



Middlebury Friends Meeting

October
2020

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Minutes of Sept 20, 2020

“Women will have achieved true equality
when men share with them the responsibility
of bringing up the next generation.”

— RUTH BADER GINSBURG

OCTOBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every First Day (Sunday) 9 - 9:45 AM First Day School via Zoom
10 AM Meeting for Worship via Zoom
If you need the Zoom link, contact Ed at
edmund.m.harris@gmail.com

Sun, Oct. 18 8:30 AM Meeting for Business via Zoom
Sun, Oct. 25 Friendly Forum, following Meeting for
Worship. Topic is Edward Hicks'
Peaceable Kingdoms.

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



LAURA ASERMILY is selling her house at 266 Washington St Ext to Jamie Montague (soon to be known as Jamie Brookside). Jamie is the executive director of the Middlebury Area Land Trust and moved in this Sept with her 5 year old daughter Frankie, who spends half the week with her dad Larry at nearby Peterson Terrace. Laura will be updating her address to DAVID ANDREWS' house across the street effective Jan 15, 2021 when her closing is scheduled. Many know David and Laura have been together and in this progression for the past decade. If you need any furnishings or clothing, let Laura know as she clears her home. Jamie and Frankie know they are living in "Quaker Acres" and look forward to experiencing a Quaker meeting when we are face to face again.

JEAN AND DAVID ROSENBERG had a coronavirus virus pod with their daughter and son and their families for 2 months this summer, with ELIZABETH and family living with them. It was wonderful and very active! Their grandson ASA (age almost 13) had his bar mitzvah at their house on August 15, with the 11 family pod members in person, and a hundred or so others via Zoom. Asa led the service, read and chanted a Torah portion in Hebrew, and gave his own com-

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mentary on it. It worked beautifully and was a real rite of passage for all, and very sweet. The pod dissolved and they all went home when school started, so Jean and David are back in a quiet neat house that is peaceful but not as interesting or lively.

CHERYL MITCHELL'S daughter ANAIS has been named in the Time Magazine's 100 most influential people edition! <https://time.com/collection/100-most-influential-people-2020/5888471/anais-mitchell/>

ETHAN MITCHELL helped to start the New Roots Project: nature based learning for kids during their remote days. You can read about it here:

www.willowell.org/new-roots-project

—Lucy

Middlebury Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

20 September, 2020, by Zoom

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present were Joe Garren, Spence Putnam, Lianna Tennal, Fran Putnam, Tom Baskett, Ruah Swennerfelt, Lewis Cox, Tom Dickinson, Grace McGrath, Lucy McKeon, Shulamith Clearbridge, Jean Rosenberg, and Grace Seale

20:09:01 Opening worship followed by reading Isaiah 11:6-9, and a Reading from the Jewish prayerbook for Shabbat, a passage by Hannah Senesh, about Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead. In honor of Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

20:09:02 The Minutes from June meeting for business were reviewed and accepted. We note that the minute regarding our concern about the discriminatory FUM hiring policy, adopted in June, has been sent to the FUM board, NEYM, and NWQM. We also note that it is now illegal to discriminate against LGBTQ people in hiring as a result of a Supreme Court decision during the summer.

20:09:03 Co-clerk's Report Joe Garren reports that there was no Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business in July; no business items or n multiple positive comments. Sundays average 35 attending, and Wednesdays 4. Also, Havurah House remains closed, with no specific plans for reopening. The Vermont Department of Health guidelines for religious services recommends outdoor, drive-in or remote services. If outdoors, masks and social distancing are required. Indoor meetings require

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physical distancing of 200 square feet per person, about 14 by 14 feet.

Jean Rosenberg reports she received information from Beth Collea about Friends International Bilingual Center (FIBC) and Emma Condori in Bolivia. The COVID19 epidemic there is very severe with many deaths. The country is in profound economic depression due to the pandemic and also is in political crisis. A number of Bolivian Friends have died. The poor often have no access to medical care, and sometimes die in the streets. The elected president was driven from power last year by the current right-wing government. Elections were expected to occur soon. Persecution of indigenous people continues.

