

April was a busy month for folks at Creekside, and May promises to be even busier! I have been in negotiation with quite a few artists and musicians and educators in various areas. Big musical events coming up include our big benefit concert on the 3rd, with **Johnny Austin** and **Eddie Bluestone**, an a-capella night with the **Kempton New Church Men's A-Capella Group** and the **Kutztown Barbers**. **Sarah Gersbach** from Kutztown's Eckhaus Gallery and **Jessie Toth** also from Kutztown will be displaying their art in the gallery area until mid June. Sarah does beautiful watercolors and Jessie makes woven lamps, wall hangings, and more. Regular monthly events now include the membership potluck, a workday, a movie or dance night, a Fourth Friday open mic night, a poetry and short story writer's group, and a nature walk. Solomon and Tirah Keal are trying out hosting weeknight open houses. Matt Synnestvedt is looking into scheduling a vespers service one night a week.



This month, I took a trip to Florida – not a typical Disney Vacation trip, but something very different. I was “stranded” for a week on an island with no electricity, in small cottages with 19 friends and strangers. We swam with dolphins, kayaked with manatees, went for long bicycle trips and hikes, swam, sunbathed, collected hundreds of seashells, read books, painted, did yoga, and visited for hours together. 4 work groups were each led by one of the teenagers, who made sure that parents got breaks, coolers were filled with ice, and meals were made and cleaned up from. Everything we did was done by consensus, by volunteerism, and cooperatively. As we worked together, relationships were strengthened and challenged.

Consensus is not as simple as it sounds. The part where I get to collaborate with all of the wonderful people who are excited about Creekside and ready to leap into getting things done, serving the community and doing things together that are fun and educational – that is the joy of my life! But to really build consensus in a community or group is a bigger idea. First of all, it involves having some concept of WHO is meant to be coming to consensus and an agreement among those people that consensus is the goal. Then there are the issues of what we are coming to consensus about - how do we communicate with all the members and potential members about the pieces that go beyond calendar and membership/fund drives? What about things that come up last minute and need to be decided on the spot? How to best make people's contributions as volunteers feel valued? What about the inevitable few people in the community who seem to be ready to shoot down every idea or to worry about things that those of us on the “inside” don't feel like we have time to deal with? It requires patience with taking the time to make sure everyone is comfortable with what is happening that ALL issues, objections, complaints, requests, and wishes are taken into account EVEN if they appear on the surface to be coming from a selfish or even antagonistic perspective. It really is about learning to respect that each person is of deep value, including those we don't yet know or are in initial disagreement with.

I hope that as I explore this further you will all be patient, involved, and speak up as often as possible. Sometimes I may be readily available, ready to listen, and prepared to make a change to accommodate your wonderful new thought or suggestion. Other times I and others at Creekside may feel resistant to change, urgent about moving forward, or concerned about larger ramifications of our actions. The process of dialog is the most important part of consensus building, and I hope that each of you will be as bold as you can bring yourself to be in asking for just what you want, and trying to make it happen. I promise to do my best to help and encourage you.

Tori



Calendar

Date/Time	Event	Notes
May 10th, Saturday 4-6 pm	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.	Free Event. Tips to be split equally among all performers!
May 14, Wednesday 6-8pm	Café open house with live music by Solomon Keal and snacks by Tirah . Peaceful background music while you read a book, play a board game, or do homework.	Free event. Donations welcome.
May 17, Saturday 10am-2pm	Workday – line the future parking lot with rocks, begin to organize the downstairs for building wall, and plant a garden. Pick up our piano and other donated items.	Free Lunch provided to all volunteers.
May 17 - Saturday 6-9pm	DJ Fish will host a family dance party!	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	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 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. Donations welcomed.
May 28, Wednesday 6-8pm	Café open house with live music by Solomon Keal and snacks by Tirah . Peaceful background music while you read a book, play a board game, or do homework.	Free event. Donations welcome.
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 6, Friday 6-8	Mary Kay Mann - Elegant Celtic harp, voice, flute, and tin whistle – one of my favorite artists. Hauntingly beautiful and joyfully upbeat music. http://www.marykaymann.com/	Suggested Donation Members \$5, non-members \$7
TBA (possibly June 7 th)	Barn Dance!	
June 15 (tentative date)	Family Nature Walk with Wade Mergen , Nature Educator	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family
June 21, Saturday	Railroad Weekend – model railroaders, group trip to WK&SRailroad, etc.	TBA
June 22, Sunday, 2-4pm	Matthew Dodd - Songs and Stories of old Railroad days	Suggested Donation - \$3 or \$10 per family
June 27 - Friday 7-9pm	Fourth Friday Open Mic night for Musicians and Singer-Songwriters	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family Members Free.
October 18th - Saturday 6-8 pm	The Intollerables! 45th Reunion Tour Featuring Tom Kerr, Victor Odhner, Pete Boeroke and Dwight Day	Suggested donation \$3 or \$10/family Members Free.



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.



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