

The Friends Messenger

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

Volume LXVIII, Number 7

Seventh Month, 2019

West Chester Monthly Meeting Calendar – July 2019

Sunday, 7/7: Care of Meeting Community meets at 9 am

Sunday, 7/14: Query reading at 10:30 am; Meeting for worship with attention to business at 12 noon

Sunday, 7/21: Worship & Ministry Committee meets at 9am; Concord Quarterly Meeting at Willistown

Sunday, 7/28: Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9 am.

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Calendar – July 2019

Our greeters are: 7/7: Marcia Cole-Quigley; 7/14: David Leonard; 7/21: Ann Upton; 7/28: Tanya Pertzoff-Wells

Sunday, 7/7: Meeting for worship at 10 am. Meeting for Business is postponed until August 11.

Sunday, 7/14: Youth Committee meets at 10:00 am

Sunday, 7/21: Oversight & Pastoral Care Committee meets at 8:30 am. No FDS. Concord Quarterly Meeting at Willistown

Sunday, 7/28: Meeting for worship at 10 am; Property Committee meets at 8:30am.

Fostering Community with Young Friends

Concord Quarterly Meeting

July 21, 2019

Willistown Friends Meeting

Melinda Wenner Bradley, Youth Religious Life Coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will lead a conversation about what draws young Friends to Quakerism and how our Meetings can support the spiritual and social needs of young people. We welcome all ages to participate in this program. Youth programming will be offered throughout the day and child care will be provided for our youngest Friends. High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers will be participating in the main program. FAMILIES are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

8:15 Sign in

8:30 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business/Youth program

10:00 Meeting for Worship with Willistown Monthly Meeting

11:15 Program: Fostering Community with Young Friends

12:15 Light Lunch provided by Willistown Meeting

Child care provided 8:30 to 12

West Chester Monthly Meeting

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

June 9, 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 Ninth day of the Sixth Month, 2019.

Meeting opened with a moment of silent worship.

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

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

REPORTS

Clerk's report

- Co-Clerk, Deb Lyons thought it would be appropriate to record in the minutes that Ethan Katz earned his religious scouting award, 'That of God,' from the Friends Committee on Scouting. She also expressed gratitude for the hospitality of friends, old and new, while reflecting upon recent interactions with Friends.

Property Committee

- Randy Lyons reported on the status of the porch project. He indicated that several proposals are pending. In preparation for future grant proposals, he is working on a PowerPoint presentation to help illustrate our current state, what we are trying to achieve and why. The next major grant proposal opportunity is in the fall. In the meantime, Randy is working with Treasurer, David Wickard on another fundraising program. The porch project is currently slated to begin in 2020 which will provide more time to fully define the scope of work and costs as well as raise funds for the work.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

- Chris Smith reported that the PB&J collection for West Chester Food Cupboard was successful and the tax receipt documenting the number of

pounds of peanut butter and jelly donated will be posted in the social room.

- Claudia Kirk delivered a powerful presentation on climate changes issues related to industrial agriculture prior to Meeting this morning. Claudia asked that we recommend other meetings and organizations to which she could make her presentation.

FDS/YRE Committee

- Todd Krasnai reported that the picnic at Westtown Lake in conjunction with Downingtown Meeting was a great time.
- Matt Bradley reminded Friends about the quilt square for annual sessions and suggested we draw inspiration from the artwork from the children's hands tree for the square.

CQM Aging Concerns Committee

- Deb Lyons reported that the Aging Concerns Committee meets monthly. Most recently there was a program on hospice care. Deb asked Friends to look at the resources on the Aging Resources website and let her know if there are resources that would benefit Friends and she or Chris Smith can get the pamphlets from Yearly Meeting.

Ad-hoc Charitable giving update

- The committee met and will meet again on June 30th. They continue to review our stated priorities, where we're currently giving and where we are not. The question before Friends is for those recipients that align with our priorities, do we want to continue giving at the current level or do we wish to increase our contribution, and for those that don't match our priorities, do we continue to make contributions, or do we wish to re-direct those funds.

Old Business

- Friends expressed interest in receiving an update as to how the West Chester Friends School rummage sale went.
- WCMM kitchen clean out continues and is a work in progress. 5 boxes were sent to Good Will. The closet with the vases and baskets will be emptied so we have room for FDS and Boy Scout supplies.

