



WFM NEWSLETTER

October 2021

Worcester Friends Meeting (Religious Society of Friends)

901 Pleasant St. Worcester, MA 01602

508-754-3887

WFM acknowledges that our Meetinghouse sits on the traditional territory of the Nipmuc Nation.

www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org

WFM Meetinghouse is OPEN. Friends once again are welcome to gather in the Meeting Room. We ask that Friends wear masks while worshipping indoors. This allows all to gather equitably regardless of vaccination status. The Meeting will provide masks for those who do not bring their own. Zoom worship will continue for those unable to come to the Meetinghouse. Spiritual Life continues to work on a final plan to smoothly join those meeting on Zoom and those meeting in person. All are invited to join as comfortable especially at 11:45 am for announcements and introductions.

*We gather in silence so ask that attenders enter worship muted; please unmute your microphone only when speaking.

Meeting for Worship 11:00 am Zoom link:

For computers and tablets:

<https://zoom.us/j/93581663579?pwd=eDFxUjVvL2lIISTi2NkxsZWlFUTE0QT09>

Meeting ID: 935 8166 3579 Passcode: 661048

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is held on the second Sunday of the month at 9:00 am. Please contact Daron at daronbarnard@yahoo.com with items for Business.

Zoom Link for Business Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92774446613?pwd=M2lYeWJjZVpqTHB4bTJNdWRyRnlhZz09>

Meeting ID: 927 7444 6613 Passcode: 253544

Christ Centered Worship meets via Zoom on **Saturday Mornings at 11:00 am.**

<https://holycross.zoom.us/j/97240144131?pwd=V096eTVVN2loN2dUOWFLRVlBYnpaQT09>

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 972 4014 4131 Passcode: Friendly

October Meeting for Business Minutes

10/10/2021

Present: Daron Barnard-as Clerk, Matt Shorten-as Recording Clerk, Marcel Laflamme, Richard Schmitt, Lucy Candib, Mike Snell, Jim Gleaton, Mike Mallory, Karen Sargent, Mary Chenaille, Aaron Sakulich, Tom Brenner.

The Meeting opened with a period of silent worship and reading on how Way is revealed.

An excerpt from a letter by Bruce Neumann, Presiding Clerk was shared regarding how to approach Meeting for Worship with the intention of doing business. He stressed the importance of preparation beforehand, expectation of the Divine, and the significance of the waiting aspect of worship. He reminded us about leaving time between messages.

Cemetery

We continue to have chronic concerns about disrespectful behavior regarding the Leicester Cemetery. The Worcester Telegram published an article referring to the “spooky” legends of “Spider Gates”, and a local brewery has issued a beer using the likeness of the cemetery gates with a ghoulish figure hovering over. Both promote unwanted paranormal interest in the gates. Al Southwick’s grandson has expressed his displeasure with these promotions. Daron will make further attempts to communicate our opposition to these promotions, trying to dissuade them from future disrespectful action. We will also offer an invitation to both to attend a meeting with us.

The meeting has unity in agreement with a recommendation from the Practical Committee in deciding to remove the gates indefinitely, and store them safely.

Upon this removal, we will notify the Leicester Historical Commission and the Leicester Police. We will also post a sign informing visitors of our action, in hopes of avoiding unnecessary concern.

We will also try to get the “Spider Gates” reference removed from both Google and Google Maps.

Faith and Practice Revision

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee continues their work on proposed text for the chapter on Ministry and Counsel. They seek comments and feedback by February. The Clerk will share text with our Spiritual Life Committee. See links on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Quarterly Meeting

Next week is the Quarterly Meeting. We will gather for our weekly Worcester Meeting for Worship at 11:00 per usual, both in person and on Zoom. We will also post information about the Quarterly Meeting worship at 10:30 and Business Meeting at 12:15 Zoom links. It is recommended that those wanting to participate in Quarterly do so remotely rather than at the Meetinghouse.

We will host the next Quarterly Meeting in Worcester in March, 2022.

Friends United Meeting Funds

A new Minute from Permanent Board invokes a new policy and funding path regarding contributions from Monthly Meetings to Friends United Meeting. NEYM will now allow contributions being withheld from FUM to be redirected to a newly formed Bayard Rustin Fund for LGBTQ support. Worcester will implement this approach by increasing our allocation to NEYM.

To quote the Permanent Board: “As expressed in NEYM Minute 2021-79, these funds will be distributed annually to organizations working for the well-being of LGBTQIA+ individuals, including Friends.

The Accounts Manager will subtract from NEYM’s annual remission to FUM the total amount diverted to the Bayard Rustin Fund.”

Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer had no major issues to report.

We did receive a payment of \$1,000. from the Karate class.

Aaron paid half the seasonal payment to Carlos for snowplowing.

Market Day showed a profit of \$800.

Practical Committee

A rear neighbor will cut down 2 small trees on our boundary, with our approval.

Some dissatisfaction was expressed with the work done last year on snow removal.

The heating system problems are being addressed, including the replacement of several old radiators on the upper floors.

NEYM tenants are pleased with the rug removals in their offices. We will be painting their floors at some future time.

Computer replacement will be handled by the committee. We empowered them to purchase a new laptop, trusting their discretion.

The Meeting closed with a transition to worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Shorten

Please join us for **Quaker Basics** on **Monday, October 25, at 7 pm.** on Zoom. Kathy Boger will be on the panel for the event and the topic is "On Becoming a Friend". Quaker Basics is a monthly outreach and adult education program run by Friends Meeting of Cambridge. Every month a panel of 2 to 3 Meeting members of diverse faiths and backgrounds provide their perspective on a chosen topic and then participants join a smaller breakout group for lively discussion and Q & A. "This program is especially aimed at newcomers, but long time Friends who wish to reflect with a beginner's mind.." are also welcome! There is no cost to participate, but you need to register to get the Zoom link. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quaker-basics-how-do-we-become-friends-registration-178832752577>

Friendly Bible Study continues on **Wednesdays 9am-10am** via Zoom. Please contact mjchenaille@yahoo.com for more information.
<https://zoom.us/j/92882109409?pwd=V3VkREtfcVZQVkJ5OHVkdVhNVA0JSQT09>
Meeting ID: 928 8210 9409
Passcode: 195368

Facing Race Book Group will meet on **October 29, 2021 at 7:30 pm** via Zoom. This month's book is *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead. More info through Imcandib@gmail.com.

Center for Nonviolent Solutions News: Walking Tour of Worcester's Peace History Sunday, October 24 at 2:00 p.m. Start point is Lincoln Square. Come learn about the strategic peace of Massasoit, Great Sachem of the Wampanoag peoples. Listen to a dramatic re-telling of the nonviolent rebellion of 1774 and hear the speeches of the abolitionists. Worcester's past is exceptionally rich in examples of nonviolence, all give inspiration for the work of building peace in our present day. This 1.5 hour tour traverses Main Street from Lincoln Square to City Hall. Parking available in lot across from the old Worcester Auditorium. There is no charge for the tour but contributions are welcome. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Annual Michael True Lecture Celebrates the work of Dr. Ira Helfand and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.
[Register here](#)

The global movement to abolish nuclear weapons is growing! Join us for a screening of *The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons*, Alvaro Orus' excellent documentary about the grassroots initiative that produced the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Discussion with Dr. Ira Helfand, who is featured in the film, to follow.

Dr. Helfand is a member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The former president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, he is a leading voice on the humanitarian impact and medical consequences of nuclear weapons. Educated at Harvard College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he recently retired from his practice as an internist and urgent care physician in Springfield, MA.

Center for Nonviolent Solutions Seeks Board Members and Opportunities to share Peace Resources

The Center is looking to expand its circle of dedicated board members. All sorts of skills and professions are welcome and needed, the most essential being a passion for building nonviolent communities. Hanging out with peace-builders can help mitigate feelings of powerlessness or despair for the future.

If your classroom or workplace need resources or a workshop on peace-building, contact us. We can provide:

- Books and films about nonviolent social movements
- Children's Stories about Peace
- Cooperative Games
- Hand-outs on the Dynamics of Conflict, Active Listening, De-Escalation, Peer Mediation, and much more.

For more information, please contact us at inquiry@nonviolentsolutions.org

From NEYM:

In October 2021 the Yearly Meeting office emailed the **draft chapter on Ministry & Counsel with a cover letter** explaining the feedback we need from meetings. The link for those documents are posted below; *every Friend is invited to download and read the chapter and participate in the discernment:*

[process.https://neym.org/texts-currently-under-discussion](https://neym.org/texts-currently-under-discussion)

Recurring NEYM virtual events:

- Daily at 8 a.m., Beacon Hill Friends House: [Meditation practice](#)
- Alternate Thursdays at 4 p.m., Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): [Thursdays with Friends](#)
- Thursdays at 7 p.m.: [Taizé worship](#)
- Thursdays at 8 p.m.: [Parents' Tea-and-Chat](#)

