

The Friends Messenger

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

Volume LXVIII, Number 5

Fifth Month, 2019

West Chester Monthly Meeting Calendar – May 2019

Sunday, 5/5: Care of Meeting Community meets at 9 am; Meeting for worship with attention to business at 12 noon.

Sunday, 5/12: Query reading at 10:30 am; Mother's Day

Sunday, 5/19: Worship, picnic and canoeing at Westtown School lake. Worship begins at 10:30 am.

Sunday, 5/26: Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9 am.

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Calendar – May 2019

*Our greeters in May are: 5/5: Tanya Pertzoff-Wells;
5/12: Marcia Cole-Quigley; 5/19: Marcia Cole-Quigley; 5/26: Sallie or David Jones*

Sunday, 5/5: Meeting for worship with attention to business at 8:30 am

Sunday, 5/12: Mother's Day

Sunday, 5/19: Oversight and Pastoral Care Committee, Peace & Social Concerns Committee, and Religious Education Committee meet at 8:30 am; Youth Recognition Day

Sunday, 5/26: Meeting for Worship 10am

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 mwenniferbradley@pym.org

NEW! June 15 -- Community Playdate at the Please Touch Museum! For Children and Families Program (K-5th Grade)

More information: www.pym.org/event/pym-families-community-playdate

SUMMER SESSIONS at The College of New Jersey!

The PYM Community gathers July 24-28

for multigenerational residential programs, business, witness, and FUN

West Chester Monthly Meeting
Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
April 14, 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 the Fourteenth Day of the Fourth Month, 2019.

Meeting opened with a moment of silent worship.

The Co-clerk requested approval of the March minutes and Friends approved the minutes.

The Co-clerk reviewed the proposed agenda. Friends approved the agenda.

REPORTS

Clerk's report

- Co-Clerk, Gwenn Knapp, officially welcome Steve and Michelle Lozowski as new members, informed Friends that the Called Meeting minutes will be presented prior to the next meeting for business and reminded Friends that this month's quarterly meeting will be on April 28 at Wilmington Friends School and WCMM's Fifth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be scheduled on May 5th.

Care of Meeting Community Committee

- Matt Bradley was officially welcomed to the committee.
- Marina Pavluk requested that the COM consider taking more photos of new attenders to update our community photo board.

Property Committee

- Randy Lyons of the Property committee sent an update to the Co-Clerk to inform Friends that the committee had initial meetings with two additional firms for the porch project and are in the process of identifying additional granting organizations. Digital drawings now available for

dissemination to contractor and grant submission review.

Burial Grounds Committee

- Todd Krasnai, of the Burial Grounds Committee, reported that the committee is getting bids to repave the driveway and repair the sign that was damaged.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

- Committee members reported that Friends Committee on National Legislation (FNL) sent a document to Quaker Meetings looking for feedback on their work objectives. The committee summarized their feedback and Friends expressed gratitude for their thorough and thoughtful review of the document. The committee requested approval to provide a response to FNL by April 26, 2019.
 - The Meeting approved PSC's submission of their thoughtful considerations of the concerns presented by FNL on behalf of the meeting and Diane Zappas volunteered to submit the documents electronically by the deadline.
 - Friends requested PSC distribute a copy of their response through the listserv.
- Additionally, the committee reported they are exploring ways to commend and affirm businesses that engage in sustainable business practices. They reported that Trader Joes recently announced that they are eliminating plastic packaging. The committee would like to acknowledge and affirm this business decision with a letter. The committee asked for feedback if their affirmation should come from the committee or the meeting?
 - Friends discussed if it would be appropriate to share this suggested practice

with other meetings in the Quarter and PYM. Friends will look for feedback from others as to what the appropriate process is. The committee will submit the letter for inclusion with the minutes. *

Old Business

- Kitchen clean-up is in progress. Friends need help discerning what we need to keep. Todd Krasnai and Larry Wheeler will advise on what is needed for the Christmas Dinner.
- Chris Smith and Deb Lyons will provide dates for additional clean-ups. During the clean-up, a number of platters have been found and have been relocated near the door of the social room. Friends are encouraged to claim their platters. A message will be added to the announcements and to WCFS announcements about picking up their stuff and future clean up dates.