The FIBC is surviving with financial help from North American Friends. Schools are closed so the center is busy with online and very limited in-person education, as well as making face masks to donate, and providing online support for religious education teachers. Middlebury Meeting has donated \$500 from the Rachel Harper Carey Fund, and \$100 from our contingency fund toward support of the FIBC in 2020.

Lianna Tennial and Jean Rosenberg reported on the NEYM gathering via Zoom in early August, which had 650 registrants and many children participating. Fewer than the usual number of business matters were addressed as a result of the format. The wonderful Bible Half-hour presentations by Cherice Bok of Sierra Cascades YM are available to watch on the NEYM website. Lianna spoke about successes in the Children's Programs. Ruah Swennerfelt reported that matters concerning caring for the Earth, justice, equality were addressed. Proposed Minutes on indigenous peoples and on environmental justice will be sent to all meetings for discernment and response.

Lianna reported that NWQM in mid-September included opportunities for maintaining and renewing connections, conversation groups, and a singing / game night. Friends were, and are, invited to visit other Meetings via Zoom, particularly in these times when we so infrequently are able to see one other.

20:09:04 Treasurer's Report Our meeting is maintaining normal expenditures during this pandemic including rent to Havurah House and all benvolences.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

20:09:05 Nominating Committee Spence Putnam referred to the Committee report in the June minutes. This committee has reconvened recently, and is pleased that Ruah has agreed to assume the role of rising treasurer for a 3-year term to commence July 2021. Friends approved.

20:09:06 Worship and Study Committee Lianna Tennial reported on the recent committee meeting via Zoom. The committee wishes to clarify the finishing time after announcements, with new text for the greeters, and discussed how to create clear time

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for both conversation and focused discussion. They also discussed additional topics for the monthly coffee house gathering.

20:09:07 Earth Care Ruah Swennerfelt reported ongoing study and learning about water issues in Vermont, our strengths and vulnerabilities. This committee will present information and offer time for discussion at Rise of Meeting on 27 September, 11:30-12:30.

20:09:08 Pastoral Care In addition to their quiet steady ongoing presence with people in the various challenges of living, Grace reported the committee is in the process of updating individual preferences for the time surrounding death. They will distribute information and request updates, if needed, from individuals in our Meeting.

20:09:09 Other Concerns Lucy announces that news of Quakerly interest will restart, and requests us to send news for the newsletter to her.

~The question of whether Middlebury Meeting should have its own Zoom account has been brought to us. This would allow various Friends to host a Zoom meeting for worship, discussion, for committees, or other approved reasons. We noted the many gifts this format has offered us in these changed times, especially that of allowing participation by those who are distant or not readily able to attend in person. Abundant gratitude was expressed for Ed Harris's stepping up to host our Sunday meetings, and his generosity with time and expertise these past six months. Discussion followed of the possible advantages, costs, utilization, or challenges of Middlebury Friends having a Zoom account. We noted that additional equipment may eventually be needed for continuing online access once we are again able to meet in person for worship.

A committee was appointed to explore a meeting Zoom account, including Grace McGrath, Ruah Swennerfelt, and Spence Putnam. They will invite Ed Harris to join them, and bring a recommendation to the next meeting for business.

20:09:10 Closing worship

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Tom Baskett 989-7034
Jean Rosenberg 388-6453

Recording Clerk

Jan Grace Seale
mrs.seale@gmail.com

Treasurer

Karen Nawn-Fahey
PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753

Pastoral Care Committee

Caring for one another in a loving community is an important part of our life as a Meeting.
Call any member of Pastoral Care to share a concern or need.

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)
Norm Tjossem (388-0338)

Brud Leedom (558-1005)
Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Debbie Ramsdell (453-2027)
Meg Langworthy (877-3217)

We welcome your submissions! — winslow.colwell@gmail.com
News of Quakerly Interest — lucym@shoreham.net

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753

Meeting for Worship 10 AM every First Day via Zoom

www.middleburyquakers.org

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to
winslow.colwell@gmail.com