



Middlebury Friends Meeting

June
2021

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*Report of Nominating
Committee*

Minutes of May 16, 2021

JUNE 2021

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QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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, June 27	10 AM	Two Meetings for Worship. Join Middlebury Quakers either on Zoom or at Havurah House. Both at 10.
Mon, June 28	7:30 PM	Men's group
Sun, July 4	10 AM	Two Meetings for Worship. Join Middlebury Quakers either on Zoom or at Havurah House. Both at 10.
Sun, July 18	8:30 AM	Mtg for business
August 7-12:		NEYM, via zoom (note that registration for NEYM sessions is open now, at neym.org)
Sun, Sept. 19	8:30 AM	Mtg for business
Fri, Sept. 24		Community supper made by MFM
Sun, Sept 26	8:30 AM	Friendly Forum

““The goal of life is to make your heartbeat
match the beat of the universe, to match
your nature with Nature.”

— JOSEPH CAMPBELL

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



REBECCA HOLMES writes: My beloved granddaughter GRACE has just finished her “lonely and weird” Covid sophomore year as a Residence Assistant at Skidmore College in New York. She’s become a vegan this year and joined the college Environmental Action Club. (Did you know that eating vegan reduces your carbon footprint 73%)? She’s taking a class to become a certified nutritionist this summer, and working on a worm farm. The big news, however, is that she won Skidmore’s 2021 Denise Marcil Prize for Fiction for “...just a silly story, so I was surprised, but I’m very excited!” So please keep her in your thoughts as she keeps on growing up.

CHERYL MITCHELL reports: ANAIS MITCHELL — who grew up in MFM — was the commencement speaker for Middlebury College this year. We are so grateful for the many ways the Meeting has supported her musical career over many years including sending her as a singing minister to Cuba and holding her in the Light when she did the keynote for NEYM many years ago. And of course celebrating her music and Hadestown.

From BARBARA “SHULAMITH” CLEARBRIDGE: I have moved to the Greater Philadelphia Area, “Quaker Central”. I never thought I’d return to (the outskirts) of a big city, but the leading to be here has developed over quite a long time. So we’ll see what happens next.... My address: Barbara “Shulamith” Clearbridge 2407 Secane Rd, Secane, PA 19018 802 324-9149

—Lucy

INTERIM REPORT OF 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE
5/16/2021

The Nominating Committee for our 2021/2022 year consists of Spence Putnam, Tom Baskett, and Louis Cox. We are grateful for the willingness of many Friends to take on responsibilities for the Meeting.

We are pleased that we have filled all of the positions for the coming year. Ruah Swennerfelt has agreed to join Joe Garren as Co-Clerk. Laura Asermily has agreed to become treasurer. Leigh Harder and John Cook are joining Worship and Study, John Beattie will be joining the EarthCare, and Dick Cuyler is joining Fellowship. We have established a new Technology Committee consisting of Ed Harris, Ruah Swennerfelt, and Grace McGrath. Ed has also agreed to take over responsibility for the listserv. Becky Holmes and Jean Rosenberg will be teaming up to manage our library. Finally, Louis Cox will be our liaison to Spirit in Nature. A complete listings of committee memberships will appear in the newsletter and be printed in our forthcoming directory. Two individuals are interested in laying down their responsibilities. Sometime in the next few months we would like to identify a new newsletter editor and a new representative to Middlebury Area Clergy Association (MACA).

There is still time to let us know if you are interested in taking on a role of responsibility for the Meeting, or if you spot any errors or omissions in the attached list. Meeting will act on this list of nominees at our June Meeting for Business.

— Spence Putnam, Tom Baskett, Louis Cox



artwork: Wren Colwell, age 4

Middlebury Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

16 May, 2021, by Zoom

Clerking: Joe Garren

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present were Joe Garren, Tom Baskett, Spence Putnam, Lianna Tennial, Tom Dickinson, Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Ed Harris, Fran Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, Don Peabody, and Grace Seale.

21:05:01 Opening worship Following a time of silence, Joe Garren spoke of Friends searching together for the will of God, seeking the truth.