NEW BUSINESS

- May 19th is the end of year picnic at Westtown.
- May 26th is the tentative date for the workgroup meeting on Charitable Contributions.
- Due to Mother's Day, the next Meeting for Business will be May 5th.

- Chris Valentine, a Graduate of Westtown School, and his wife, Theolia, made an intervisitation request with accommodation from their home meeting, Berkley Society of Friends, to stay in home of family of West Chester Monthly Meeting from May 10-12. Interested Friends can email Chris Valentine at oaklandland-scaper@gmail.com or telephone him at 510-656-8440.
- Alex Miller suggested WCMM consider establishing an Outreach Committee. Gwenn Knapp will solicit more information from Alex as to what he sees as the role of the committee. Friends asked if this potential committee might dovetail with the Advancement Committee and will continue to discussion next month.

ANNOUCEMENTS

- On May 4th there's a presentation on Hospice at Goshen Meeting

CLOSING WORSHIP

Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship.

Gwenn Knapp, Clerk, Lisa Vosburgh, Recording Clerk

*Please see following page for a copy of the letter to Trader Joe's

West Chester Friends Meeting
425 North High Street
West Chester, PA 19380

19th April 2019

Mr. Daniel T. Bane
Chairman & CEO
Trader Joe's
800 South Shamrock Avenue
Monrovia, California 91016

Dear Mr. Bane:

On behalf of the below named meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we are writing to acknowledge and commend Trader Joe's decision to improve packaging at its stores nationwide.

"The world is God's creation. How we treat the earth and all its creatures is basic to our relationship with God, and of fundamental religious concern to the Society of Friends."¹

Thank you for being a steward of the earth. We are working to inform our community of Friends about making wise decisions where it concerns restoring our earth, sustainability and reducing the use of plastic. It's important that stores like Trader Joe's provide consumers with ways they can purchase wholesome foods without requiring them to be in plastic containers.

Kind regards,

West Chester Friends Meeting
West Chester, PA

¹ Religious Society of Friends, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting summary, January 1998

West Chester Monthly Meeting Announcements – May 2019

May's meeting for worship with attention to business will be held on **May 5** instead of May 12 to avoid conflicting with Mother's Day plans.

West Chester Meeting Youth Religious Education: Programming continues May 5 and 12. May 19 we'll be at the Westtown Lake for Community Worship with Downingtown Meeting (there will be a nature walk during worship for those interested). May 26 is childcare only, due to the holiday weekend. June 2 is the end of our Youth RE year, and will be Community Worship for all ages together, beginning with a Faith & Play story.

You're invited to join us for worship, a **picnic and canoeing at Westtown School Lake on Sunday, May 19**. Downingtown Friends will be joining us this year, and we are asking everyone to bring a picnic dish, like a shared lunch. Meeting will provide beverages and ice. Plan to bring a blanket or chairs, and please plan to arrive around 10am so you have plenty of time to park and walk down to the lake. Worship begins at 10:30 followed by canoeing and a picnic. The children and any interested adults will go for a nature walk around the lake during worship.

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. **Save the Date!** Our fall retreat at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville will be **October 4-6, 2019**

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>

Do you have any guitars or 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.

Birmingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
April 7, 2019

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The agenda was approved.

Friends approved the Minutes of March 2019 as presented.

Oversight and Pastoral Care – Leslie Leonard

Leslie reported that Claire Worth and Greg Brown were married under the care of Birmingham at historic Romansville meetinghouse. It was a lovely day and ceremony.

The Clerk of Bulls Head-Oswego Monthly Meeting has sent the Meeting a letter of transfer for Valerie Suter. Val was an active participant in all aspects of Bulls Head-Oswego Meeting before worshipping at Birmingham. After reviewing the request, the committee recommends the Meeting accept the letter of transfer for Valerie Suter and Friends approved. A welcoming committee composed of Susan Brodesser, Serita Spadoni, June Lunney, and Meredith Hung was approved.

