



Middlebury Friends Meeting

August/
September
2021

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*Letter to Clemmons Family
Farm*

Minutes of July 18, 2021

AUGUST 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
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 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	29	30		

“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”

— MAYA ANGELOU

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every First Day (Sunday)	9 - 9:45 AM 10 AM	First Day School Meeting for Worship at Havurah and Zoom If you need the Zoom link, con- tact Ed at edmund.m.harris@gmail.com
8/7-8/12		NEYM Summer Sessions via Zoom
Sun 8/22		Summer Picnic at Champlain Maritime Museum after Rise of Meeting
8/2_?		Men's Group: Date and Time TBD
9/11-12		NWQM (Zoom)
Sat 9/11		VIPL Sacred Water Event at Shelburne Bay
Sun 9/12	8:30 AM	Earthcare Committee
Sun /19	8:30 AM	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Fri 9/24		Community Supper
Mon 9/27		Men's Group

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



From DONNA BELCHER: My daughter KYRA FREEMAN has just published her first book of poetry entitled: *Second Life: Poems of Re-emerging*. It is available on Amazon. If I had better computer skills I could send a video of her doing a reading, but alas, it is not possible.

SHULAMITH writes from Philadelphia: Maybe people would have some interest in an upcoming workshop I'm doing via Zoom for Pendle Hill? Two are on the schedule so far, but one is coming right up. Here is the link: <https://pendlehill.org/events/lectio-divina-a-friendly-exploration-of-quaker-writings/>

They have scholarship money if someone needs help to attend. Also, it's open to everyone, not just Quakers.

ELENA PEABODY, eldest daughter of DON PEABODY, this May received a Certificate in Urban Horticulture from the New York Botanical Garden (“two hours, by train, each way, for two years—oy!”) and moved, with her husband, JEREME MONGEON, to Wilmington, Delaware for the sake of an Internship at Longwood Gardens (home of the Old Kennett Meetinghouse.) NYBG didn’t let her go for long, calling her to a full-time appointment in the Upland Rain Forest house of the Haupt Conservatory. She and Jereme are moving—this weekend—to the Bronx’s Riverpoint neighborhood (“20 minutes, max’—yay!”)

From LADYBELLE FISKE (Isabella Fiske McFarlin): My daughter. JOYA LONSDALE, is turning 50 on August 3.

She practices psychotherapy In Boston, both in Spanish and English.

Presently Joya works in a clinic for low -income people where she has spent the last 10 years. She also has a part-time private practice which will be full time in October. She offers a sliding scale for people without much money. Joya and her husband, Brem Hyde, A landscape gardener and musician, spend Much of their time at demonstrations and working on issues of social justice.

Some will remember Joya from my early days of Attending in joining the meeting, which, as I recall, I did in 1982. It’s amazing to me that she has reached the age of 50, as she seems to be to be about 20 all the time.

—Lucy

LETTER TO MFM TO THE CLEMMONS FAMILY FARM

July 23, 2021

Clemmons Family Farm
2213 Greenbush Road
Charlotte, Vermont 05445

Dear members of the Clemmons Family Farm,

The Middlebury Friends Meeting (Quakers) supports the following letter, published on July 15, 2021 in the Addison Independent, from the Interfaith Climate Action Network of Addison County and would like to add our support for the Clemmons Family Farm. We sincerely hope that the decision by the Clemmons family to make a report to the Vermont Human Rights Commission will lead to changes in the responses from, and protection given by, Vermont law enforcement groups. We are grateful

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for the important work you do to enlighten and inspire our community. Many of us look forward to future opportunities to visit and participate in your programs.

Here is the text of the letter to the *Addison Independent*:

A Statement in Support of Clemmons Family Farm

We, the members of the Interfaith Climate Action Network of Addison County (ICAN), were saddened to learn from a recent Vermont Human Rights Commission report of the discrimination, based on race and gender, enacted against Dr. Lydia Clemmons, director of the Clemmons Family farm, by the Vermont State Police. Our group has worked with Dr. Clemmons and the Board of the Clemmons Family Farm on the intersections of climate and racial justice. We deeply admire the work the organization does in our state to preserve African-American and African diaspora arts and culture, and to conserve rare Black-owned farm land in Vermont.

