

The Friends Messenger

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

Volume LXIII, Number 6

Sixth Month, 2019

West Chester Monthly Meeting Calendar – June 2019

Sunday, 6/2: Care of Meeting Community meets at 9 am

Sunday, 6/9: on Climate Change and Food Choices by Claudia Kirk presentation at 9:30am; Query reading at 10:30 am; Meeting for worship with attention to business at 12 noon

Sunday, 6/16: Worship & Ministry Committee meets at 9am

Sunday, 6/23: Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9 am.

Sunday, 6/30: Poetry share 10:30am

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Calendar – June 2019

Our greeters in June are: 6/2: Ann Upton;

6/9: Peg or Tod Baseden; 6/16: Sallie or David Jones; 6/23: Serita Spadoni; 6/30: Barbara Knickerbocker

Sunday, 6/2: Meeting for worship with attention to business at 8:30 am

Sunday, 6/9: Youth Committee meets at 10:00 am; FDS topic is The Light of the World

Sunday, 6/16: Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 8:30 am.

Sunday, 6/23: Religious Education committee meets at 8:30 am

Sunday, 6/30: 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
mwennerbradley@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

Information for the July Messenger is due Monday, 7/1

West Chester Monthly Meeting
Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
May 5, 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 Fifth Day of Fifth Month, 2019.

Meeting opened with a moment of silent worship.

Friends approved the April minutes.

Friends approved the agenda as presented.

REPORTS

Clerks' Report

Co-Clerk Deborah Lyons reported that Concord Quarterly Meeting, which took place on April 28 at Wilmington Friends School, was well attended. Two WCMM families that had never attended a Quarterly Meeting were there – the Hastings and the Allers.

Charlie Spadoni is now the Treasurer for Concord Quarter, which is doing well financially. The Treasurer presented the 2019-2020 budget at Quarterly Business Meeting, which was the same as the prior year. Friends approved the new budget.

Concord Quarter will join Western Quarter on June 23 for tubing on the Brandywine River. The event is being held earlier this year, so the water might be a little chilly, but the water level will be good for tubing.

The Quarterly Planning Committee will meet this afternoon.

Property Committee

Randy Lyons reported that he received a call from WCFS Development Director Pam Sapko regarding a grant to help fund Meeting's ramp project. The grant application deadline was that day. The granting organization wouldn't consider a project unless it cost at least \$100,000. The grant would match funds Meeting raised through contributions and other grants. Pam and Meeting Secretary Sue Kelly worked on the six-page grant application, which they submitted on time. The Property

Committee is considering grant funding through six other organizations.

Peace and Social Concerns

Diane Zappas reported that she drafted the letter to Trader Joe's and distributed it to other committee members for comment. The committee will report on progress next month.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer David Wickard distributed to Friends Meeting's balance sheet as of March 31 and a schedule of income and expenses for the first quarter. In general, asset values were up over last year, as the stock market continues with strong performance. The trusts managed by banks did not perform as well as Meeting's other investments due to distributions in December and asset values that didn't recover sufficiently in the first quarter after the fourth quarter 2018 stock market decline. The balance sheet includes a Property Capital Reserve for Meetinghouse repairs and maintenance, with part of the balance restricted for the ramp project. The Treasurer will provide a detailed analysis of the funds restricted for the ramp project at a future Meeting for Business.

Regarding income, member contributions increased over last year. Dividend income from the Merrill Lynch Endowment increased as well due to companies increasing their dividends. Interest income also increased due to higher interest rates on Meeting's Certificate of Deposit ladder at Merrill Lynch.

Expenses were fairly consistent year over year. Secretary wages include those of Sue Kelly and Tanya Pertzoff, who continues to do our bookkeeping. The first quarter surplus is in line with the budget approved earlier this year.

Old Business

School Rummage Sale

The School held its rummage sale yesterday, but the total funds raised was not available. There will be a full report on the sale next month.

Kitchen Cleanup/Reorganizing

Todd Krasnai reported that progress has been made on this project, but there's more to do.

Outreach Committee

No one from the committee is at today's meeting, so a report will be added to next month's agenda.

Committee on Aging Concerns

The Co-clerk reported that this committee sponsored a session yesterday on hospice care, which was not well at-

tended, unfortunately. There were three presenters, including the principle hospice specialist at Penn Medicine. Hospice care is for the well-being of the person who is ill and their families. The goal is to make the person as comfortable as possible.

