

THE GAZETTE

"a news-sheet, a periodical publication giving an account of current events"

West Falmouth Religious Society of Friends

DECEMBER 2020



From the Gospel According to Luke 2: 8-14

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!"

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Merry Christmas!



Officers

Fran Lightsom, clerk
(508-548-9186;
fran.lightsom@gmail.com)
Molly Cornell, recording clerk
Clyde Tyndale, treasurer

Regular Events

Adult Discussion Group
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Peace and Social Order
2nd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.
Larry Jordan, convener

Growth and Learning
3rd Sunday at 12:00 p.m.
Sunny Davidson, convener

Empathy Practice (NVC)
Usually 1st Saturday 9:30–11:45
Brenda Nolan, convener

Restorative Circle Practice
Usually 1st Saturday 1:00-3:00
Brenda Nolan, convener

Ministry & Counsel
Deborah Bradley, convener
(508-564-4744)
Carolyne Jordan
Sunny Davidson
Larry Jordan
Cynthia Rankin
Abigail Young

**West Falmouth Meeting for
Worship with Attention to
Business**
Usually 4th Sunday
(December 27, January 24)

Upcoming Events

New England Yearly Meeting

**Beacon Hill Friends House – Simple Morning
Meditation Practice** – Held via Zoom **Monday through
Friday** from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. The meditation is 15
minutes long, and begins and ends with a brief
introduction to the practice. Orientation for newcomers
begins at 8:00 a.m. and practice begins at 8:10. Join
once or join regularly! The meditation is free and open
to the public. See
[https://bhfh.org/virtualprograms/simple-morning-
meditation-practice-5/](https://bhfh.org/virtualprograms/simple-morning-meditation-practice-5/).

Beacon Hill Friends House --Responding to the Call: Healing from the sin of separation.

A multi-part course run from January 12 - February 23.
The sin of separation – separation from each other,
from creation, from our own humanity, from whom
God calls us to be – is at the root of the interconnected
social, ecological, and spiritual injustices we are living in
right now. To truly interrupt and address white
supremacy, the climate crisis, and the ongoing harm of
settler-colonialism, we must do the work of healing and
realign our lives into right relationship.

Responding to the Call is a two-month long, weekly
workshop to do this critical work of climate justice,
dismantling white supremacy, and beginning
reparations. We will meet every other week in a whole
group Zoom session, with alternating weeks dedicated
to ongoing small groups. As the work of systems
transformation – both the societal systems we engage
with daily and ourselves as systems of change – is not
purely academic, this workshop will use somatic and
Quaker spiritual practices along with discussions,
readings, and videos.

Participants are encouraged to sign-up with area
f/Friends so their small group work can be locally
grounded. Pending enough registrations, we will also
have a small group option dedicated for BIPOC
participants. <https://bhfh.org/responding-to-the-call/>.

Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM) Retreat – Middle-school youth (grades 6 – 8) are invited to join us for a virtual retreat, over the **December 4 – 6** weekend. For more information and to register see <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2020/12/jhym-retreat-zoom>.

Young Friends -- Closing out the fall season with reflection and fun. High-school youth are invited to come together to close out our fall program season. Saturday, **December 12**, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You are invited to bring a song, poem, or piece of art (original or not) that you find helpful or inspiring in thinking about change. For further information and the Zoom link to attend see <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2020/12/young-friends-celebration-virtual>.

Walking with the Bible— Cosponsored by Woolman Hill and Beacon Hill Friends House, the *final session* of this monthly series of Bible hours will take place Sunday, **December 6** from 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. At this time Peter Blood-Patterson will welcome Colin Saxton as guest leader. All are welcome regardless of previous experience with the Bible! See <https://donorbox.org/walking-with-the-bible> for further information and to register.

West Falmouth

Weekly Sunday Worship continues to be held via Zoom. We invite Friends from Yarmouth and East Sandwich to join us. An e-mail with the specifics on connecting to this virtual format will be sent a day or so before. The Zoom meeting opens at 9:30 a.m. Starting at 9:50, we settle into worship.