NEW BUSINESS

- Friends would like to know if the body is interested in morphing the Advancement Committee into an Outreach Committee. The question will be added to the announcements for further threshing.

ANNOUCEMENTS

- Joint Concord/Western Quarters tubing is scheduled for 7/23
- PYM Annual Sessions, "How do we center ourselves in trust and love?" is scheduled for 7/24-28 with a "grounding" pre-session spiritual retreat scheduled for 7/23-24.
- Wernersville Autumn retreat is scheduled for 10/4-10/6

CLOSING WORSHIP

Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship.

Deb Lyons, Co-Clerk, Lisa Vosburgh, Recording Clerk

West Chester Monthly Meeting Announcements – June 2019

From the Youth Religious Education Committee: Child care will be provided during worship, 10:30-11:30, June 9 - September 1. Youth RE programs for Children and Young People's Group will resume on Sunday, September 8.

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

Coatesville VA is starting a Crochet Club. They are looking for donations of various size crochet hooks and colorful yarns! If you have any donations, please bring them to the social room and Larry Wheeler will take them to the VA.

Birmingham Friends Meeting Minutes of MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS June 2, 2019

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The agenda was approved.

Friends approved the revised Minutes of May 2019 sent via bfriends without further changes.

Clerk's Report – Connie Eash

The Meeting received a letter from Grace Sharples-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.

Emergency Preparedness – June Lunney

There were twenty eight Friends who responded to their survey, including nineteen that are interested in taking a CPR/AED training course at the meetinghouse. The ad-hoc committee is in the process of setting dates for training in June. They will send out notifications via bfriends when the training dates are set up so that Friends may sign up to be trained in CPR and AED use if they choose.

The committee contacted the Meeting's insurance company, Univest Insurance regarding adding an AED to the property. While they felt it was a wise decision to have one, it will not reduce the Meeting's insurance premiums. The committee recommended that the Meeting purchase an AED that includes all normal accessories, an eight year warranty and lifetime reminders and support. Friends approved the recommendation to purchase an AED for \$1,275 paid for out of the Capital and Preservation Fund. The committee is working on creating a do not resuscitate list for any Friends that would not want to be resuscitated. The list will be kept with the AED when purchased. The list should be updated yearly.

June reported on the progress of establishing a "no firearms" policy. There is a simple decal ordered with "no firearms" printed upon it that will be placed on the front window near the entrance. The Birmingham Police Department has been invited to do a walkthrough of the meetinghouse, and the committee will share the new policy and floor plan with them at that time.

The committee has discussed what weather emergencies they should concern themselves with. The only one they have discussed is a tornado. While all cell phones will get the tornado alert, they will consult the County Office of Emergency Preparedness to seek further advice on any other plans the Meeting should consider.

The committee felt that the Meeting has already taken steps to prepare for fire at the meetinghouse through the purchase of Nest fire alarms. The committee does feel that calling attention to the location of the fire extinguishers at the meetinghouse should be done on a periodic basis, especially during the carol sing when the Meeting uses candles.

The committee has placed a new first aid kit in the kitchen windowsill.

A Friend suggested that the Meeting discern who would be responsible for the various periodic upkeep of the material and alerts. The committee plans to bring forth

a proposal at a future business meeting for details on the items that need upkeep, any Manual of Procedures changes, and a recommendation on which committee or committees should get these new responsibilities.

Harvest Buffet Report – Celia Lang

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 buffet in the manner that he used to due to an ever increasingly busy schedule in November. He can still do preparation from his own kitchen on the morning of the dinner and will lend out his equipment.

Because of this, an ad-hoc committee composed of: Connie Eash, Nancy Arnosti, June Lunney, Celia Lang, and Stephanie Kirk met to discuss concerns with the buffet and make a recommendation to the Meeting on what to do this year.

During their discussion, they felt that the biggest problem was changing the date to October when many Friends could not attend. They shared with Friends multiple options, but recommend returning to holding the Harvest Buffet on the second Saturday in November with a simplified menu. With Ted's reduced capacity, this will require additional responsibility from Meeting members to prepare each dish as well as additional preparation on the Thursday and Friday before the buffet.

