

# The Friends Messenger

*The Newsletter of West Chester and Birmingham Monthly Meetings of the  
Religious Society of Friends*

Volume LXVIII, Number 1

First Month, 2019

## ***West Chester Monthly Meeting Calendar – January 2019***

**Sunday, 1/6:** Care of Meeting Community Committee meets at 9 am

**Sunday, 1/13:** - Pancake Breakfast 9am; Query reading 10:30am; Meeting for worship with attention to business starts at 12 noon; Youth Religious Education Programs resume.

**Sunday, 1/20:** Worship & Ministry Committee meets at 9 am; Gun Safety Presentation during shared lunch after worship.

**Sunday, 1/27:** Concord Quarterly Meeting at Goshen Meeting; Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9 am.

## ***Birmingham Monthly Meeting Calendar – January 2019***

*Our greeters in January are: 1/6 – Barbara Knickerbocker, 1/13 – Serita Spadoni,  
1/20 – Sallie or David Jones, 1/27 – Ann Upton*

**Sunday, 1/6, 8:30 am:** Meeting for worship with attention to business.

**Sunday, 1/13:** Property Committee meets at 8:30am; Youth Committee meets at 10am; Peace & Social Concerns hosts a fellowship luncheon after worship at 11:15am.

**Monday, 1/14, 7pm:** Worship and Ministry Committee meeting & Sacred Harp Singers meets

**Sunday, 1/20, 8:30am:** Religious Education Committee meeting & Peace & Social Concerns Committee

**Sunday, 1/27, 8:30am:** Concord Quarterly Meeting at Goshen Friends.

### **Concord Quarterly Meeting at Goshen Friends Meeting on January 27, 2019**

8:15 — 8:30 am Sign in

8:30 — 9:45 am Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

10:00 — 11:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:15 am — 12:15 pm Program- Ayesha Imani, Clerk of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent, Ujima Friends Peace Center

12:30 — 1:30 pm Light Lunch provided by Goshen Meeting

Children's programming - Melinda Wenner Bradley will provide a program for K-5 at the main building and there will be child care.

*Information for the February Messenger is due Thursday, 1/24*

# West Chester Monthly Meeting

## Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

### December 9, 2018

West Chester Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at the appointed hour on Ninth Day of Twelfth Month, 2018.

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The minutes of the 11/01/18 Meeting for Business were approved as published.

Friends received and approved the proposed agenda for today's Meeting.

#### REPORTS

##### Clerk's report

Co-clerk Deborah Lyons informed Friends that West Chester Food Cupboard head Joseph Fratinardo, who had spoken to us about the Cupboard's operation after the rise of Meeting for Worship, had expressed warm thanks for Meeting's generous donation to the Cupboard. She also noted that Friends visiting the Chester County Library might look for bookmarks remembering notable County residents of the past, including Francis Brown of Downingtown Meeting.

##### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Wickard informed Friends that Meeting's request for a grant from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to help fund Meetinghouse accessibility renovations was not among those approved in Eleventh Month. He recommended that we not reapply in Second Month, when PYM next invites requests, saying that for now our reserves are adequate to proceed, and that he will investigate other funding sources.

Friends approved the recommendation.

The treasurer also requested that Friends consider personally supporting our efforts to improve accessibility by making defined contributions to Meeting for that purpose. A request that Friends consider making such gifts before year's end will be added to the announcements.

##### Care of Meeting Community

Chris Smith reminded Friends that the new edition of Faith and Practice is available. Friends agreed that Meeting will make copies available to all members and attenders. Worship and Ministry Committee will purchase the books; however, Friends are welcome to reimburse Meeting for the \$14 cost.

Chris reported that COMC is considering a proposal for programming for the first 15 minutes of Meeting for Worship, and that the committee welcomes feedback from Friends on this idea. The Clerk invited the Committee to report on the progress of this idea at First Month's Meeting for Business.

