



Middlebury Friends Meeting

November
2020

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Minutes of Oct 18, 2020

“My mother had a saying:
‘Kamala, you may be the first to do many things,
but make sure you’re not the last.’”

— KAMALA HARRIS

NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
● 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 [○]					

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(ALL EVENTS VIA ZOOM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

Every First Day (Sunday)	9 - 9:45 AM 10 AM	First Day School Meeting for Worship If you need the Zoom link, contact Ed at edmund.m.harris@gmail.com
Nov 22	~11:20 AM	Friendly Forum, Faith and Money, after meeting for worship, led by Spence Putnam and Karne Nawn Fahey
Nov 23	7:30 PM	Men's group
Nov 26	10 AM	Thanksgiving Day, gathering for worship and convivial sharing
Starting late Nov		Online Gift Fair
Dec 6		Quarterly Meeting. See schedule sent separately.
Dec 15		Women's holiday meeting. For info contact Sas at sascarey@comcast.net
Dec 20	10 AM	Holiday meeting for worship and conviviality
Jan 10		Friendly Forum, Spiritual Accompaniment, led by Joe Garren and Tom Baskett
Jan 17	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business
Jan 31	~11:20 AM	State of the Meeting gathering, after meeting for worship

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



I (LUCY) was lucky enough to travel to Maine this summer for a lovely, perfect weather weekend, while my niece Maggie got married. We got in a lot of swimming, very exciting rafting and great food and fun. Just family, no Covid and such a grateful break from all the isolation. I frequently look at the pictures to remind me of the more spontaneous and exciting side of life I'm missing right now, but is sure to return.

cont.

The Middlebury Friends Meeting community was recently saddened by the tragic deaths of two active young people. Zachary Harder, beloved son of Leigh and Gary Harder, died in a bike accident, a sport which he loved. His obituary:

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/obituary-zachary-harder-1989-2020/Content?oid=31265643>

As a young child, Mariah McGill and her family attended Middlebury Meeting where she was active with First Day School and made many friends. Recently, she and her husband Talmage and daughter Maise attended South Starksboro Worship Group. She died after being struck by an automobile while crossing the street. Her obituary:

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/obituary-mariah-leahkim-mcgill-1977-2020/Content?oid=31578648>

We continue to hold both families in the Light.

—*Lucy and Grace*

BEING THERE

It's been about eight months since the pandemic forced us to reorder our lives. As we reflect on the adjustments which have been demanded of us, it is fair to say that our resilience has been tested and we are stronger for it. We have discovered, with surprise and delight, that despite social distancing, Zoom provides us with a way that we can connect which heretofore we would have likely dismissed. When I attend meeting now and see your beautiful faces, I feel your presence as if you are surrounding me in my living room. At the rise of meeting we linger longer in each other's company and find comfort in sharing stories and exchanging ideas in breakout rooms designed by Lianna. Wednesday evening provides an additional opportunity for worship, followed by fellowship hosted by Jean. Thanks to Cheryl, who organizes the Friends monthly coffeehouse, we have a venue for sharing poems, songs, music, stories, and art, (all this without leaving the comfort of my grandmother's chair!) The patterns of our lives will continue to be disrupted and our traditions of Thanksgiving and the rituals of the holidays will look different this year. As the darkness of the season descends and the cold weather keeps us indoors and isolated, we may be more susceptible to feeling lonely or forlorn. As Friendly friends, our hope is to attend to one another and continue to find creative ways to support each other throughout these challenging times. Members of Pastoral Care committee encourage you to connect with us and each other. A phone call, a text, an email or a cup of tea over Zoom are all welcome, so do not hesitate to reach out. Being there for each other is what we do.

— *Meg Langworthy*

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

18 October, 2020, by Zoom

Clerk: Joe Garren

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present were Joe Garren, Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Tom Dickinson, Grace McGrath, Lianna Tennal, Spence Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, Tom Baskett, Fran Putnam, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, Annie Delyth-Stratton, Claire Spacher, and Grace Seale.

20:10:01 Opening worship Following a time of silence, Joe Garren read from *Listening Spirituality: Corporate Spiritual Practices among Friends* by Patricia Loring.

20:10:02 Review of Minutes Minutes of September reviewed. After an error in spelling a Friend's name was corrected, the minutes were approved.

