

The Friends Messenger

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

Volume LXVIII, Number 4

Fourth Month, 2019

West Chester Monthly Meeting Calendar – April 2019

Sunday, 4/7: Care of meeting gam; Opening exercise at 10:30am; Kitchen clean out at noon

Sunday, 4/14: Discernment pamphlet discussion gam; Query reading at 10:30 am; Meeting for worship with attention to business begins at 12 noon.

Sunday, 4/21: Easter Sunday; breakfast at gam and an Egg Hunt at the rise of meeting

Sunday, 4/28: Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9 am. Concord Quarter meeting at Wilmington Friends.

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Calendar – April 2019

*Our greeters in April are: 4/7: Peg or Tod Baseden;
4/14: Sallie or David Jones; 4/21: Serita Spadoni; 4/28: David Leonard*

Sunday, 4/7: Meeting for worship with attention to business at 8:30 am

Sunday, 4/14: Fellowship Luncheon hosted by the Fellowship Committee following the Meeting for Worship; The Youth Committee meets at 10:00 am

Sunday, 4/21: Easter Sunday; Oversight and Pastoral Care Committee and Peace & Social Concerns Committees meet at 8:30 am

Sunday, 4/28: Concord Quarter meeting at Wilmington Friends

Sunday, April 28, 9am-3pm: Joint Quarterly Meeting with Western Quarter at Wilmington Friends School

Upper School, 101 School Rd, Wilmington, Delaware 19803

Separate meetings for business at gam followed by worship and lunch. At 1pm, Dr. Amanda Kemp will lead us in a 2 hour program on 5 Steps to Stop Implicit Bias. She is the author of Say the Wrong Thing, which provides insight and strategies for creating racial justice and a strong sense of shared community. A member of Lancaster Meeting, she is a racial justice and mindfulness mentor. Child care at gam followed by children's programming from 10:45 - 11:45 and 1-3pm. Come for all or part of the day! Questions and registration (if you can): email: concordquarter@pym.org or concordquarter.org

West Chester Monthly Meeting

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

March 10, 2019

West Chester Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at the appointed hour on Tenth Day of Third Month, 2019.

Meeting opened with a moment of silent worship.

Friends approved the minutes of February's Meeting for Business as published in the "Messenger".

Co-clerk Gwenn Knapp reviewed, and Friends approved the proposed agenda.

REPORTS

Clerk's report

- There was no Clerk's report this month.

Treasurer's report

- Treasurer David Wickard followed up on the meeting's request to make a \$300 contribution to Ujima Friends Peace Center. Friends approved.
- David re-visited last month's question to transfer the 2018 surplus to the ramp project. He reviewed the ramp project reserve and expenses incurred to date. The meeting agreed to transfer \$35,000 of the surplus for the ramp project.
- Friends requested a called meeting to thresh how the Meeting approaches charitable contributions and how much we should earmark for future contributions. Friends approved a called meeting to be held on March 24—during the Youth RE hosted coffee hour/pizza to encourage multigenerational participation. Matt Bradley volunteered to facilitate the discussion and encouraged others to help. Notice of the called meeting will be added to the weekly announcements. Melinda Bradley will draft the announcement, to be delivered through listserv also.

Care of Meeting and Worship & Ministry Committees

- Sharon Smith as stepped down from the Care of Meeting Committee and Matt Bradley was asked to join the committee and he accepted.
- Marina Pavluk shared that the clearness committee for Steven and Michelle Lozowski—Marina Pavluk, Melinda Bradley and Lisa Vosburgh--met with the Lozowski's and joyfully recommend their acceptance to membership. Friends approved. The Care of Meeting Committee will establish a Welcoming Committee – Lauren and Eli Hastings and Deb Lyons agreed to serve on that committee. Marina will provide an update for the weekly announcements about Steven and Michelle's acceptance of membership and a notice that a welcoming committee has been formed.
- Marina Pavluk reminded Friends of the event on Tuesday night with Alex Miller and on the program based on the Pendle Hill pamphlet Individual Spiritual Discernment: Receiving, Testing and Implementing Leadings from a Higher Power. Child care will be provided.