21:05:02 Review of Minutes The minutes of 18 April were reviewed and approved.

21:05:03 Clerks' Report The Clerks shared a letter from Woolman Hill requesting Middlebury Friends Meeting prayerfully consider a substantial contribution to their "Welcoming Future" public campaign, directed toward renovation and improvement of the facility. Among the physical changes in the building renovation will be increased space and accessible accommodation. Multiple voices joined in affirmation of the splendid resource of Woolman Hill, of warm associations and experiences over years.

The Finance Committee will discuss this matter, and report back to the Meeting.

21:05:04 Nominating Committee Report Spence Putnam presented the interim report of the committee's work, which was reviewed and accepted with appreciation.

MFM does not currently have a representative to the Middlebury Area Clergy Association; the committee seeks a volunteer.

Win Colwell wishes to move out of the role of producing the newsletter. His many years of service, creativity, beautiful photos, and skill in this position are widely acknowledged and appreciated.

21:05:05 Ad Hoc Committee on In-person and Hybrid Meetings Report

Ed Harris provided an interim report, and anticipates a fuller proposal at the next Meeting for Business.

- Discussions with Havurah House representatives continue about the evolving plan to upgrade WiFi, with MFM extending an offer to contribute to the expected ongoing expense of providing this service.
- In conversations about anticipated outdoor gatherings, it is acknowledged that attempting to create a hybrid of in-person and Zoom would present substantial challenges. Exploration and discussion about how, or if, this is possible continue.
- Ed will create a brief survey of Friends' preferences about gathering as we go forward, and send to listserv.

cont.

Discussion followed with many comments from Friends. The Finance and Ad Hoc committees will work together to make a proposal about necessary purchases for Zoom access to our eventual in-person meetings, to make them hybrid. They will present specific proposals at the June Meeting for Business.

Great appreciation was expressed to members of this committee for their careful and detailed work.

21:05:06 Worship and Study Committee Report Worship and Study recognizes that the spoken introduction we have been sharing before Meeting for Worship had an important role in our early days of Zoom gatherings. We recommend that it can now be discontinued so that all may settle more directly and deeply into silent waiting,

The committee also appreciates the spirit of the Land Acknowledgement and recommends that it not be spoken formulaically at the beginning of meeting. The committee hopes that the Meeting as a whole will continue to discern how to come into right relationship with our indigenous neighbors.

These recommendations were discussed and approved.

21:05:07 Earthcare Committee Ruah Swennerfelt reported that the committee continues to meet, and is attending to the goal of the Urgent Call (see following item).

21:05:08 Called Committee to Urgent Loving Action for the Earth and her Inhabitants

Fran Putnam submitted a report, read by Ruah Swennerfelt..

Eleven Friends have signed up for this committee. They have met to discern what they will be doing in the next year as they begin to answer this Call. Monthly meetings are anticipated, with regular sharing of the ongoing work. A report is expected to be prepared in time for the August 2022 NEYM Sessions.

21:05:09 Regarding Proposed Letter of Apology to Indigenous Peoples

Don Peabody reported that the ad hoc committee on NEYM Apology to Native Americans will report at next month's Meeting for Business. He welcomed comments from Friends.

21:05:10 Pastoral Care Grace McGrath reported the committee members continue offering care in various ways to Friends.

21:05:11 Children's Program Lianna Tennial reported that Gretchen Richer accepted a new job, and has given notice for her current role in the Children's Program, effective within the month. Her efforts and commitment to the children of the Meeting were recognized and appreciated.

21:05:12 Treasurer's Report All statements in this report are as of May 16, 2021. From April 18, 2021 through May 16, 2021, the Meeting had member donations of \$500. From April 18 through May 16, 2021 the Meeting expenditures totaled \$273.33, including \$133.33 for Children's Program Coordinator, \$40 for Child Care

and \$100 to MidSummer Lunch Program. When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$6327.39

Current balance of Vision for Vermont Funds: \$324.85

Current balance of Rachel Carey Harper Funds: \$630.00

21:05:13 Closing

The meeting closed with a time of silence.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Joe Garren (610) 324-8185
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