20:10:03 Co-clerks Report

- Jean Rosenberg read a report submitted by Shulamith Clearbridge on her studies in School of the Spirit course: Participating in God's Power. Shulamith ended her active participation in the program as of September; she expresses gratitude to the Meeting for support in her studies. Worship and Study was requested to thank Shulamith for her report and to follow up on her offer to share with the Meeting the topics and methods she experienced in the Participating in God's Power program. The Meeting appreciates and accepts her report.
- Two letters from the Clerk of NEYM were received:
 - 1] *Letter of Apology to Native Americans*, and
 - 2] *Call to Urgent Loving Action for the Earth and her Inhabitants*

Each of these critical and timely issues was discussed by Friends.

We were asked to consider changing our language concerning our relationship with Native Americans, past and present, to reflect reality. We are reminded to hold these matters both gently and persistently, being tender and generous toward ourselves and one another.

There is a Quaker Speak video on the subject.

Questions arose from the discussion, including:

- how do we live into this apology?
- how do we seek right relationships with indigenous people, in particular considering the Abenaki lands where we live?
- how do we focus attention to the justice issues that a Friend describes as seeming like "a wave of new energy"?
- how this can be considered by First Day School?

cont.

Jean suggests broadening the discussion to the Meeting as a whole. Worship and Study will consider how to best do this.

On the second issue, the Clerks request the Earthcare Committee consider responses, which they agreed to do. They will report to Meeting for Business in November.

20:10:04 Treasurer's Report From 19 September through 16 October, the Meeting had member donations of \$3645, including \$1125 for the Community Supper. During this interval Meeting expenditures totaled \$2746.83, including \$133.33 for Children's Program Coordinator, \$60 for Childcare, \$800 to NEYM, \$125 to NWQM, \$662.50 to Havurah, \$366 to Pratt's Store and \$600 to Karen Nawn-Fahey to reimburse for Community Supper expenses. When all these checks clear, the checking account balance will be \$7639.83 (including RCH and VFV funds).

Current balance of Vision for Vermont funds: \$324.85

Current balance of the Rachel Carey Harper fund is \$630.

Karen Nawn-Fahey provided information about finances at the end of the third quarter:

- Benevolences are on track.
- Funds remain in this year's budget for children's programming and books/library. Friends involved in these programs will consider use of these monies in the calendar year.

Of the \$1125 donated to the Meeting for the Community Supper, \$459 remains. Karen requests discussion for use of these funds. She reports that the Community Suppers program has secured grant funding to help sustain it through December. Ideas included holding funds aside for future need in Community Suppers program, or donating to the goal of the program remaining sustainable.

The Finance committee will be drafting a budget proposal for next year in the coming weeks.

20:10:05 Report from Committee exploring a Meeting Zoom account

This committee of Grace McGrath, Spence Putnam, Ruah Swennerfelt, and Ed Harris met in early October via Zoom. A "pro" Zoom account is \$150 per year. It permits one meeting at a time, and hosting can be shared among those in Meeting, as for First Day School or committees, Friendly Forum or Coffeehouse. Ed volunteers to be the admin/ support person for anyone who wants guidance learning to use Zoom.

Discussion followed, and there was agreement on establishing a Zoom account. The committee will proceed to establish a Zoom pro account for MFM. The committee agreed to stay on during beginning use.

20:10:06 Count Every Vote Vermont Spence Putnam introduced a proposal requesting the Meeting to endorse publically the 'Count Every Vote Vermont' endeavor with which he is involved. This program is a spin-off from George Lakey's work.

Submitting this for publication in the *Addison Independent* would be accompanied by a cover statement acknowledging complete confidence in vote counting and the integrity of Vermont Town Clerks, Selectboards, and Boards of Civil Authority. After discussion, the Meeting endorses the proposal including the accompanying letter.

20:10:07 Committee Reports

The Nominating Committee reports that with the nomination and acceptance of Ruah Swennerfelt as Rising Treasurer, all Meeting positions except Rising Co-clerk have been filled. The committee will lay down its work until late winter when positions for the year beginning July 2021 will again be considered. In the absence of urgent matters needing attention, other committee reports were deferred in the interest of time.

20:10:08 Closing Worship

The meeting concluded with a time of quiet.

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