Called by our faith, we write today:

- * to state our support of Dr. Clemmons, the Clemmons family, and the staff and volunteers of Clemmons Family Farm. Their safety is our first concern and our collective responsibility.
- * to acknowledge our own privilege and failures as we recommit to doing better.
- * to confront the myth of Vermont exceptionalism, acknowledging that racism has always been embedded in our systems and continues to cause harm in the state that we love.
- * to offer our support in Addison County to facilitate dialogue and actions that we pray would enable transformation in our Vermont communities.
- * to encourage our elected officials, public servants, and all in our wider community to examine the ancient and pervasive systems of injustice.
- * to pray that the Vermont Human Rights Commission Report will be a doorway, not to division and harm, but to learning, growth, deeper relationships and healing.
- * to partner with anyone who wants to work with us towards a world in which

Vermonters, inspired by a shared reverence for the natural world and respect for each other, work to nurture the interconnected web of existence.

Faithfully,

Pastor Abigail Diehl-Noble

Rev. Barnaby Feder

Rev. Daniel White

Martha Heidi Willis

on behalf of the Interfaith Climate Action Network of Addison County

Ruab Swennerfelt, co-clerk

On behalf of the Middlebury Friends Meeting

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

18 July, 2021

Zoom and in person

Clerking: Joe Garren

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present were Joe Garren, Ruah Swennerfelt, Jean Rosenberg, Molly Anderson, Brud Leedom, Tom Dickinson, John Cook, Tom Baskett, Spence Putnam, Fran Putnam, Don Peabody, Lianna Tennal, Lucy McKeon, Kristin Lord, Grace Seale.

21:07:01 Opening Worship

After a time of quiet, Joe Garren read a passage from Gerald May's "Dark Night of the Soul".

21:07:02 Agenda Review

The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved.

21:07:03 Review of Minutes

The minutes from the 20 June Meeting for Business were reviewed and approved.

21:07:04 Co-clerks report

~The clerks are pleased to announce that Molly Anderson has joined Tom Baskett and Louis Cox on the Nominating Committee.

~NEYM convenes from Saturday the 7th of August through Thursday the 12th, via Zoom. The presiding clerk has encouraged Friends to gather in-person to share attendance if possible. Registration remains open [neym.org] with pay-as-led fees.

Two events for Middlebury Friends to gather at Jean Rosenberg's home to "attend" Sessions together are planned:

Monday 9 August from 7:00 to 8:00pm when John Calvi of Putney Friends Meeting brings a plenary message about the obstacles and lessons in being faithful, and

Tuesday 10 August from 7:00 to 8:00pm for Hanifa Nayo Washington's interactive presentation.

A third possible gathering, on the 7th, is under discussion.

In addition to these, Jay O'Hara (Portland Friends Meeting) is giving the daily Bible half-hours from 8:30-9:00 am.

~No Meeting for Business is scheduled in August. The next Meeting for Business is Sunday the 19th of September.

21:07:05 Treasurer's and Finance Committee Report

This report was given by Spence Putnam in Karen Nawn-Fahey's absence. He announced that she will continue in the role of Treasurer for three more months. Friends expressed gratitude for her willingness to continue serving the Meeting in this way.

All statements in this report are as of July 18, 2021. From June 21 through July 18, 2021 the Meeting had member donations of \$500. From June 21 through July 18, 2021 expenditures totaled \$3203.33. These included \$133.33 for Children's Program Coordinator, \$800 to NEYM, \$62.50 to NWQM, \$752.30 to Havurah House (this includes the additional WiFi cost), \$400 to NEYM for Summer Sessions scholarship, \$1000 for Clemmons Family Farm solar panel project, and \$55 for roll of stamps.

When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$5063.34.

Current balance of Vision for Vermont Funds: \$324.85.