Announcements

Chris Valentine and his wife Theolia, who live in California, were successful in finding lodging for his Westtown School reunion.

There will be Meeting for Worship and shared lunch at Westtown School Lake on May 19.

Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship.

Deborah Lyons, Clerk

David Wickard, Recording Clerk

West Chester Monthly Meeting Announcements – June 2019

From the Youth Religious Education Committee: Sunday, June 2, is the end of our program calendar for this year. We will gather for **Community Meeting**, and all ages are invited to be in worship together. We will begin with a Faith & Play story, "Gifts," which is about the many gifts Friends being that make us a whole meeting community. There will be quiet things to support young people listening in waiting worship, and quilts for any age Friends to sit on the floor during worship. **We are grateful to Zainab Hadjali for her consistent, friendly child care for the children this year, and very happy that she will return in the Fall to work with us again!** *Child care will be provided on Sundays, 10:30-11:30, June 9 - September 1. If you would like to help cover a week, or offer an activity or project with young people this summer, please let us know (mwennerbradley@gmail.com). Youth RE programs for Children and YPG will resume on Sunday, September 8.* Happy summer, Friends!

Better Together: Peanut Butter & Jelly Food Drive! The Chester County Food Bank is holding a PB&J drive! This classic sandwich is a good source of protein, and is also easy for school-age kids to make for themselves without risk of cuts or burns. We will be collecting donations of any brand or type of peanut butter, almond or alternative nut butter, jelly or jam. They ask that items have NO high fructose corn syrup and no trans fats. To avoid breakage, they ask for plastic jars instead of glass. Also, no expired or homemade items or pre-made sandwiches, please. We will be **collecting donations through Thursday, June 6** in the social room. Diane Zappas will be taking our donations to the Community Weigh In event on Friday, June 7 between 2-4pm

Our **First Day School's tree, 'Growing Together in Love'** will be on display at Pendle Hill through September 5, in the Tree Room Gallery. Pendle Hill invites you to walk into the "Friendly Forest," an exhibit in the Tree Room Gallery comprised of group projects crafted by artists in grades K through 6 on the theme of Community Trees.

Save the Date! The Fall Wernersville retreat is scheduled for October 4-6.

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

May 5, 2019

A period of silent worship opened the Meeting.

The group approved the Agenda.

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

Clerk's Report—Connie Eash

The Memorial for Kathy Brigham was held at Birmingham on March 23. Many family, friends, and co-workers attended, remembering the life and good works of Kathy. The clerk read part of a letter written about Kathy. It said: "She lived a life of integrity, passionately serving as a guardian ad litem for children who found themselves entangled in child abuse and neglect situations. She spoke plainly and clearly to children, families, judges, and child welfare workers and administrators." The clerk read part of a letter of appreciation from her brother Robert. Kathy remembered Birmingham Meeting in her Will with a generous bequest.

This week ended Tanya Pertzoff-Wells 16 years of service as secretary and bookkeeper. The Meeting thanked Tanya for all her hard work over the years. A reception for Tanya after worship is being held today.

On Wednesday, May 15, 10:30 am-noon, Concord Quarter's Working Group on Aging Concerns, will hold a meeting at West Chester Meeting's worship space, 425 N. High St, West Chester, PA 19380. All are welcome.

On May 15, 7:00 pm: Worship and Ministry Committee is inviting the meeting to view and reflect on a few short (5-minute) QuakerSpeak videos: "Why do Quakers worship in silence?" "How do we teach Quaker worship to kids?" and "Loving your enemy."

On Monday, May 20, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, in the Barn at Pendle Hill: Friends Peace Teams Co- Founder Val Liveoak will speak about the vision and growth of Friends Peace Teams over its 25-year history and her ongoing work in Central America. The program is free and open to the public.

Treasurer's Quarterly Report - Paul Kaniefski

Member contributions were up significantly in the first quarter of the year as compared to one year ago due to various members making their annual contributions in the first quarter of the year, and in some cases the annual contributions increased as compared to last year. Miscellaneous Income increased due to \$1,000 received from the Brighams for use of the Meeting House for the Memorial Service. The bequest from Kathy Brigham was received in April and contributed to the general "endowment".

Administrative Expenses were higher due to the overlap of Tanya and Cindy during the transition. The \$8,200 allocation to the Capital and Preservation Fund was funded entirely in the first quarter.