##### Property Committee

Randy Lyons provided an update on the status of the porch project: The architect with whom Meeting is working is continuing to develop construction specifications. A Structural Engineer has reviewed the project so far, and the Property Committee is seeking a second construction bid. A Surveying team has been scheduled to review the site on the day after today's Meeting for Business.

The Structural Engineer is also developing a report assessing the extent of work that would be required to restore mobility to the divider between the north and south sections of our worship space.

Randy noted that the Meeting House doors aren't being locked dependably. A variety of groups regularly use the Meeting House; the Property Committee is reaching out to them in an effort to ensure they understand the need to secure the building.

Larry Wheeler reported that he and the Meeting Secretary have initiated an effort to restore the two Meetinghouse clocks to dependably operational status.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Matt Bradley asked the Meeting to consider doing something in conjunction with the American Friends Service Committee's Migrant Justice Vigil and "Love Has No Borders" effort in the days between Twelfth Month 10<sup>th</sup> Day, International Human Rights Day, and Twelfth 18<sup>th</sup>, International Migrants' Rights Day. Friends expressed doubt about having enough time to organize such an effort within WCMM. Matt and David Wickard will share information about a Migrants' Rights Day rally scheduled at Providence Friends Meeting on Twelfth 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Friends approved a traveling minute and letter of support to accompany Melinda Wenner Bradley on her First Month 2019 trip to Kenya, where she will share with Quaker Sunday School teachers from

Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania lessons and teaching techniques for "Faith and Play" and "Godly Play." Our Worship and Ministry Committee has provided a grant to help support her travel.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The PYM Granting Committee informs Friends that Committee members are available to visit Meetings and acquaint Friends with grant opportunities and application procedures.

- Marlborough Friends Meeting has invited Friends to join their annual Christmas Caroling on Twelfth Month 23<sup>rd</sup> Day at 7:30 pm. A flier with map and directions is posted in the Social Room.

There being no other business, Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Submitted in the Loving Spirit,  
Deborah Lyons, Clerk  
Lisa Vosburgh, Recording Clerk

### ***West Chester Monthly Meeting Announcements – January 2019***

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee would like to thank all who participated in the West Chester Food Cupboard Food Drive. We really did a great job of helping them. They are most grateful. We donated 305.5 pounds of personal care, food, and baby items! The WCMM P&SC Committee donated \$1,140.20. We also collected \$675 in Gift Cards for the WCFC to directly purchase supplies for the cupboard! Thank you all!

We hope you can join us for a **Pancake Breakfast** here at **9am on January 13**. All are invited!

West Chester Friends Meeting is having a **silent retreat** at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA from **May 24 to 26**. The Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, situated on 240 acres in Wernersville, PA, is a place of natural beauty, welcoming quiet and spiritual sustenance, about an hour away from West Chester. The facilities and grounds at the Jesuit Center are unbelievable. Learn more about the center by visiting: [www.jesuitcenter.org](http://www.jesuitcenter.org) or reach out to Scott if you plan to attend or have any questions: [scott@envirosureinc.com](mailto:scott@envirosureinc.com).

Peace & Social Concerns will be sponsoring a **Gun Safety Presentation** during shared lunch on **Sunday, January 20**. Randy Lyons and Chris Smith will be the speakers.

**Application forms for 2019-2020 Tuition Aid** to members' children in Friends elementary and secondary schools **are available** from the meeting secretary. West Chester Meeting applications are due by February 15, 2019. PYM aid is administered by the *Friends Education Fund* (FEF). PYM/FEF forms are due back at your school by February 15 and are available online at <http://www.friendseducationfund.org/>, from the meeting secretary, and from your school. Concord Quarter forms, due February 16, are available from the meeting secretary, and online: <http://concordquarter.org/documents/?category=Tuition> **PYM/FEF and CQM applications must be signed by a Meeting Clerk** before they are returned. **Please note:** in past years, West Chester Meeting has returned your PYM and CQM applications. **We are no longer returning PYM or Concord Quarter tuition assistance forms**, so you'll need to make sure applications are delivered on time.