Property Committees

- The KnoxBox was installed on a wall under the porch. Jeff Dominic will fill the box with the appropriate keys.

Youth RE Committee

- Melinda Bradley reported that Youth Religious Education has presented Faith and Play Stories on Four Doors to Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business in preparation for the Youth RE hosted coffee hour. April curriculum is focused on preparing for Easter.
- Easter is April 21 and Earth Day April 22. The committee proposed an eco-friendly Easter event. No plastic eggs, no plastic baskets, shredding paper, naturally die eggs. This ties

well with the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee which is focusing on earth care, stewardship and our carbon footprint. The two committees will work together to bring together the work of the meeting and youth education.

- The committee is grateful to the school for sharing the before and after school space in the school house, but the committee is looking for a more permanent space and in conjunction with discussions with the school, the committee presented three options for the Meeting's consideration – reorganize the before/after school room in way that clearly creates a FDS space, explore sharing usage of a room on the 2nd floor of the school house that is being repurposed for the school's Guidance program, or explore how we might create a space in social room that could be claimed as a corner for lessons.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

- Chris Smith reported that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee is waiting for the AED to arrive. When it does, the committee will communicate with Friends where it is located and how to use it.

Old Business

- Gwenn Knapp provided a follow up on the request from the Chess Club for use of our space. Based upon feedback from the Methodist Church, the meeting declined the request.
- Marina Pavluk and Sue Kelly, from WCFS PTO, are meeting on Tuesday to discussion dates for an April or May outreach Square dance. Marina is hoping Ann Gelsomini will be able to join the meeting.
- Gwenn Knapp suggested we organize a clean out of the kitchen prior to the WCFS yard sale so the Meeting can make a contribution. In two

weeks, Deb Lyons and Chris Smith, with the help of Todd Krasnai, will plan for the cleanup which will be conducted on April 7th. The Meeting approved. Chris Smith will add an update to the weekly announcements.

NEW BUSINESS

- Marina Pavluk lifted up her concern about the condition of the entry wall at the graveyard as well as the signs on Quaker Hill. Todd Krasnai is aware of the situation at the graveyard and is addressing this issue.
- Marina asked for permission from the Property Committee to clean the signs in the coming weeks. Melinda suggested that this may be a good opportunity for the children to exercise care and service of the meeting. Youth RE will work with the Property Committee and Marina to incorporate this activity into the Youth RE programming. Friends approved a meeting of the minds to come up with a proposal to move forward.
- Co-Clerk Gwenn Knapp requested a representative from WCMM attend PYM Continuing Sessions in Reading—Matt Bradley has agreed to be a represent WCMM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Appoquinimink Friends Meeting is hosting an open house on March 15, noon-5 pm. Information is posted in the social room.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship.

Gwenn Knapp, Clerk

Lisa Vosburgh, Recording Clerk

West Chester Monthly Meeting Announcements – April 2019

Meeting warmly welcomes Michelle and Steve Lozowski into membership. We are delighted to have them!

Volunteers Needed! Kitchen Clean out on Sunday, April 7 at noon. We will be donating our unused kitchen items to the upcoming WCFS yard sale.

On April 14, we will broaden our discussion from individual spiritual discernment to **corporate spiritual discernment** and consider both as individuals and as a body whether and how Opening Exercises might become a regular part of our worship. Join together at 9 for refreshments. Childcare is provided.

Eco-friendly Easter! Come get your basket ready for the bunny! Meeting and WCFS families are invited to gather at **6:00pm on Friday, April 19** in the Meeting Social Room for egg coloring with natural dyes and other craft activities to get ready for Easter Sunday and Earth Day the next day! *Please bring your own hardboiled eggs to color.* There will be pizza, and other contributions to a shared dinner together are welcome. Bring a neighbor or friend! Please click this link to view the invitation and to RSVP: <http://evite.me/JXXzbcS8zk>

Easter Sunday is April 21, and we hope you can join us for the morning! **Easter breakfast** starts at **9 am**, please bring a breakfast dish to share. During worship and youth programs, children will hear a Faith & Play story, "An Easter Story for Friends," while the Young People's Group will hide eggs for our culminating event of the morning—the **Easter Egg Hunt** at the rise of meeting. Families are asked to bring colored eggs, marked with their child's initials, for hiding and hunting. We welcome donations of unmarked colored eggs as well! This year we're having an "eco-friendly" Easter, because Easter Monday is also Earth Day -- we encourage Friends to contribute hardboiled eggs, rather than plastic, please.