Quaker Women – We are meeting weekly via Zoom on **Thursdays** at 7 p.m.

Also of Interest

Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story – See this very interesting PBS documentary on the life and work of Howard Thurman at <https://www.pbs.org/video/backs-against-the-wall-the-howard-thurman-story-cgv9gi/>.

Weekly Taizé service. Thursday evenings in **November** (5, 12, 19, 26) at 7:00 p.m. This is a style of worship that comes out of an ecumenical monastic order in central France with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The service will include recorded chants, spoken prayers and readings, and about twenty minutes of traditional Quaker silent waiting worship. See <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2020/10/weekly-taize-service-online>.





Radical Acting in Faith for White People – E-Course. Engage in deep, embodied learning and practice with other white people of faith working to end white supremacy. We will build the skills to show up fully, follow BIPOC leadership, speak effectively, and engage in direct action. Join Lucy Duncan, Lisa Graustein, and Mila Hamilton in sessions codesigned by Shanene Herbert and Sharon Goens-Bradley and prepare to take meaningful risks in the struggle for racial justice. Participants are required to do work between core sessions including highly recommended small group gatherings. See <https://www.afsc.org/radicalaif>.

How to Intervene if Someone is Being Harassed: Bystander Intervention Do's and Don'ts.

Have you ever wondered what you should do if you witness public instances of racist, anti-Muslim or other forms of interpersonal violence or harassment? With white supremacist violence on

the rise, it is more important than ever that we know how to keep each other safe. Learn some do's and don'ts of bystander intervention to help you to assess how to intervene while considering the safety of everyone involved. See <https://www.afsc.org/bystanderintervention>.



FCNL Virtual Events –

Witness Wednesdays, Silent reflection, together, in community:

December 2, 9, 16 at 5:15 p.m. Registration required. See <https://act.fcnl.org/event/witness-wednesday-virtual-events/search>

Thursdays with Friends, Biweekly Conversation Series, 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.:

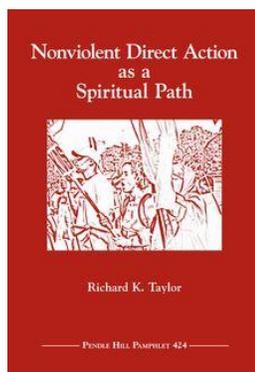
December 3 – Faith-based Advocacy Matters. For decades, activists from various faith groups have been lobbying congress, especially on issues of peace and justice. With our country's changing demographics, can they still be effective in shaping Congressional actions on such issues as immigration and economic justice? Register at https://act.fcnl.org/event/thursdays_with_friends_attend/1827.

December 17 – A Season of Peace. Reviewing what we did to promote peace in 2020 and laying the groundwork for a new a season of peace in 2021. Register at https://act.fcni.org/event/thursdays_with_friends-attend/1828.

Pendle Hill Events --

Daily worship via Zoom from 8:30 – 9:10 a.m. See <https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/>.

First Monday Lecture with Erva Baden: Healing Ancestral Trauma: What is Epigenetics and Why Does It Matter? Monday, December 7, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. via Zoom. Free and open to the public, but registration required. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/healing-ancestral-trauma-what-is-epigenetics-and-why-does-it-matter/>.



New! Online Reading Group – This monthly online reading group, free and open to all, will focus on a mix of Pendle Hill Pamphlets and other Quaker materials. Each month we will consider queries about the reading in a spirit of worship-sharing. In December, we will read Richard Taylor’s 2013 Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Nonviolent Direct Action as a Spiritual Path*. Wednesday, **December 9** from 6:30 -- 8:00 p.m. via Zoom with Janaki Spickard Keeler. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/pendle-hills-reading-group-december/>.

