekside has applied for 501(c)3 status and intends to operate as a non-profit corporation.

EIN #38-3777653

Application for Membership to Creekside Cultural Center

I have read the mission and other information provided in this document, and I understand that this organization is run by the members using a consensus model. I want to participate!

Name of Primary Member _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Signature _____

Membership Type

- Individual
- Family

Number of adults ___ Ages of children _____

Membership/Sponsorship Level

- Basic (\$75)
- Dove (\$100 and up)
- Red Tailed Hawk (\$500 and up)
- Peregrine Falcon (\$1000 and up)
- Eagle (\$5000 and up)
- Golden Eagle (\$25,000 and up)
- I am unable to pay the basic membership. Please contact me about discounted memberships.

Total Amount Pledged _____

- Please use the sponsorship portion of my donation where it is needed most.
- I would like my donation beyond the basic membership to go, in part, towards _____

The Creekside Cultural Center is a gathering place based on the tenets of the Chautauqua movement - our mission is to address a variety of needs by providing educational, cultural, spiritual, and recreational programming for the broader community. Activities available include music, art, and spoken word performances, family events, potluck gatherings, barn dances, educational, historic and scientific programs and series, after school clubs for young people, worship services, support and play groups, and whatever YOU suggest next!

What is consensus decision-making? *From Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consensus_decision-making*

The word 'consensus' derives from the Latin *cum* meaning 'with' or 'together with', and *sentire* meaning to 'think' or 'feel'. Thus, etymologically, 'consensus' means to 'think or feel together'.

As a decision-making process, consensus aims to be:

Inclusive: As many stakeholders as possible should be involved in the consensus decision-making process.

Participatory: The consensus process should actively solicit the input and participation of all decision-makers.

Cooperative: Participants in an effective consensus process should strive to reach the best possible decision for the group and all of its members, rather than opt to pursue a majority opinion, potentially to the detriment of a minority.

Egalitarian: All members of a consensus decision-making body should be afforded, as much as possible, equal input into the process. All members have the opportunity to table, amend and veto or "block" proposals.

Solution-oriented: An effective consensus decision-making body strives to emphasize common agreement over differences and reach effective decisions using compromise and other techniques to avoid or resolve mutually-exclusive positions within the group.



124 Penn Street, Lenhartsville, PA 19534

Entrance on Old 22

Info@creeksideCenter.org

(484) 741-1212