The Anna Meloney Fund is available to members and their children to assist with post-secondary education. Applications are available from the meetinghouse secretary. Completed applications must be received by April 15!

Do you have any suitcases you no longer use? You can donate them to a good cause! Larry Wheeler is collecting them for the VA Hospital. You can drop them off at the meetinghouse or contact Larry to make other arrangements.

Randy Lyons is considering starting a **Dream Analysis Group** to assist participants in finding the best way to understand their dreams. If you're interested in helping start such a group, please get in touch with him by way of West Chester Monthly Meeting.

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 or reach out to Scott if you plan to attend or have any questions: scott@envirosureinc.com.

On Friday, April 12 at 6:30pm, join West Chester Friends School's for their "**Friends Meeting Friends**" fundraiser at the Chester County Historical Society This auction is a fun night out where alumni, parents, board members, and supporters of Quaker education come together. For more information: <https://wcfriends.org/friends-meeting-friends-event/>

West Chester Friends School Yard Sale. Doing any spring cleaning? Need to make some room in your home? Then please consider donating those items to the West Chester Friends School Friendly Treasures yard sale, which will be held on Saturday, May 4 at 8 am. Donations may be dropped off at the Meetinghouse Social Room on Thursday, May 2 or Friday, May 3 between 7:30 am and 5 pm. We are collecting household items, appliances, furniture, jewelry, bicycles, artwork and crafts. We kindly ask that you not bring clothing or books.

West Chester Friends School is delighted to partner this spring and summer with **Vollmecke Orchards 2019 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** program. This CSA is open only to the WCFS, West Chester Monthly Meeting and Hickman communities. YOU ARE ABLE TO PICK UP YOUR CSA BOX AT WEST CHESTER FRIENDS SCHOOL! This is the height of convenience and a wonderful way to support local farmers and eat delicious food! There are options in the size and makeup of your order. Pick up will be Thursdays, between 3 pm and 6 pm. Learn more here: <http://www.csachestercounty.com/> and register here: <https://csa.farmigo.com/join/vollmeckeorchardsandcsa/2019csa>

Birmingham Friends Meeting

Minutes of MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

March 3, 2019

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The agenda was approved.

Friends approved the Minutes of February 2019 as revised with minor clarifying changes.

Clerk's Report – Celia Lang

The Clerk received a letter from Clerk Julia Giordano approving the transfer of Valerie Suter's membership from Bulls Head-Oswego Monthly Meeting to Birmingham Monthly Meeting. The letter was referred to Oversight and Pastoral Care for consideration.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's continuing sessions are in Reading on March 23rd. Their primary query is: How do we center ourselves in trust and love? At 10 am, there is an event protesting the Berks Detention Center which is holding immigrant families despite having a revoked license being led by Young Adult Friends. Friends of all ages are welcome. The Business meeting will begin at 1pm.

Oversight and Pastoral Care – Leslie Leonard

Leslie reported that the welcoming committee composed of Marsha Cole-Quigley, Barbara Quintiliano, Serita Spadoni, and herself met with the Hung family on February 17th. They had a pleasant two-hour meeting and the Hungs have been fully welcomed into our Meeting.

She reminded Friends that PYM is gathering quilt squares from all monthly meetings. The squares are due at PYM's March continuing sessions. Leslie noted that she, Julie Senko, and Beth Kaneifski have been working on our Meeting's square. It is embroidered with a burning candle and several words to describe the Meeting. They will take our Meeting's quilt square to March continuing sessions.