Total assets increased significantly due to the increase in general contributions and contributions for ADA restroom of \$42,000 received in the first quarter. In addition, the Quaker Green Fund appreciated 8.3% in the first quarter while the Quaker Growth & Income Fund appreciated 9.1%. The Accessibility/ADA fund had a balance of \$65,096 as of April 2019 while the Capital and Preservation Fund had a balance of \$94,780. The meeting accepted the report with appreciation.

Nominating Committee - Marcia Cole-Quigley

The nominating committee brought the list of recommendations for the new committees. The list presented was based on conversations with committee clerks regarding what is working well as well as future needs. The nominating committee has spoken with friends whose current term is ending as well as with new members regarding their future interests in committee service.

Marcia passed out the proposed roster of committee members that will be formally approved at the June meeting. A few updates to the roster were made.

Continuing Sessions - Serita Spadoni

Continuing Sessions, held on March 23, 2019 in Reading, followed a somewhat different format. During the Morning Session Friends had a choice to either participate in a Peaceful Witness at the Berks County Detention Center organized by Young Adult Friends or Programming at Reading Monthly Meeting. At the Detention Center, Friends came together with other interfaith participants in witnessing peacefully and with solidarity for the immigrant families who are presently being detained at the Berks County Detention Center.

During the Afternoon Session Friends met at the Reading Community College's Arts Center near the Reading meetinghouse for worship and a business meeting. Following worship, Young Adult Friends reported on the morning's spiritual witness, which was acknowledged with much appreciation.

Nominating Committee gave their report requesting among other nominees that Chris Lucca of Yardley Meeting, become PYM's Presiding Clerk and this was

approved. Also approved was the nomination of Amy Brooks as clerk of Quaker Life Council.

The body then took up the minute that Philadelphia Quarter brought forward suggesting that, before an audit of PYM be taken in the area of multicultural diversity, we consider the assessment already completed by Friends General Conference (FGC). The PYM representative who served on FGC's Diversity Committee and the Working Group and has received monthly reports from the Institutional Assessment Working Group, stated that the FGC recommendations were not proposed as a template for Yearly Meeting to adopt. "Rather, the purpose was to develop a process that can, on an individual and corporate level, engage in the work of better understanding how we are complicit in institutional racism and white supremacy in our communities."

The Multicultural Audit Steering Committee followed with a report on the work they did in extending a Request for Proposal for possible consultants to do an audit of PYM in Assessing Institutional Racism. Their choice: Prototype Entities. Having completed their assignment, the committee was released with appreciation for their work. Some members who had previously served on the steering committee "spoke of having learned about the work of the FGC assessment believing that there are lessons to reflect on as individuals and meetings in order to make our Meetings more open, welcoming and diverse. Perhaps after doing that work we might want something else from a consultant" (quoted from March 23, 2019 Continuing Sessions Minutes). The minute from Philadelphia Quarter highlighted that same concern; the minute was accepted for further consideration/action at Annual Sessions. PYM staff member, Wendy Kane, reported on Bridge Contacts, who act as a conduit for PYM and monthly meeting concerns, activities, and happenings. Nineteen meetings have already appointed Bridge Contacts. Presently, Serita Spadoni is Birmingham's Bridge Contact. More information on this position will be presented at a later date.

Birmingham has submitted its square for the PYM quilt, thanks to the efforts of Beth Kaniefsky, Leslie Leonard and Julie Senko.

The day overall was one of worship, witness, and working together to learn, share and engage intergenerationally in support of our PYM and the work that we do as a corporate faith community across monthly meetings to foster a diverse and welcoming community. The report was accepted with appreciation.

Oversight and Pastoral Care - Susan Brodesser

On May 2, 2019, Meredith Hung, June Lunney, Serita Spadoni, and Susan Brodesser were privileged to visit with a new member, Val Suter, at her Crosslands home. They also met and briefly visited with Val's husband, Bob Suter. The committee gave Val a new member packet and a copy of the book, 300 Years of Quakerism at Birmingham Friends Meeting. Val had prepared lovely refreshments and we were delighted to be able to snack and talk at some length. Val shared information about her life, career, and journey to Quakerism. Members of the visiting committee also shared aspects of their journeys with the result that they all got to know each other better.

The Meeting accepted the report with appreciation.