A Friend expressed safety concerns with parking in the dark with so many divots in the lawn that people might trip and fall. Co-clerks of the Harvest Buffet, Connie Eash and Nancy Arnosti, will work on providing better lighting for the parking and assuring the Meeting that enough volunteers are found to lead major areas of work prior to September 1, 2019. Friends approved the proposal to hold the Harvest Buffet the second week of November with the condition that all outstanding concerns are addressed. The Meeting will reevaluate

whether to hold the buffet in future years depending on how this year's event goes.

Nominating Committee – Marcia Cole-Quigley

As an incorporated body, we hold two regular monthly meetings for special purposes. The corporate meeting in February in which the annual budget is approved and the annual meeting in June or July at which time a slate of officers and committee members is approved beginning on July 1st. This year's slate was ready for approval this month.

Marcia provided the updated draft slate of officers and committees for approval. Since last month, Barbara Knickerbocker was added to the Memorial Committee as the second representative from the Worship and Ministry Committee. Friends approved the slate as presented.

The Nominating Committee minuted their thanks for the work of the outgoing committee members, but in particular Connie Eash for her two years of service as Meeting Clerk. The Committee also thanked incoming committee members for their continued commitment to the life of the Meeting.

Concord Quarterly Meeting – Charles Spadoni

Charlie summarized Concord Quarterly Meeting held on April 28th at Wilmington Friends School. More detailed information can be found on the Quarter's website under the heading: "QMINFO" by selecting "documents" and then "minutes."

The Quarter approved the appointment of Marty Boston of Birmingham Monthly Meeting as recording clerk for a term ending June 30th, 2022 and the Quarter's annual budget ending June 30th, 2020. The budget was unchanged from the prior year.

Then, Charlie summarized the Quarter Planning Committee Meeting on May 5th. The Planning Committee minuted their appreciation to Wilmington Friends School for hosting both Concord and Western Quarters onto their property for business, worship, and their joint event. The Planning Committee approved a merit and

cost-of-living pay increase for the Quarter Coordinator of 7.28 percent. After a successful trial, the committee also approved spending \$200 to "boost" its Facebook posts for future events in the year. Their test for the April Quarterly Meeting included many "reaches" (1500 reached, 43 clicks).

Oversight and Pastoral Care – Susan Brodesser

After receiving a letter from Phoebe Driscoll requesting membership in Birmingham Monthly Meeting, a Clearness Committee composed of Leslie Leonard, and Susan Brodesser met with her on May 7. Susan described the visit at her home on a spring day with tea and snacks. Phoebe's family had Quaker roots but became Episcopalian after the PYM split. She is very active in peace and environmental activities, and immediately felt welcomed at the Meeting. The Committee recommended that the Meeting approve her request for membership, and Friends approved.

Friends approved a Welcoming Committee composed of Marcia Cole-Quigley, Gwynne Ormsby, Barbara Quintiliano and Celia Lang of Oversight and Pastoral Care.

Friends minuted their thanks to Leslie Leonard, Sallie Jones, and Meredith Hung for running the Newcomers Discussion Group that helps greatly in encouraging attendees like Phoebe into becoming Members of the Meeting.

Other Business

Barbara Quintiliano let Friends know that the Chadds Ford Day organizing committee was interested in having the Meeting be a participant in their event on September 14th and 15th from 10 am to 5 pm. It includes many historical activities and tours. Barbara wanted to know if Friends were interested in helping run a table at the event. She said she would be happy to organize if there were enough volunteers to help. Barbara believes she needs approximately eight people to run a table for the event. Friends felt that this event would be helpful for outreach and approved. Tod Baseden, Ted Brinton, Susan Brodesser, Charles Spadoni, Mark Mitchell, and

Marcia Cole-Quigley agreed to help. Barbara will send out an email to bfriends with a request for more volunteers.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

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

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Announcements – July 2019

The Meeting approved that the next **Meeting for Business** will be held on **August 11**. Please put this on your calendar and mention it to others you see in the meantime.