Property Committee Report – Sallie Jones

Sallie began by reviewing items from her prior reports to the Meeting. Property Committee has obtained three estimates from three different contractors for the Meeting's preferred family restroom floor plan that uses a portion of the patio. The highest estimate was \$60,000, but more recent estimates have been lower. Based on the estimates, the ad-hoc fundraising group set a fundraising goal of \$65,000. The Meeting Treasurer reported the fundraising group has raised \$48,000 cash to date.

After giving this background, Sallie gave her update. At its meeting on February 17, the Property Committee approved proceeding with the contractor who supplied the lowest estimate. The Property Committee has obtained a cost breakdown, sample contract, and client references from this contractor. Sallie has spoken with the contractor's references and they are excellent. On March 1st, Sallie Jones, Andy Kirk, and Chris Lang met with the contractor to review the plans and discuss

our desired specifications and options not included in the original estimate.

The committee will continue to make progress on the family restroom project in the next month. Sallie, Andy and Chris will work together to review documents from the contractor and advance the process to a contract that the Meeting would find acceptable. Sallie noted that the start of this project is dependent on when the contractor has a signed bid by the Meeting. For example, if the contractor had a signed contract now, he could have begun in April. While eager to have the family restroom, the working group feels the start date is not as critical as moving through the work deliberately and completing it in a timely manner. The working group will work to ensure that construction will not conflict with the Meeting's Chicken Barbecue. Chris Lang will communicate with Birmingham Township's Historical Architectural Review Board to gain approval of our bathroom plans.

Sallie, as Clerk of the Property Committee, will continue to be the point person for communication between the contractor and the Meeting until the construction phase is ready to commence. At that time, Chris Lang will oversee construction on behalf of the Property Committee. The Monthly Meeting will be asked to approve the Treasurer signing the finished contract and the check for the initial payment to the contractor as early as the next monthly meeting for business.

Sallie will continue to provide updates as they are available. Friends minuted their gratitude to all the Friends who have dedicated time and effort to turning this dream into reality.

March 31 PYM Event – Barbara Knickerbocker

Barbara provided an update on the planning progress of the ad-hoc event planning group. Volunteers are needed for various activities to make the event run smoothly and a sign-up sheet was posted on the utilities door. She noted that some duties are the same, but others were unique to this event. Barbara asked Friends to review the list and sign-up for tasks as they are able.

Parking will be a particular challenge since Friends need to keep their cars off the very soft grass. Gwynne Ormsby is leading this effort and those interested in helping with parking were directed to reach out to her directly. Barbara referred Friends to the flyers on the benches and provided via bfriends for the event schedule.

Peace and Social Concerns – Barbara Quintiliano

Barbara reported that she participated in a symposium on faith-based preparedness at Calgary Chapel where she received lots of good information. All denominations were represented. Based on the new information she learned there, Barbara would like to postpone any discussion on the firearms policy until after further discernment can be made within her committee.

Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Quaker lobbying group in Washington DC, has a policy statement in their "The World We Seek" document. It was last updated in 2013 and FCNL is looking to update it. Barbara asked Friends for prayerful discernment on it and distributed the link to FCNL's request over bfriends. Barbara noted that this is different than the 2-year direction sought for each incoming Congress. The two-year direction is more concrete and immediate than the policy statement they are updating now. The deadline for comments on the policy is March 22nd. Friends were encouraged to give their feedback to Connie, so she may make a submission on behalf of our Meeting. A friend wondered if FCNL is the only lobbying group, or at least the only Quaker one. Barbara didn't know the answer and would have to look into it. A Friend requested that we refer to the work we did last year on Priorities for this request.

Concord Quarterly Meeting Report - Charlie Spadoni

Charlie gave a report of Quarter activities in his capacity as Meeting representative to Concord Quarter. Additional information can be found on the Quarter's website.