ADA Bathroom - Paul Kaniefski

Property and Finance Committees recommend Paul J. Kaniefski, treasurer of the meeting, sign the contract with Dulin Construction for the Family and Accessible Restroom to be located at the end of the classroom wing as previously described as Option A in drawings and reports. The money has been raised to pay for the project in total, and at this time the project cost is estimated not to exceed \$45,000 including contingencies. Paul answered questions including giving the project deposit amount of \$5420. One Friend suggested a having a toilet that used low water. Chris Lang, project manager for the bathroom project, explained that Dulin will obtain all permits for the project. Chris showed updated drawings for the project that will include a window on the front of the vestibule. The time frame for the project will be about six weeks.

The group approved having Paul Kaniefski signing the contract with Dulin. The group thanked Andy Kirk,

Chris Lang, Sallie Jones, and Paul Kaniefski for their work on the bathroom project.

Bathroom Funding - David Leonard

The Meeting has \$67,000 in the bank for the ADA bathroom project and \$3,000 more in pledges. Twenty-eight family units contributed. David thanked everyone in the meeting for the contributions. If there is money left over after the ADA bathroom is constructed, the Meeting will need to decide what to be done with the extra money. Some possible uses that have been suggested are updating the existing bathrooms or updating the parking lot.

The Meeting accepted the report with appreciation.

Emergency Preparedness Report - Cassie Hung

The group met twice in April and has addressed two out of four categories of emergencies, Crime and Medical. They suggest that education and review of any policies, equipment, etc are reviewed yearly, along with an educational review for the Meeting. In case of evacuation, the Octagonal Schoolhouse will be the meeting place where friends and family members will meet each other. This will be far enough from the meetinghouse and out of the way of emergency vehicles.

The Meeting already has a policy that all doors to the outside should be unlocked when the building is in use. This facilitates a rapid evacuation, if necessary. All Friends should be attentive and take the initiative to unbar and unlock the doors, if this has not been done. We already have a greeter. The warm welcome can do much to calm anyone who is agitated. They can also help detect someone who may be unstable. In the rare case of concern, the greeter can mention this to another Friend, just to increase awareness.

The Meeting approved four categories of emergency preparedness: crime, medical, weather emergencies, and fire.

The Meeting approved the adoption of the policy, "No guns are permitted in the Meeting House or on the Property, except those held by uniformed police." and that a small sign is posted at the door. The PA law

states that police can only take steps to remove someone with a gun if the Meeting has a written policy, and that this is posted at the door.

The group will look into insurance concerns about the AED (automated external defibrillator) before approving a purchase at a cost \$1275.

There are already many Friends who are certified in CPR, which includes use of an AED. Such courses assume the presence of AEDs in public buildings. The group will send out a questionnaire to determine Friends' interest in holding classes for CPR at the Meeting. It's a 2 hour, \$60 program.

If an AED is purchased, the group proposes that a list of Friends who do not wish to be resuscitated be placed in the container.

A suggestion to put this into our manual of procedures was made. The group will work on this request.

Announcements:

Celia Lang shared an update from the Freeman family. Julie Senko thanked people in the group for all their PYM service.

The Meeting was closed with silent worship.

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Announcements – June 2019

Tuesday, June 11, Worship & Ministry Committee meets at 7:00 pm.

Beginning June 16, the FDS will be going to the Quarry Swim Association in West Chester on summer Sundays during their FDS time for swimming and fun fellowship time together.

Join the **Brandywine Sacred Harp Singers** on Monday, June 10 and 24 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 – June 2019

The **Berry Festival at Wilmington Friends Meeting** will be **Sunday, June 2 from 1-4pm!** Family friendly open house! Lots of strawberries and other food, plant sale, music and activities for children. See the poster in the social room for more information.

Join us in the WCOMM Social Room on **June 9 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 23 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 for details or see the flyer in the social room.

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>

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

Address service requested

6. Nurturing Our Community: Stewardship of Resources

- a. How does our meeting accommodate ecological, economic and social justice in its uses of property and money?
- b. Does our meeting engage its members in supporting the meeting's work, its ministry and the upkeep of its property?
- c. Does our meeting encourage its members to support with their time, energy and finances the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?
- d. To what extent does our meeting rely on current members and attenders for financial support and to what extent on other sources?
- e. *How do I demonstrate in my own decision making a concern for ecological, economic and social justice?*
- f. *How do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency and fair sharing of resources?*
- g. *Do I balance my work-life and other activities with the time and energy needed for my spiritual growth and service?*
- h. *Do I contribute to the work of Friends in my meeting, in the quarterly and yearly meetings and in the wider world of Friends?*