First-day School summer plans: students will visit **the Quarry Swim Assoc. on July 7, July 14 & July 28**. Children are welcome to come swim and play from 10 to 11:45 am. Students will go straight to the Quarry Club, on New Street just north of Route 926, and sign in with the Meeting host in charge. Please pick children up by 11:45. There will be no childcare at the meetinghouse on Quarry Days, however there will be programming for the children at the meetinghouse if there is inclement weather. For all swimming events, non-swimmers must be accompanied by a parent. Please RSVP if your children will be attending or send questions to Kathy Mork at morkjwo6@verizon.net or call (610) 793-2564.

Our **FDS and Childcare** organizers are looking for **volunteers** who may already have their **PA clearances** to work with children but who have not submitted them to Birmingham Friends Meeting for that purpose. If you have your clearances completed and would like to help, please let us know. Contact Kathy Mork or Gwynne Ormsby.

Join the **Brandywine Sacred Harp Singers** on Monday, July 8 and 29 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 – July 2019

Save the date! Birmingham Friends Meeting's Annual Chicken BBQ will be **Saturday, August 3 from 4-7pm**, featuring Bluegrass Music! BBQ Chicken, Vegetarian entrée, local corn on the cob, homemade cole slaw, local fresh sliced tomatoes, and cornbread! Advanced tickets are recommended, and 'take-out' is available. For questions or to purchase tickets, contact Marcia.CQ@gmail.com or call 610-436-8121. Please see the full flyer in the social room.

The **Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns** will be meeting in our worship space on **July 17 from 10:30-noon**. All are welcome!

Pendle Hill presents **'The Spiritual Practice of Letting Go'**, a weekend with Stephanie Gretchen, **July 26-28**. How many times in your life have you realized it was better to let go of something—a job, a habit, or a person—rather than keeping it in your life? Release what no longer serves you. Make room for Spirit to work more freely and deeply in your life. For more information: <https://pendlehill.org/events/the-spiritual-practice-of-letting-go/?bblinkid=165048045&bbemailid=14013791&bbejrid=1096261527>

On June 24, **The Hickman** announced the appointment of **Jennifer Karsten** as the new executive director, starting September 5, 2019. Jennifer was selected after a national search and comes to The Hickman uniquely qualified for this role. A life-long Quaker, she joins The Hickman after serving as the executive director of Pendle Hill. The Hickman expresses their appreciation to current executive director, Pamela Leland, for her service to the community since her appointment in 2013. Pam will continue in her position until Jen's arrival in September and will be available to Jen to ensure a smooth transition.

The next **Twilight Meditation** of the season will be **Sunday, July 28** at Ashbridge Preserve (Willistown Conservation Trust) off Goshen Road. If you are new to Twilight Meditation, they grab their camp chairs and head out to local preserves and natural areas, where they meditate while watching the sun go down. A very powerful experience, which takes us far away from the pressures of modern-day life. For more information, please reach out to John2@custerandcuster.com or to view the full schedule, please see the listing in the social room.

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

SUMMER SESSIONS at The College of New Jersey!

The PYM Community gathers July 24-28

for multigenerational residential programs, business, witness, and FUN

Families stay and play in the Family Neighborhood!

More information about this special opportunity for families [here](#).

RESCHEDULED to August -- *FIRST EVER* PYM Community Playdate!

At the Please Touch Museum on Saturday, August 17 from 9:30am-12:30pm

For Children and Families Program (K-5th Grade)

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

*Information for the **August Messenger** is due Monday, 7/29*

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

Address service requested

7. Grounding for Transformed Lives: Peace and Alternatives to Violence

- a. How do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing?
- b. To what extent does our meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?
- c. What are we doing as a Friends meeting within our communities:
 - 1. To recognize and correct the causes of violence?
 - 2. To understand the impact of the global military-industrial complex on all aspects of life?
 - 3. To increase the understanding and use of alternatives to violence?
 - 4. To work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
 - 5. To support the constructive use of authority?
 - 6. To promote the sustainability of the earth?
- d. *Do I "live in the virtue [power] of that Life and Spirit that took [takes] away the occasion of all wars"?*
- e. *How do I maintain Friends' testimony that participation in war and its preparation is inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus?*
- f. *Do I treat personal conflict as an opportunity for growth?*
- g. *How do I face my differences with others and reaffirm in action and attitude my love for those with whom I am in conflict?*