The Quarterly Meeting approved the appointment of Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilmington) as Assistant Clerk. The following Friends were approved to represent the Quarter on the Delaware Valley Friends School Care Committee: Tom Ceresini (Middletown), Ginny Sutton (Westtown), and Susan Brodesser (Birmingham) as its Clerk. Charlie noted that the Nominating Committee is still looking for recommendations for a new Recording Clerk to start in July 2019 replacing David Leonard who has served as Recording Clerk for six years. Interested Friends should reach out to Julie Senko.

Charlie noted that both Concord and Western Quarters will hold their meetings for business at Wilmington Friends School in April. Then together, they will worship, eat lunch, and participate in the afternoon program which will feature Dr. Amanda Kemp who works on issues involving racism.

The Quarter Planning Committee heard plans from the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns to have an expert come every other month to increase the attendees' knowledge and a workshop on end of life issues is being planned for early May.

Recorders Report – Tanya Pertzoff-Wells

In 2018, the Meeting gained six new members by application. The Meeting lost two members to death, two members by transfer, and one by resignation. Two minors became adults in the past year. The Meeting has 176 total members (one more than last year), 15 of whom are minors.

Other Business

A Friend brought up past business where there was a request by PYM for a spiritual state of the Meeting report by the Clerk and asked if Amy Brooks, as a Quaker Life

Council (QLC) member would speak more about the request. There is a letter that was sent to meeting clerks and Amy will share via bfriends. It is expected that all monthly meeting responses will be shared with all of PYM. The QLC did not intend to make the request an intensive one for monthly meetings, but simply reflect our Meeting's Spirit. The QLC hopes to report on this request in the July summer sessions. Friends discerned that perhaps our Meeting is healthy since we see a teenager voluntarily come to worship regularly. Friends felt that the quality of Meeting for Worship is deep, and we are an active Meeting. The Meeting has an active First Day school and is welcoming to newcomers. The Meeting should not take these strengths for granted. The Clerk invited Friends to reach out to Connie with their impressions.

Amy shared with Friends that the PYM multicultural audit committee had two interviews with organizations that could perform the yearly meeting's assessment. She noted that it has been a contentious issue for the yearly meeting. Some Friends feel that no money be put into this and instead use the FGC multicultural audit as PYM's guide. Others feel that while there are pieces that can be used in that audit, there are still gaps that need to be addressed. Difficulty should be expected when dealing with structural racism. Amy asked for prayers for those participating in this effort. These conversations can open new ways forward in how to be diverse and inclusive as well as provide safe spaces for everyone.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
John Lavin, Recording Clerk
Celia Lang, Clerk

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Announcements – April 2019

First Day School topics for the month will be: **April 7:** Godly Play: Exodus, **April 14:** Seder, **April 21:** The Mystery of Easter, and **April 28:** No First Day School due to Quarterly Meeting.

Worship & Ministry meets on **April 17** at 7:00 pm.

We'll have our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** after worship on Easter Sunday, **April 21**. Families: please bring a dozen decorated hard-boiled Easter eggs to Meeting that day. Also, each child should bring a basket for the Easter egg hunt.

Property Committee meets on **April 29** at 7:00 pm

Join the **Brandywine Sacred Harp Singers** on Monday, April 15 from 7-9 pm at the meetinghouse. No experience needed! For more information, contact Laura Densmore at 610-793-5102 (home), 610-405-2485 (cell), or by email: FaSoLaura4@gmail.com

Of Interest to All – April 2019

There will be a **Chester County Household Hazardous Waste Event** on **Saturday, April 6** from 9am-3pm at the Center for Arts and Technology Pickering Campus 1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville PA 19460. Please click the link for more info: <https://pa-chestercountyswa2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/1979/HHW-Accepted-Not-Accepted?bidId=>

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On **Saturday, April 27 from 7-9pm**, join West Chester Monthly Meeting and the West Chester Friends School PTO for a fun-filled evening of **Square Dancing!** This is a multi-generational event focused on bringing our community together for a night of friendship, dancing, and FUN! (no experience required) Our event will take place in the WCFS gym and features the band Thornbury Ramblers, live caller Alan Crosman, and performances by the Creaky Knees Cloggers! Please RSVP then see the section on What to Bring to sign up to bring a dessert or to volunteer some of your time to help with the event! This is a free event however, we will be collecting donations of deodorant, toothpaste, and individually wrapped toothbrushes for the ACT in Faith organization. Click this link to view the invitation and to RSVP: <http://evite.me/ZqXR86NsCm>