Opening to the Heart of Worship. A weekend workshop via Zoom with Christopher Sammond, Friday, **December 4** at 7:30 p.m. – Sunday **December 6** at 12:00 p.m. For more information and to register see <https://pendlehill.org/events/opening-to-the-heart-of-worship/>

What Love Requires: Heart-Opening Practices for Mindful Awareness, Peace, and Compassionate Action. A New Year’s Retreat Online with Valerie Brown, Monday, **December 28** – Wednesday, **December 30**. Three 90-minute sessions, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., each day. Limit 20, registration deadline December 20, 2020. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/what-love-requires-heart-opening-practices-for-mindful-awareness-peace-and-compassionate-action/>.



The Creative World of Beethoven. A New Year’s Musical Retreat Online with Karl Middleman Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Beethoven’s Birth, Monday, **December 28** – Wednesday, **December 30**. Three 90-minute sessions, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., each day. Registration deadline December 20. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/the-creative-world-of-beethoven/>.

A Musical Celebration! Join us for an evening of musical delights hosted by Maestro Karl Middleman, **December 30**, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Free and open to the public! Registration required. Deadline for registration is December 20. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/a-musical-celebration-2020/>

Candle Light Meeting for Worship with Care to the New Year. Thursday, **December 31**, 11:00 p.m. – midnight. Take time to reflect and pray at the close of 2020. Free and open to the public! Registration required. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/candle-light-meeting-for-worship-with-care-to-the-new-year/>.

Death of Louise Luckenbill

Friends were saddened to learn of the recent death of Louise Luckenbill who died the morning of November 17 at her home at Kendall at Oberlin, Ohio. Louise’s many contributions to our meeting will be missed. Friends will remember Louise’s 2019 summer art exhibit, *Let’s Take a Trip on the Train*, in which she shared happy memories of her cross-country train travel. Memorial meeting time and date to be announced. Louise’s stepdaughter, Christine Chastain, would welcome hearing from any of Louise’s friends. chastain.christine@gmail.com



Sky Over Marsh (Central Massachusetts, October, 2016), one of Louise’s paintings from her Falmouth exhibit, *Let’s Take a Trip on the Train*.

News of Friends

The Falmouth Enterprise recently acknowledged **Joyce Johnson's** long history as a peace activist. On November 7, the local group, Move to Remove, met for the 168th consecutive Saturday, this time to celebrate President Donald J. Trump being voted out of office. Organizers Paul Rifkin and Peter Waasdorp, who began Move to Remove in August 2017, cited Joyce as the group's mentor. A week later, in a letter to the editor written on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, Jonathan Goldman, a member of Move to Remove, wrote of the legacy he carries "from [his] beacons of guidance" among them, "local hero Joyce Johnson who for more than 30 years stood out for Peace over War."

Hennessy, L. (2020, November 13). Political Group, Move to Remove, Meets for the Last Time. *The Falmouth Enterprise*, p.9.

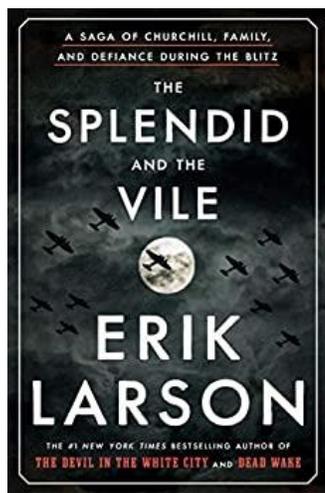
Goldman, J. (2020, November 20). Acts of Healing. *The Falmouth Enterprise*, p.5.



Gail Melix of East Sandwich Preparative Meeting recently delivered a plenary presentation entitled "View from the Shore/Thanksgiving" at the virtual program, *Looking Deeply at Thanksgiving*. Cosponsored by Beacon Hill House, the 400 Years Project and the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, the event drew over two hundred attendees and raised over \$3500 for the Native Land Conservancy. (See <http://www.nativelandconservancy.org/about-nlc.html>.) Post-event video and transcripts can be found at <https://bhfh.org/2020/11/23/looking-deeply-at-thanksgiving-resources/>. For additional resources on Thanksgiving, decolonization and reparations, visit <https://interfaithamherst.org/400-years-thanksgiving>.

