



Middlebury Friends Meeting

January/February
2021

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Calendar of Events



News of Quakerly Interest

Minutes of Nov 15, 2020



Minutes of Jan 17, 2021

Approved Budget for 2021

JANUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	●	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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FEBRUARY 2021

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						

“For a snowflake comes from nothing and melts back into nothing yet in the midst of such a fleeting life, sparkles with utter perfection as it reflects the soul of the entire universe before dissolving.”

— NINA WISE, FROM “THE KEPLER STORY”

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
Sun, Jan 17	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business
Thurs. Jan 28	7 PM	Quaker Coffee House, with art of Mimi Love Nicholson and her sister Betsy Love.
Sun, Jan 31	4-5:30 PM	State of the Meeting session
Sun, Feb 14	9 AM	Earthcare intergenerational event: “Call to Urgent Loving Care”
Sun, Feb 21	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business
Mon, Feb 22	7 PM	Men’s Group
Sun, Feb 28	~11:20 AM	Friendly Forum with Jean Rosenberg: “Hebrew Prophets,” at Rise of Meeting
March 5 & 6	times TBD	Quarterly Meeting
Sun, March 21	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business
Sun, March 28	~11:20 AM	Friendly Forum with Don Peabody and Lianna Tennial: “Engaging with Indigenous Peoples.” At Rise of Meeting

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



From LUCY: In spite of our isolation from Covid people are still making changes and moving on with their lives, so good to hear.

I am mostly at home rather desperately trying to learn Spanish. I've been encouraged by a book review from the New Yorker, *Beginners: The Joy and Transformative Power of Lifelong Learning* by Tom Vanderbilt.

Also of note from the Armstrong-McKeon front is the good news that Claire has been accepted to vet school and will be back east in the fall attending Tufts or Cornell. Yippee!!

SHULAMITH writes: On Thanksgiving day, after nearly 30 years in practice, I retired from the medical intuitive/energy work side of my practice. It's been quite a poignant time, since I've worked with some people for a very long time, and with some of their children, now in high school or college, since they were babies. I have not yet found anyone to take over the remote portion of my practice. I pray for that.

I must say, I feel odd with the change in such a longstanding routine.

Two years ago, I began a new area of practice as an interfaith spiritual director / companion. I could not develop this very much while working full-time. It will be my focus now, along with teaching, writing, and singing projects related to spirituality. You can find information and updates on my website:

www.FeelingMuchBetter.org

Migrations with LAURA ASERMILY: I sold my home on Jan 15 at 266 Washington St Ext in "Quaker Acres" to Jamie Brookside, the Middlebury Area Land Trust Executive Director. Some of you know the home was occupied by Jean Rosenberg's mother Eleanor Gibson before me. I moved there in 2003 from Bridport, recruited by Jean and Sas, to access the Middlebury school system for Johannah. You can still find me in "Quaker Acres," across the street with David Andrews at 281 Washington St Ext. I helped Bill Schneider, my former spouse, move into the Residence at Otter Creek (350 Lodge Rd, Middlebury) on Jan 4 and am helping him manage his properties. Let me know if you know anyone interested in renting his NYC 2nd Floor apartment in the East Village or potentially renting or buying his Middlebury home at 433 Buttolph Dr where Johannah resides until she decides its future with me.

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

15 November, 2020, by Zoom

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present were Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Ed Harris, Jean Rosenberg, Tom Baskett, Grace McGrath, Spence Putnam, Fran Putnam, Joe Garren, Karen Nawn-Fahey, and Grace Seale.

20:11:01 Opening Worship Worship began with a time of silence. Jean Rosenberg shared readings from Isaac Pennington and George Gorman.

20:11:02 Review of Minutes Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

20:11:03 Report from the committee on establishing a Zoom account Ed Harris reports the Zoom account is set up. He will create and distribute a document with instructions for routine use. He emphasizes that the account permits one user at a time; hosts are reminded to check for time conflicts. The information will also describe actions needed by host and participants should a “Zoom bomb” event occur. This document is for use by Meeting members, not for public sharing.

Friends expressed appreciation for Ed’s work in setting this up, as well as all these months during which he has been the Zoom host for the Meeting.

20:11:04 CoClerks’ Report Joe Garren reported that Middlebury Friends Meeting and all NEYM Meetings received a copy of the NEYM treasurer’s letter to FUM explaining the new NEYM policy on its annual membership contribution to FUM’s budget. The letter further expressed that NEYM continues to be deeply exercised about our membership in FUM because of the section of the personnel policy which limits marriage to heterosexual relationships and requires staff members to refrain from sexual relationships outside that narrow understanding. We are clear that the FUM personnel policy causes harm to LGBTQ+ Friends, as well as all Friends who are sexually active outside heterosexual marriage. Furthermore the policy suppresses the ministry of these Friends, causing loss to the wider body. We seek forgiveness for the extent to which we are complicit in this.

