



Middlebury Friends Meeting

July
2021

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*Report of Nominating
Committee*

Minutes of June 20, 2021

“Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment.”

— RUMI

JULY 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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4	5	6	7	8	9 [●]	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 [○]	24
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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, July 18 8:30 AM Meeting for Business

Sat, Aug 7 thru Thurs, Aug 12 NEYM [neym.org for times and details]

Sun, Sept. 19 8:30 AM Meeting for Business

Fri, Sept. 24 Community Supper

Sun, Sept. 26 Rise of Meeting Friendly Forum

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



RUAH SWENNERFELT writes: LOUIS and I have been busy in our gardens. We reset pavers in a patio by our little pond and now I'm redoing a path with stones around the pond. We have extensive vegetable and fruit gardens and some fruit trees in our yard. As well there are a number of flower gardens and an herb garden. So, this time of year is really busy for us. But that busyness is always a source of joy. Our lemon and fig trees that live inside during the winter and on the deck in the summer are both loaded with fruit!

And the big news on Father's Day was that our youngest great-grandson took his first steps! What a joy.

SAS CAREY: I was honored to give the keynote address called the Mongolian Update 2021 for the Australian National University School of Culture, History & Language. Participants also screened my latest movie *Transition*. One Mongolian professor living in Bonn, Germany showed up for the 2AM Zoom presentation (his time) and said the movie made him cry from homesickness.

Other news: After a year of not talking to people spending every day alone in my house, I have decided to go to every party I am invited to! Unfortunately, it will take a bit of time to get back my social skills, though.

LADYBELLE FISKE: BRION and I are looking forward to the first birthday of Adeline, our beautiful and bright granddaughter, on June 27.

We'll stay over the weekend in the home of my son, Andrew, and daughter-in-law Alice, in Fairfax, VT.— the first visit we have made there since last October.

Brion had a hip replacement on May 21. The first couple of weeks were difficult. But we had caring help from our children and extended family— our daughter Joya Lonsdale and her husband Brem Hyde; Andrew and Alice (and Addie); Brion's older son Airon Armstrong and Airon's sister, India, who did a great deal, and our dear young friend Gabriela Riley, Andrew's closest friend in his early childhood, who took time out from her blossoming singing career in Chicago to look after us for 10 days.

Tremendous gratitude to everybody who helped and are still helping us.

cont.

KAREN NAWN-FAHEY: As of Friday, June 18 at 3:00 PM I officially retired from full-time work, most recently teaching math at Rutland High School. I look forward to visiting friends and family across the country as well as visiting National Parks. Also hoping to see some Broadway shows with my nephew who lives on Broadway... in Brooklyn.

WIN and JOANNA COLWELL have moved back to their cabin in Ripton. Win writes: After providing our family a wonderful home for nearly 41 years, we have sold the rambling house on Lower Plains Rd. It has been a sad move; it was a place of great joys and sorrows plus many, many gatherings of our Middlebury Friends Meeting community. My parents loved the house, partly because it was such a good place to host friends/Friends. Joanna and I will miss the constant music of the river and many of our dear neighbors, but we are also excited to be in our little cabin again. Though we are exhausted right now, we look forward to seeing many of you here after getting re-settled.

—Lucy

FINAL REPORT OF 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

5/16/2021

The Nominating Committee for our 2021/2022 year has completed its work. We are pleased that we have filled all of the positions for the coming year. We are grateful for the willingness of many Friends to take on responsibilities for the Meeting. The complete list will be included in the Meeting Directory.

As mentioned previously we would like to identify a new newsletter editor sometime in the coming months. Please contact the Nominating Committee or the Clerks if you are interested.

— Spence Putnam, Tom Baskett, Louis Cox



Middlebury Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

20 June, 2021, by Zoom

Clerking: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present were Joe Garren, Jean Rosenberg, Brud Leedom, Louis Cox, Ruah Swennerfelt, Grace McGrath, Tom Baskett, Sarah Ashe, Karen Way, Thelma Stoudt, Lucy

McKeon, Lianna Tennal, Spence Putnam, Dick Cuyler, Fran Putnam, Don Peabody, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Laura Asermily, Kristin Lord, Tom Dickinson, and Grace Seale.

21:06:01 Opening Worship Jean Rosenberg read a passage from Margaret Fell [b 1614, d 1702], with a time of quiet following.

21:06:02 Review of Minutes Minutes from May Meeting for Business were reviewed and approved.

21:06:03 Clerks' Report

- The summer Meeting for Business is 18 July 2021, 8:30 AM. There's no Meeting for Business in August.
- We are reminded of NEYM Sessions, 7-12 August, again held virtually this year. Registration is online (neym.org) and fees are as Friends are able or led.