Care Relationship with DVFS – Susan Brodesser

Susan gave a brief report on the care relationship that Concord Quarter has with Delaware Valley Friends School. All members of the Quarter are invited to join their community on Thursdays at 10:05 am for their meeting for worship. They do ask that Friends attending call ahead to the school before attending. Susan reminded Friends that neither the Quarter nor our Meeting serves an oversight role over the school, but instead is part of a care committee helping to provide for the spiritual care and support of the school. A Friend asked how many students DVFS has. There are about 200 students in grades three through twelve. They plan to add grades one and two in the future. Friends accepted the report with joy and appreciation.

Clerk's Report – Connie Eash

The Clerk read a letter from Phoebe Driscoll requesting membership in the Meeting. The letter was given to Oversight and Pastoral Care for consideration.

The Meeting received a letter from Grace Sharpless-Cooke thanking us for hosting and supporting Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Friends in Fellowship program on March 31st. She was grateful for the warm and inviting atmosphere for the program. Grace invited Friends to provide any feedback on other ways that PYM can enrich the body through events and programs. Friends minuted their appreciation to Barbara Knickerbocker for her long hours of work in preparation for making this a successful event.

The Clerk has distributed a draft of the Joys and Challenges report via email and in paper. Friends approved the report. The Clerk asked Friends to provide any additional feedback to her before the Concord Quarterly Meeting on April 28 at Wilmington Friends School.

After receiving input from Meeting members as well as the Worship and Ministry Committee, The Clerk has submitted a response to PYM's Self Assessment request.

The Property Committee has received a draft contract for the family restroom project and has shared it with the Finance Committee so that both committees can review it. Chris Lang is working toward gaining the necessary approvals from the township and will lead the implementation of the project after the Meeting approves moving forward.

Faith-Based Preparedness Report – Barbara Quintiliano

On February 27th, Meredith Hung and Barbara attended a faith-based preparedness symposium at Calvary Chapel in Chester Springs. There were about one

hundred in attendance representing all different faiths as well as township emergency personnel and homeland security representatives. They heard about preparedness strategies at the symposium, many of which are low or no cost. There are people that the Meeting could get to do a review of our property. This would include the local police. Barbara noted that the preparedness is not just for a terrorist attack but for all types of emergencies, such as medical. Barbara noted that the committee was asked about a Firearms Policy, but this event led the committee to think of the topic in a more general perspective. The committee recommended that an ad-hoc committee be formed to address this emergency preparedness agenda.

Friends agreed to form an ad-hoc committee to look at aspects of security and emergency preparedness for the Meeting, discern what are most important to the Meeting, and make a recommendation for what our next steps should be. The Clerk will put out a request to Friends for participation on this ad-hoc committee.

The Meeting Secretary asked that we have a policy for the security of the building while she's here alone. Should the door be locked after her, and should the Meeting purchase a buzzer? The Clerk and Property Committee will quickly address these concerns.

Harvest Buffet Report – Nancy Arnosti

In 2018, our buffet was held at the end of October because of Ted Pace's increased busyness in November, but that date was not ideal for patrons or volunteers. Many had other plans that same weekend. Ted now believes that he cannot support the dinner in the manner that he used to due to a ever increasingly busy schedule in November. He can still do preparation from the his own kitchen on the morning of the dinner and will lend out his equipment.

The Harvest Buffet has provided an opportunity for fellowship, outreach, as well as raising charitable donations. We would like to see an alternative that supports those ends as much as possible. Nancy related two possible ideas for the way forward: 1) continue to hold the

harvest buffet in November, but with a simplified menu; or 2) consider alternatives to the Harvest Buffet such as moving the date of the event: Ted is much less busy in March.

Friends approved forming an ad-hoc committee with a focus on maintaining fellowship, outreach, and charitable donations in alternative activities. Requests to be part of the committee should go to Nancy.

Property Committee – John Lavin

The permanent wooden meeting sign on Birmingham Road is deteriorating and needs to be repaired or replaced. The Property Committee has consulted with Worship and Ministry earlier in the year and both committees agree that the sign should be replaced. Since the sign was installed many years ago, new means of finding out about the Meeting have arisen. The committees feel that this is an opportunity to consider how to best identify our presence in the 21st century.