### **Birmingham Friends Meeting**

#### **Minutes of MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS**

**December 2, 2018**

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The agenda was approved.

Friends had several changes to the minutes of November. A revised draft of the minutes will be distributed, and a final approval of the November minutes will be requested in January.

#### ***Clerk's Report – Connie Eash***

The Meeting received a letter from Nancy Ellen Thompson on behalf of the watercolor workshop. She thanked the Meeting for opening up their meetinghouse for their workshop and included a donation.

The Clerk read a letter from Kim Freese who is Co-Sponsor of the American Latino Program at Rustin High School where much of the unsold donated books from the Peace

and Social Concerns landmine fundraiser went. Kim thanked Meredith Hung and the Meeting for our donation. The books will be put to good use in “laundromat libraries” assisting in improving literacy.

The Clerk read a letter from Claire Worth and her fiancé, Greg Brown requesting marriage under the care of the Meeting. The letter was referred to Oversight and Pastoral Care for consideration.

The One Quilt, One Yearly Meeting initiative run by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting requests our Meeting create a 10-inch square for its quilt. Sallie Jones will reach out to Friends after the holidays. It is PYM’s intention to present the quilt at continuing sessions in March.

### ***Introducing Cynthia Spalding – Celia Lang***

Celia introduced the new meeting secretary / office manager: Cynthia Spalding. She comes to the Meeting with twenty years of office management experience. Over the past weeks, Cynthia has been transitioning into the position. She is already taking phone messages and responding to emails sent to the Meeting’s email account. Her current hours are Monday and Thursday from ten in the morning to two in the afternoon. Tanya Pertzoff-Wells will continue to perform the Meeting’s bookkeeping through the end of this fiscal year and then transition that work over to Cynthia as well.

Friends enthusiastically welcomed Cynthia and are happy to have her take up the secretary / office manager position.

The Clerk reminded Friends that they should respect Cynthia’s time if she is present in a meeting for business or worship. Office manager work should be reserved to her office hours or handled via email.

### ***Proposed changes to Manual of Procedures – June Lunney***

June distributed proposed changes to reflect what the Oversight of the Meeting Secretary Committee learned in the transition to Cynthia. The title of her role is Meeting Office Manager. It is a broader term that more appropriately encompasses the work expected of Tanya and now Cynthia. June emailed and distributed copies of the relevant section of the Manual of Procedures revising the name of the position from Secretary to Office Manager. The bookkeeper function is not included in the revisions intentionally not only because the title of Office Manager is a wider title that can encompass bookkeeper functions, but also because the office manager and bookkeeper may

not necessarily be the same person in the future. The duties of the office manager will be described in the contract only.

It was noted that there are other references to the “secretary” in the Manual of Procedures, and that they should be addressed as well.

June asked Friends to review the changes and provide suggestions if they have any. As is our practice, the changes will be approved at a future Meeting for Business.

### ***Joint Meeting of Property and Finance Committee - Celia Lang***

Celia summarized the joint meeting of the Property and Finance Committees. In the meeting, they heard from the recent fundraising gatherings that have Friends have attended. The group then went on to discuss fundraising for the Meeting’s ADA compliant bathroom and agreed that a working group dedicated to raising money for construction of the bathroom needs to be formed. The Property Committee will continue to focus on gathering bids from contractors for its construction.

Celia noted that while we do not yet know the cost of the bathroom, some members may want to contribute to the project in 2018. This may be done by sending a check to the Meeting with a memo line of: “Accessibility Fund” on the check. She reminded Friends that this would be in addition to their regular annual giving.

Both committees agreed that the Meeting does not raise enough money for the Capital and Preservation Fund to properly maintain the meetinghouse and its grounds. The group discussed the need to develop a fundraising campaign to build an endowment for the Meeting. Once the money has been raised for the ADA compliant bathroom, the two committees will look to address an endowment campaign. Ongoing status reports will be provided on these efforts as new information is gathered, and work is accomplished.