The Clerks are continuing to discuss the possibility of gathering in person to participate in some on-line sessions. In particular the Opening session Saturday the 7th, as well as Monday the 9th when John Calvi will speak, and on Tuesday the 10th with Hanifa Nayo Washington's interactive presentation seem ideal for this format.

21:06:04 Technology Committee This committee considered multiple factors toward the goal of combining in-person and remote gatherings, requiring both attention to detail and coordination with Havurah House.

The upgrade in Comcast internet service to Havurah House has been accomplished. Maximizing hearing and seeing for both physical and remote attendees was carefully considered when locating the connections.

Among the required MFM purchases are a large flat-screen TV, a Chromebook. and associated smaller items. The monthly cost for the broadband service has gone up; discussion followed about the potential increase in MFM payments to Havurah House [please refer to Treasurer and Finance reports 21:06:05].

For this system of concurrent in-person and Zoom meetings to become fully functional, substantial practice, and the inevitable associated trials-and-errors, is necessary. Abundant generosity and patience are needed on everyone's part.

Yet unanswered questions include, though are not limited to, a system of volunteers for weekly set-up and how First Day School can best meet children's needs and protect those who are unvaccinated.

Ed Harris's invaluable expertise in determining necessary equipment and most advantageous arrangements is acknowledged with tremendous gratitude.

There are requests for the earliest possible in-person meetings to begin, given that Friends not able to join electronically have experienced such a long interval without being at Meeting.

Discussion followed about gathering both in-person and Zoom until the system to combine them is operational. Other local worship groups have also been experimenting with similar logistics.

cont.

21:06:05 Treasurer's and Finance Committee Reports

From Karen Nawn-Fahey: All statements in this report are as of June 30, 2021. From May 17 through June 20, 2021 the Meeting had member donations of \$1775. From May 17 through June 20, 2021 Meeting expenditures totaled \$335.33 including \$133.33 for Children's Program Coordinator, \$40 for Child Care, and \$162 for one-year PO box rental.

When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$7766.67.

The current balance of Vision for Vermont funds is \$324.85.

The current balance of Rachel Harper Carey funds is \$630.

Discussion followed about meeting the fixed expense up to \$700 for equipment to be purchased and the \$30 increase in rent covering costs of broadband. These can be covered by a combination of reserve and Rachel Harper Carey funds, and the one-time \$125 reduction in what is sent to NWQM.

Friends agreed on all these.

Karen Nawn-Fahey's service to MFM as Treasurer, now concluding, was acknowledged and thanks were warmly expressed.

21:06:06 Earthcare and the Call to Urgent Loving Action for the Earth and her Inhabitants Committees

These committees are working together to address several closely related issues of particular and timely concern.

The committee requested the Meeting participate in a campaign to purchase solar panels at the Bristol Community Solar Project to benefit the Clemmons Family Farm, an African-American arts and cultural foundation in Charlotte [www.clemmonsfamilyfarm.org].

This project is jointly sponsored by Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN) and Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) The intersection of racial justice and concern for climate make this project a rare opportunity to work locally for climate justice. Commitment to purchase six panels has already been made; an additional \$2800 is sought for the purchase of ten.

After discussion there was agreement to MFM contributing \$1000 toward this project.

The Call to Urgent Loving Action Committee reports an ongoing process about their scope of action. They seek to discern their ongoing focus of attention: local, regional, national, global. This committee will send regular summaries to MFM as their process evolves.

21:06:07 Rachel Harper Carey Fund Committee Report

Tom Baskett reported the committee considered requests for funds for equipment to provide remote access for gatherings at Havurah House and for solar panels at

the Clemmons Farm. The committee agreed that both meet criteria for use of these monies, and following discussion, these decisions were affirmed by Friends.

The expenditure of \$200 for equipment and \$430 for the solar project would use the current funds entirely. Replenishing these funds in the future would provide MFM with the flexibility to meet other requests that may be received.

21:06:08 Nominating Committee

The slate of nominees was reviewed and approved.

Spence Putnam reported that Tom Baskett agreed to continue as MFM representative to Middlebury Area Clergy Association [MACA].

A volunteer for newsletter editor is sought; interested persons may communicate with the Nominating Committee or the Clerks.

Win Colwell's years of service to the Meeting in this role are again noted with great regard.

The work of the committee is acknowledged with appreciation.

21:06:09 Committee on Apology to Native Americans Lianna Tennial reports this group has met, and finds many possible directions for actions. She will circulate information on a regular basis.

21:06:10 Acknowledgement Today concludes Jean Rosenberg's service over many years as Co-Clerk. There were multiple expression of gratitude for her leadership, skills, and good humor.

21:06:11 Closing worship

Several moments of silent worship concluded this gathering.

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