20:11:05 Treasurer’s Report Karen Nawn-Fahey presented the monthly Treasurer’s Report. In response to a question about a discrepancy between budgeted and actual income, she notes that in the past some who donate higher amounts may make those donations close to the end of the calendar year.

She reiterates that Friends who want funds from their contributions to be withheld from FUM are requested to communicate that to her promptly.

cont.

*The surplus funds from donations to the Community Supper remain. It was agreed that this money go to Charter House Coalition, which runs the Community Suppers.

*First Day School participants have been discussing the possibility of funds not spent for materials this year being used instead toward benevolences, and wonder about how that might be accomplished. Since FDS is under the care of the Worship and Study committee, it was suggested that a member of that committee might visit the group to consider options. Great regard for the FDS participants' care for others was voiced. After discussion, it was decided that Karen and Lianna Tennial will work together to determine a way forward, and then communicate with the Finance Committee.

*Karen presented the 2021 proposed budget in a shared-screen format so all could readily follow. She will send this proposed budget to the listserv and solicit comments.

Specific questions arose about:

Middlebury Clergy group dues: Tom Baskett will seek clarification from the clergy group about current status.

Where should fees for Zoom account appear? Options include line #17, or possibly establishing a new line item for this \$150 expense. Finance Committee will discuss.

The Clergy Rental Fund was discontinued last year and funds reallocated to the Warming Shelter and Community Housing. The Finance Committee will propose how to allocate them in the 2021 budget.

Ruah Swennerfelt advocates consideration of an increase to budgeted amount for Quaker Earth Witness, Line #46. After discussion there was agreement that \$50 from the contingency funds be allocated to this benevolence.

Hospice Volunteer Services, Line #38, is now known as End of Life Services. The 2021 budget will reflect this name change.

20:11:05 Earthcare Committee Ruah Swennerfelt reports the committee has begun consideration on how we come to live into the Call to Urgent Loving Action for the Earth and her Inhabitants letter from NEYM, described in October.

20:11:06 Worship and Study Committee Joe Garren reports this committee has Friendly Forum gatherings scheduled:

22 November ~ 11:20am Faith and Money facilitated by Karen Nawn-Fahey and Spence Putnam

10 January ~ 11:20am Spiritual Accompaniment (spiritual friendships, ministry and faithfulness groups,, support groups) facilitated by Tom Baskett and Joe Garren

28 February ~ 11:20am The Hebrew Prophets facilitated by Jean Rosenberg.

An online Gift Fair begins soon; Cheryl Mitchell has sent information, with more to follow.

NWQM will be 6 December; information will follow on the listserv.

cont.

Our Holiday Meeting is 20 December; information will follow.

Quaker Coffee House resumes in January, with presenters Leigh Harder, Mimi Love-Nicholson, and Alice Mae Tennial-Peabody. Date and time TBA.

State of the Meeting gathering is 31 January at 11:20am.

20:11:07 Pastoral Care The Committee is collecting instructions for End of Life care from Middlebury Friends. Friends are encouraged to consider these and send in these instructions.

20:11:08 Closing Worship Jean Rosenberg expresses gratefulness for each Friend, for their particular contributions and their very presence. A time of silence followed.

Middlebury Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

17 January, 2021, by Zoom

Clerk: Joe Garren

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present were Joe Garren, Jean Rosenberg, Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Tom Baskett, Spence Putnam, John Cook, Lianna Tennial, Fran Putnam, Don Peabody, Grace Seale.

21:01:01 Opening Worship Following a time of silence, Ruah Swennerfelt offered a prayer for centering, grounding, and our full presence as we gather. Joe Garren read a reflection contrasting human wisdom and reason, an intellectual process, with the sense of the Meeting, the work of the Spirit, seeking a higher and greater truth (from writings of Eden Grace in NEYM Faith and Practice).

21:01:02 Review of Minutes The minutes from November were reviewed and approved.

21:01:03 Clerks' Report Jean Rosenberg reported on the ad hoc committee that researched, recommended, registered, and guided our initial use of the MFM Zoom account. Ed Harris has prepared instructions and guidelines for use, which he will share upon request.

The work of this committee is noted with **gratitude** from all of us.

Jean also spoke about a letter from Mark Moss, a former member, now of Greenville, NC. He serves on the Board of Quaker House in Fayetteville, which “is a manifestation of the Friends’ Peace Testimony” for the military at nearby Fort Bragg, as well as via phone for those in other locations. This group offers a wide variety of services, including a GI rights hotline, domestic violence counseling, education on conscientious objection and military issues. He has requested thoughts about ways in which Quaker

cont.