Current balance of Rachel Carey Harper funds: \$0.

~It was suggested that replenishing the Rachel Carey Harper Fund is worthy of careful consideration. The Finance and Rachel Carey Harper committees agreed to address jointly how this might be accomplished. They will report on their discussions at the next Meeting for Business.

~The Woolman Hill Center request for funds toward the remodeling\ access improvements was discussed. This unbudgeted request was agreed among Friends to be deserving of our support. The \$1000 donation will be evenly divided between this year and next.

~Middlebury Friends received a letter from Emma Condori Mamani's Circle of Support reporting on the multiple challenges faced by Bolivian Friends. There is both urgent and ongoing need at the Friends Bilingual International Center. Emma Condori Mamani, who visited MFM in 2019, continues to work and adapt to the harsh realities of COVID and associated economic downturns. Jean Rosenberg requests that Friends consider how MFM might continue to support her ministry. Designated donations are welcome.

In addition to financial contributions, we are reminded to hold Emma and the Bolivian Friends in the Light.

21:07:06 Earthcare Committee and the Called Committee on the Urgent Call to Loving Action for Earth and her inhabitants

~Ruah Swennerfelt reports these committees have discussed with Fellowship the summer picnic at the Champlain Maritime Museum, where the 'Water Is Life' display is featured. Appreciation goes to Dick Cuyler for coordinating this event.

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~Fran Putnam described substantial progress toward the funds for solar panels for the Clemmons Family Farm by Middlebury Friends.

~Fran Putnam shared the letter from the Interfaith Climate Action Network in support of the Clemmons Family Farm, published in the Addison Independent July 15, 2021. Ongoing issues of racial and gender discrimination documented in the report by the Human Rights Commission are deeply troubling to Friends. There was agreement that the Co-clerks join in sending this letter to Clemmons Family Farm.

21:07:07 Technology Committee (Ad Hoc Committee on Meeting in Person\ via Zoom)

To date, approximately \$450 in new equipment is in use. Included are a microphone and cable for augmenting auditory transmission. Committee members are communicating with Comcast representatives to achieve the best results. Total expenditures remain well below the estimated maximum of \$700.

This learning process is ongoing, requiring adaptability, good humor, and patience.

Abundant appreciation to the members of this committee from all!

21:07:08 Worship and Study

~Comments regarding our earliest hybrid gatherings were noted, and the committee continues to welcome comments and ideas.

~It has been observed that at times the 1-1/4 hours allotted for Meeting for Business has seemed inadequate for careful consideration of agenda items. The committee has sent Friends a survey regarding preferences about this, and will send it again for those who might have missed replying earlier. The Co-clerks will discuss.

~The Friendly Forum gatherings will resume in the fall.

21:07:09 Children's Program

Lianna Tennial reported First Day School is meeting Sundays at 9:00 via Zoom, with the exception of the week of Meeting for Business. This format is expected to continue into the school year. Other adults sometimes join and their presence is welcome; anyone interested is requested to communicate with Lianna.

Discussion followed about how a Sunday morning visitor to Havurah House with a child(ren) might be both welcomed and accommodated. Friends agreed that although this may be of low probability, having a volunteer signed up to spend time with children is wise.

21:07:10 Committee on Right Relationship with Native People

The committee has met four times (via Zoom). Two Friendly forums have been held.

The committee continues building a resource collection ~hard copy and electronic~ on Abenaki history, issues and news. This is expected eventually to include the wider

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topic of Native American history, as well as Quaker/Native American relations.

The committee members anticipate continuing to build relationships with local Abenaki people. They invite Friends to advise them of relevant ideas, relationships, and actions already existing, or under consideration to help Friends toward this ideal.

In considering the NEYM proposed apology, both this committee and Middlebury Friends strongly concur with the concept. Finding wording that approximates our collective vision has proven to be a daunting task, one which requires discernment and care.

21:07:11 Closing Worship

This gathering 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 Scale
mrs.scale@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 (538-1005)
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@shorcham.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