At its March meeting, Property approved making a recommendation to Monthly Meeting that a working group of 3-4 interested people in the meeting be formed to take the initial steps to investigate the options for a new permanent sign, including identifying what the township allows for permanent signage, what should be included on the sign, and what design would be appropriate and effective. Anyone interested in participating in this process should give their name to John.

Friends approved forming an ad-hoc committee to make a recommendation to the Meeting for a replacement sign. Mark Mitchell and Chris Lang agreed to serve with John Lavin. A notification looking for additional volunteers will be sent via email.

A Friend asked that the ad-hoc committee coordinate with the Burial Ground South Committee as they also are investigating signage. Since Chris also serves on this committee, he agreed to coordinate.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns –

Barbara Knickerbocker

Barbara announced that the Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns will be sponsoring a workshop entitled: “The End is Dear: Hospice – Options for Caring at the End of Life” on Saturday, May 4th at Goshen Monthly Meeting and include a presentation by Pat Myatt, a social worker with Neighborhood Hospice in West Chester since 1977.

Other Business

Friends approved August 3rd for holding the 2019 Chicken Barbecue.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

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

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Announcements – May 2019

First Day School Topics for the May 5 is Underground Rail Road and on May 12 the FDS will be taking a field trip involving the Underground Rail Road- a trip to the Visitor Center near Longwood Gardens and a stop at the old Kennett Meetinghouse. Topic for May 19 and May 26 is ‘Jesus and His Disciples’.

On May 15 the Worship & Ministry Committees is meeting at 6:00 pm and then from 7-9:00 pm they will be hosting a Spiritual Enrichment event. For the details on that event go to our website and view the event there: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/birmingham-friends-meeting/events/spiritual-enrichment-event-may-15-2019>.

Join the **Brandywine Sacred Harp Singers** on Monday, May 6 and 20 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 – May 2019

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.

On **May 4 at 10:30am**, there will be a film and discussion at Germantown Friends. **THE FORGOTTEN BOMB** is the true story of nuclear weapons and how the world might learn to live without them. This 94-minute documentary by Bud Ryan follows him from the Peace Museums of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the nuclear bomb plant in

Los Alamos, NM, and the nuclear science museums of the United States. Following the film, will be a discussion with members of Germantown Meeting's Working Group to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, with news about the developing movement in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and how you can get involved. Open to everyone but especially intended for members and attenders of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Free. For information, contact Melissa Elliott, clerk of the Working Group, 215-951-2235.

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

West Chester Friends School is having a **car wash on May 11 from 9-11am** to benefit the WCFS Business Club and the PTO! Bring your dirty cars to the main parking lot off of High St for a little spring cleaning (exterior only)!

Join the **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns, on May 15, 10:30am-noon**, in the West Chester Friends worship space. All welcome who are interested in aging concerns.

Save the Date! Join us in the WCOMM 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.

Tubing on the Brandywine! Save the date for this family friendly event happening on June 9 from 12:30-4:30! A member of Western Quarter generously hosts Western Quarter and Concord Quarter for an afternoon of tubing on the creek. Hot dogs provided; you bring the side dishes. Check concordquarter.org by mid-May for details.

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 Zatzoff, 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***

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

Address service requested

5. Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in the Home and Meeting

- a. How does our meeting prepare its members, attenders and children for worship, for the conduct of its business and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?
- b. What opportunities do we provide for all in the meeting to learn about Friends' history, practices and testimonies, the Judeo-Christian tradition, the life and teachings of Jesus, and other religious traditions?
- c. How does our meeting's religious education program provide experiential learning that enhances the sense of belonging to our worshipping community?
- d. *How do I help create a home where all members of the family receive affection and understanding and where visitors are welcome?*
- e. *How does my manner of living enrich body, mind and spirit; enable all to learn what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment; and demonstrate a high regard for family, community and the integrity of creation?*
- f. *How do I engage with my family and others who are dear to me regarding such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, sex and drugs?*