House can engage more fully with the wider Quaker community. Ideas may be sent to Jean who will pass them on, or directly to Mark at 1607 Rondo Dr, Greenville, NC 27858.

21:01:04 Treasurer's Report All statements in this report are as of October 16, 2020. From September 19 through October 16, 2020, the Meeting had member donations of \$3645, including \$1125 for the Community Supper. From September 19 through October 16, 2020 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 and \$600 to KNF to reimburse for Community Supper expenses. When all these checks clear, the checking account balance will be \$7639.83 (includes RCH and VFV funds).

Current balance of Vision For Vermont funds: \$324.85

Current balance of the Rachel Carey Harper Fund is \$630

Report of 17 January 2021 submitted by Karen Nawn-Fahey noted, appreciated and approved.

- NWQM has suggested that Monthly Meetings consider reducing their (NWQM) contributions by one half. Lianna Tennial adds that NWQM has requested Monthly Meetings to use such funds toward local endeavors; the Finance Committee will discuss how this can be accomplished.
- The proposed 2021 budget was reviewed, discussed, and approved. Great appreciation was expressed to Karen Nawn-Fahey for her faithful attention, good humor, and hard work as treasurer.
- The books of 2020 will go to Spence Putnam for review later this month.

21:01:05 Worship and Study Committee Report

- Lianna Tennial reported the Friendly Forum on Spiritual Friendship was not only well-attended but also received positive comments. The next Friendly Forum meetings are 28 Feb with Jean Rosenberg on Hebrew Prophets, and 28 March with Don Peabody and Lianna on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples.
- Shulamith Clearbridge requested permission to use the Zoom account for Experiment with Light presentations. There was agreement on this use.
- MFM receives 35 paper copies of NWQM newsletter, which were formerly placed on a table at Havurah House for perusal or taking. There was consensus that while we are not meeting in person this mailing could stop. Lianna routinely sends this newsletter out to the Listserv, and individuals can request paper or direct email of these from NWQM.

21:01:06 Pastoral Care Committee Grace McGrath reported 16 participants in the gathering facilitated by Fran Putnam providing an opportunity to share reactions

and responses to recent events. There were many positive comments, and interest expressed in further similar gatherings. The Clerks, Tom Baskett, Grace M, and Fran will discuss possible future dates and formats for these.

Grace reiterated that the ongoing pandemic and various recent increased political stresses have presented all of us with unanticipated changes and challenges. Friends are encouraged to recall the ongoing availability any member of this committee as we go forward.

21:01:07 **Earthcare Committee** Ruah Swennerfelt announced an intergenerational discussion event on the Call to Urgent Loving Care on 14 February at 9 AM.

21:01:08 **Closing worship**

All are asked to hold in Light each Friend's ministry.

Middlebury Friends Meeting			
2021 Budget Proposal	2020	2020	2021
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
INCOME	\$ 16,305.00	\$ 9,545.00	\$ 16,525.00
EXPENDITURES			
Rent	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 2,650.00
New England Yearly Meeting	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00
Northwest Quarterly Mtg	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Books and Library	\$ 200.00	\$ 119.00	\$ 200.00
First Day Coordination	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,333.30	\$ 1,600.00
Child Care	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 640.00	\$ 1,200.00
Materials for Children's Program	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00
Advertising	\$ 240.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 240.00
Gifts for Young Friends	\$ 20.00		\$ 20.00
Mail Box Rental	\$ 120.00	\$ 134.00	\$ 140.00
Midd Clergy Assoc Dues	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00
Zoom Subscription		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Newsletter/Directory	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
COSA: Community Suppers	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Postage	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00
Web page Domain	\$ 20.00		\$ 20.00
Worship and Study/Pastoral Care	\$ 400.00	\$ 168.41	\$ 400.00
Earthcare Committee	\$ 100.00	\$ 83.17	\$ 100.00
Quaker Camps and Conferences	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 11,430.00	\$ 10,147.88	\$ 11,600.00

BENEVOLENCES			
Add Cty Relocation NW	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
AFSC National	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Charter House/HOPE Housing	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Community Lunch	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Counseling Srvc AC	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
FCNL	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Friends Gen Conference	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Friends Worls Committee	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Habitat of AC	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
HOPE	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
End of Life Services	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Interfaith Power and Light	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
John Calvi	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Jubilee	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Nomadicare	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Open Door Clinic	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Parent/Child Center AC	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Peace and Justice Center	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Quaker Earth Witness	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Quaker UN Office	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Spirit in Nature	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Summer Lunch Program	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Contingencies	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Warming Shelter/Transitional Housing	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Yearly Meeting Scholarship	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 4,925.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,305.00	\$ 15,022.88	\$ 16,525.00

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