- **Upcoming NEYM events, with links, are listed below:**
- Oct 12: [Check-in for Local Meeting Leadership](#)
- Oct 6, 13, 27: [Discussion: A Better Future for Israelis & Palestinians](#)
- Oct 17: [Weed Memorial Lecture with Sarah Gant](#)
- Oct 22–24: [Junior High YM Retreat](#)
- Oct 23: [Best Practices for Quaker Meeting Clerks](#)
- Oct 23: [Young Friends Fall Day Retreat](#)
- Nov 1: [Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times](#)
- Nov 5–7: [Junior YM Retreat](#)
- Nov 6: [Permanent Board](#)
- Nov 9: [Check-in for Local Meeting Leadership](#)
- Nov 10: [Board of Managers](#)
- Nov 13: [Spiritual Life and Ministry Gathering](#)
- Nov 19–21: [Connecting Locally: A Hybrid Retreat for Teens](#)

Join experienced NEYM clerks on **October 23** for a 3-hour online workshop from **9:00 am to noon**, exploring *Best Practices for Quaker Meeting Clerks*, facilitated by Daron Barnard (Worcester), Morgan Wilson (Framingham) and Nia Thomas (Northampton). In our time together, we will explore both spiritual and practical aspects of serving as clerk of your meeting, quarter, or other Friends body. Read more and register [here](#).

Support for Addressing Racial Justice for Quakers

In Quaker meetings across New England, we are building our capacity to understand and address white supremacy culture and its impact within our meetings. Whether your meeting is wondering where to begin or is deeply engaged in building your capacity to work towards dismantling racism, how are you led to nurture your meeting?

These drop-in sessions will be an experimental and emergent time for sharing and mutual support. There will be opportunity for some combination of worship sharing, conversation, and/or short clearness processes to test out ideas.

L J Boswell, who will facilitate this series, has funding through the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund to support Quakers in New England doing anti-racist work.

Read more from LJ and from participants [here](#).

The next session will be October 18. Register for single or multiple sessions [here](#).

Registration for Friends Camp Summer 2022

will open on Saturday, November 6

This coming summer we are returning to our session model of 4 two-week sessions. [Visit our website](#) on **November 6th** to be the first to register.

If you have questions about which session is right for your camper, email us at director@friendscamp.org or call us at (207) 877-4302.

In summer 2021, we learned a lot: how to eat outside even in questionable weather, how to feel connected in small and large groups, how to sing Loch Lomond while wearing a mask, and how to take care of ourselves and each other. One important way we took care of our staff in 2021 was to have more rest time in between sessions. You may notice that in the session dates for 2022, all sessions end on a Friday rather than a Saturday, as they did pre-2020. We learned from this past summer that having a bit more time to breathe between sessions is essential for the well-being of our staff. One more good night's sleep leads to more enthusiastic, centered, and capable camp counselors. We appreciate your understanding as we make this change for the betterment of everyone at camp!

Friends Camp 2022 Sessions

Session	Ages	Dates
Jones	7-12	Sun, June 26 - Fri, July 8
Jones Week One	7-12	Sun, June 26 - Fri, July 1
Jones Week Two	7-12	Sun, July 3 - Fri, July 8
Rising Leaders	17	Sun, June 26 - Fri, July 8
Mott	10-13	Sun, July 10 - Fri, July 22
Rustin	13-17	Sun, July 24 - Fri, August 5
Fell	13-17	Sun, August 7 - Fri, August 19

Stephen Aldrich Fund

The impact of contemporary economic change and the need of individuals and families is all around us. We sense the need, but often ask, "What can I do?"

Much as we ask this question today, Stephen Aldrich asked and responded in the 1800's by bequeathing a large portion of his estate to the [RI-Smithfield] Quarterly Meeting to provide emergency funding for Friends in need. This bequeath continues today as the Stephen Aldrich Fund and is available to all members of the Meeting community seeking one-time emergency financial assistance.

Individuals needing assistance or those who would like further information regarding the Fund should contact our Meeting's representative, Paul Gallagher. All contact is held strictly in confidence.

Scheduled Meetings

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Second Sunday, 9AM

Spiritual Life Committee-Tom Brenner

Third Sunday, 9:30 AM

Practical Committee-Karen Sargent

First Sunday, 9:30 AM

Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach-Lucy

Candib & Richard Schmitt

Fourth Sunday, 9:30 AM

Clerk of Worcester Friends Meeting-Daron

Barnard

Recording Clerk-Katharine Barnard

Corresponding Clerk-Mary Chenaille

First Day School-Michelle Flint, Matt Shorten

Newsletter-Sheila Brenner

Please send general correspondence to

info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org.

Donations are appreciated and can be mailed to

Worcester Friends Meeting

901 Pleasant St.

Worcester, MA 01602.