### ***Concord Quarterly Report – Charlie Spadoni***

As the Meeting’s representative to the Quarter, Charlie reported to Friends on the Quarter’s recent activities. The Quarter approved a minute establishing a “care relationship” with Delaware Valley Friends School. The Quarter is not assuming an oversight role or legal responsibility for the school, but instead will be part of a care committee helping to provide for the spiritual care and support of the school. The Quarter also approved the nomination of

Charlie as the Quarter's new Treasurer. He has already begun his transition. A future meeting for business will nominate Debbie Murray-Sheppard of Wilmington Monthly Meeting to serve as Assistant Clerk beginning in July of 2019, and then take over as Clerk beginning in July of 2020. The Quarter's Nominating Committee requests recommendations for a new Recording Clerk to start in July 2019.

More information is available in Charlie's full report that he distributed via email, or Friends may reach out to Charlie directly.

#### **Other Business**

The Clerk proposed a minute of appreciation for Tanya Pertzoff-Wells' work as Office Manager for the past 16 years and the Meeting approved.

Clerk also minuted her appreciation for all the hard work both the inside and outside of the meetinghouse that was accomplished during our annual fall cleanup day.

A Friend suggested setting up a free lending library outside the meetinghouse on the lawn. The Clerk referred the suggestion to Peace and Social Concerns.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lavin, Recording Clerk  
Connie Eash, Clerk

### ***Birmingham Monthly Meeting Announcements – January 2019***

2019-2020 Tuition Assistance: If you are a member of Birmingham Meeting and your child attends a Quaker elementary, middle or high school, you can get tuition assistance from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (administered by Friends Education Fund), Concord Quarter and Birmingham Meeting. A needs test is required for PYM/FEF aid; contact your school for more information. Applications will be on our website, please check the Resources tab for details. You can also receive applications by email; just send a request. You need to fill out application forms for PYM, CQM and Birmingham. The PYM and CQM forms MUST be signed by our clerk. Return the PYM/FEF application to your child's school by February 15. Mail the CQM application to the address on the form; it must be received by February 15. You can return the Birmingham form by email, USPS mail or you can drop it off at the meetinghouse by February 15.

### **Of Interest to All – January 2019**

Join Willistown Friends member Carol Metzker, author of *Facing the Monster: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery* in supporting: ***Masterpieces of Broken Pieces: A Labyrinth of Light and Hope, January 10 and 11 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm*** at JusticeRain/Cornerstone, 426 W Gay St, West Chester. Experience a labyrinth of hope, light and survivor-made art masterpieces of broken jewelry. Celebrate the freedom of local survivors of human trafficking! Free and open to the public. Donations accepted for The Salvation Army's *New Day to Stop Trafficking* Program. Free parking on street and Cornerstone's parking lot. Sponsored by JusticeRain, INC and Chester County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition (CCAT). For more information, contact Carol Metzker at 610-793-4387.

**CQ Working Group on Aging Concerns** will meet on Wednesday, January 9 from 11am-12:30pm in the West Chester Friends Meeting worship space. Concord Quarter Working Group welcomes all interested in aging concerns. Meets monthly. For more information email [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

**Concord Quarter Square Dance at Willistown Friends Meeting! February 9 from 7 to 9pm!** Come one, come all for an evening of square dancing with a live band and caller. No experience necessary. Great for all ages. Snow date is February 23. Questions? email [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org) or go to: <https://www.pym.org/event/concord-quarter-square-dance/>

**The Friends Messenger**  
**425 North High Street**  
**West Chester, PA 19380**

*Address service requested*

### **1. Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship**

- a. Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?
- b. As we worship in the living silence, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst? Do we experience a deep reverence for the integrity of creation?
- c. How does our worship nurture all worshipers, creating a deeper sense of community?
- d. How does our meeting encourage vocal ministry that spiritually nurtures the worshiping community?
- e. *Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*
- f. *Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationships with other persons and with all of creation?*
- g. *Does worship enhance my capacity for attentive, non-judgmental listening to others?* h. *How does participation in meeting for worship contribute to my life-long spiritual journey?*