What We're Reading

Len Kreidermacher: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson.



There are numerous Churchill biographies and histories of World War II. This book focuses on the first year of Churchill's term as Prime Minister from 10 May 1940 to 11 May 1941. A little less than a year before Churchill's first term began Nazi Germany invaded Poland (1 September 1939) which led to France and England declaring war on Germany because of a treaty. Poland surrendered within five weeks. Germany invaded France on 10 May 1940, the same day Winston Churchill became Prime Minister. France surrendered a month and a half later. The Battle of Britain in which Germany launched bombing raids on London and other cities began on 7 September 1940 and lasted until 11 May 1941. Germany invaded Russia on 22 June 1941.

Most of the book is set in London and shows Churchill's deservedly esteemed leadership as a wartime Prime Minister. England suffered forty thousand

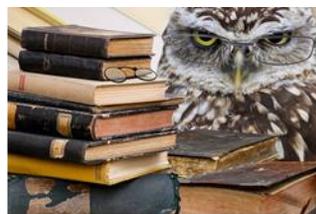
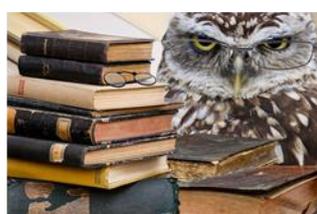
civilian deaths during the eight months of the Battle of Britain, about half of which were in London. Mary Churchill, the youngest child of the Churchills was eighteen at the time and attended dances and parties along with other young Londoners while the bombs fell. Winston and Clementine had five children. They relied on nannies, servants, and boarding schools to help raise their children. Clementine was one of Winston's most important advisors. When Mary at eighteen received a proposal from a suitor and was on the verge of accepting, Clementine asked a friend of the family to talk to Mary. Both parents wanted Mary to turn down the proposal. The friend told Mary not to marry a suitor just because he wanted to marry her, but to wait until she wanted to marry the suitor. She waited.

Several of the chapters are set in Berlin and focus on the Nazi strategy. The Nazis expected England to surrender to stop the slaughter and destruction from the bombing. Churchill was able to keep British morale up, however, and the bombing had an effect opposite to what Hitler and his generals anticipated. Because the Nazis had overwhelmed both Poland and France in about six weeks, they expected Britain to surrender within a few months. They thought England would dismiss Churchill since it should be clear that they would eventually lose and the sooner they gave up the less would be the destruction and the loss of lives. Germany's leaders were hubristic because of their early successes. They stopped their intensive bombing of England in May to prepare to invade Russia in June.

A number of the chapters take place in Washington and show the challenges Roosevelt had to overcome to assist England as much as he could. The United States Congress had a majority of representatives and senators who strongly believed in staying neutral because they believed they had been misled in World War I; that the reason that the United States had entered the war on the English and French side was because the United States banks had loaned money to them and needed them to win so they would not lose their loans. Roosevelt and his aides were very innovative in putting in place efforts such as lend lease and extending the area that the American fleet would protect cargo ships supplying England.

Erik Larson has written eight history books. I have read most of them. Although the reader may be quite familiar with the period and the subject of the book, the author provides so much information in such a way that the reader's interest is captured. He includes many interesting details that make his characters come alive and make the reader care about the good guys and understand how and why people did what they did. For example, Mary Churchill and her peers danced and partied during the blitz, just as during the present pandemic, young people have a strong need to be together, have fun, and enjoy life.

Larson, E. *The Splendid and the Vile*. New York, NY: Crown, 2020.





**Next Gazette Deadline
Sunday, December 20**

*The Gazette is a publication of West Falmouth Preparative Meeting
Rita O'Donnell, Editor; Alta Mae Stevens, Editor Emerita;
Stephen Gates, Photographer; Brenda Nolan, Transmitter*