On **Saturday, April 27 from 1-4pm**, the Providence Friends Meeting House will be hosting a presentation: **Spirit of Our Ancestors: A Celebration of History and Human Spirit**. They gather together to honor those Quakers, free blacks, and runaways who served a higher cause. The program will include performances by recording artist Dani Ocean, the Lincoln University Choir, and historian, Nancy Webster, will share information about the Underground Railroad.

Pendle Hill is hosting a lecture, "**Philadelphia Quakers and the Civil War**" in the Barn on **April 29 from 7:30-9pm**. As Kenneth Carroll Scholar in Residence, George Conyne is doing research for a book about Quakers during and after the Civil War, with particular emphasis on how meetings dealt with the conflict between those who upheld the peace testimony against participation in war and those who served in the Union Army. This is free and open to the public. For more information or to register please [click here](#)

West Chester Friends School Summer Camp programs are now posted. If you would like more details on their summer camp, please contact the meetinghouse secretary for more details and forms.

On May 4 from 10am-noon, the Concord Quarter's Working Group on Aging Concerns is sponsoring a program on hospice, "**The End is Dear**" at Goshen Meeting. Join Pat Myatt, LMSW, from the VNA's Hospice Services to learn more about hospice. Talk, questions, and small group discussions followed by a provided lunch. Please RSVP by May 1 to concordquarter@pym.org or call 610-864-3802.

The **Concord Quarter Planning Committee** meets **May 5 at 1pm** at Concord Meeting. Anyone interested in planning quarterly meetings and other events is welcome.

Save the Date! Join us in the Social Room on **June 9th at 9:30am** for a presentation on **Climate Change and Food Choices** by **Claudia Kirk**, member of the Sadsbury Meeting (Lancaster County). There will be a 10 minute guided meditation, 25 minute power point presentation, and time for discussion.

Save the Date! PYM is hosting their first ever first ever PYM fundraiser on **June 17, 6-8pm**, that will benefit PYM programs and gather our community around a fun "homecoming" event. "**Quakers Got Talent**" will feature slam poet Zenaida Peterson, Broadway star Rachel Zatoch, and Quaker pianist Emily Drinker, with master of ceremonies, Ben Camp, who together are donating their talents in support of our programming. Cost is \$35 or pay your age. Located at the William Penn Charter School, Kurtz Center Theater –3000 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144. We are bringing Broadway and slam poetry to the Quaker community as a way to gather Quaker youth and friends of all ages around a celebration of the arts and Quaker talent. For more information or to buy tickets, <https://www.pym.org/fellowship>

*Information for the **May Messenger** is due **Tuesday, 4/28***

PYM Programs for Youth and Families bring together Friends in our wider Quaker Family!

For more information, go to pym.org or reach out to the Youth Religious Life Coordinator mwenner-bradley@pym.org

May 4-5 -- Spring Family Overnight at Camp Dark Waters
For Children and Families Program (K-5th Grade)

May 3-5 -- Camp Swatara Weekend
For Middle School Friends and Young Friends

SUMMER SESSIONS at The College of New Jersey!
The PYM Community gathers July 24-28
for multigenerational residential programs, business, witness, and FUN

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

Address service requested

4. Nurturing Our Community: Care for the Meeting

- a. Do we help each other to live with integrity and contribute that integrity to the life of our meeting?
- b. How does our meeting learn of members' needs and offer its assistance?
- c. How does our meeting nurture members in all stages of life?
- d. How does our meeting welcome those new to Friends and integrate them into our community?
- e. When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the meeting respond?
- f. Am I ready both to offer and to accept meeting assistance when needed?*
- g. Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension?*
- h. What opportunities have I taken to know, work and worship with Friends in the larger spiritual communities we share?*