

Middlebury Friends Meeting

May
2022

Inside:

Calendar of Events

Minutes of May 15, 2022



APRIL 2022

QUAKER CALENDER OF EVENTS

Every First Day (Sunday)	9–9:45 AM	First Day School
	10 AM	Meeting for Worship
		(Hybrid format) If you need the Zoom link, contact Ed at edmund.m.harris@gmail.com
May 26	4:00 PM	Ramblings
June 4-5		NWQM, hosted by MFM (Online only)
June 6	9:30 AM	Worship & Study Committee Meeting (Online)
June 9		Ramblings
June 11	1:00 PM	Memorial gathering honoring Ruth Barenbaum, Ripton Community Church
June 12	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business (Hybrid format)
June 13		Earthcare Committee
June 16		Ramblings
June 18		Juneteenth at Clemmons Family Farm
June 18–19		Abenaki Heritage at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
June 23		Ramblings
June 25–28		Quaker Spring Summer Retreat (see QuakerSpring.com)
June 26	8:30 AM	Combined Meeting of Ministry and Counsel Committees (Hybrid format)
June 30		Ramblings
July 24	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business (Hybrid format)
July 25-28		NEYM Spring Summer Retreat
Aug. 6-11		NEYM Sessions at Castleton University

“Where flowers bloom,
so does hope.”

— LADY BIRD JOHNSON

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



FERRISBURGH GRANGE #539 INDUCTED DON PEABODY AS MASTER
(AKA PRESIDENT) ON MAY 14TH, 2022.

SAS CAREY’S LATEST SHORT FILM, GOBI CHILDREN’S SONG, PREMIERED AT DOXA FILM FESTIVAL IN VANCOUVER, BC THIS MONTH AND SHE WAS ABLE TO BE THERE FOR THE Q&A. THE AUDIENCE WAS VERY RECEPTIVE AND HAD GREAT QUESTIONS AT BOTH SCREENINGS. THE MOVIE IS ABOUT THE LIFE OF NARAA’S FAMILY. MANY OF YOU MET HER AND HER MOTHER ORKHON WHEN NARAA WAS HERE GETTING SCAR TREATMENT AT SHRINERS IN BOSTON.

FROM SHULAMITH:

I AM PLEASED TO TELL EVERYONE THAT BARCLAY PRESS WILL PUBLISH MY BOOK, GOOD NIGHT / INTERFAITH PRAYERS & MEDITATIONS BEFORE SLEEP. IT ALSO INCLUDES SECULAR WRITINGS, VISUAL ART, AND FOUR FORMS OF THE PRACTICE OF EXAMEN. THESE THINGS TAKE A LONG TIME, SO IT WILL BE LATE SUMMER OR AUTUMN OF 2023 BEFORE IT COMES OUT.

FROM FAITH:

ALTHO I WILL BE IN WILLIAMSVILLE, NY AFTER MAY 27TH, I WILL STILL ZOOM OUR WONDERFUL MEETING. MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

FAITH LOWELL
735 RENAISSANCE DRIVE, APT. K208
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

Middlebury Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
15 May 2022 (Hybrid format)

Clerking: Karen Way

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present: Karen Way, Ruah Swennerfelt, Doug Way, Laura Asermily, Tom Baskett, Fran Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, Spence Putnam, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Louis Cox, Lianna Tennal, Leigh Harder, Molly Anderson, John Cook, and Grace Seale

22:05:01 Opening Worship and Reading

Friends settled into silence.

Karen Way read from Isaiah 40:28:

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

22:05:02 Agenda Review

The agenda was reviewed and appreciation expressed for timely reports from committees.

22:05:03 Co-Clerks Report

~Havurah House has had the rug cleaned (which looks great). After conversation, Friends agreed to contribute \$100 toward this expense.
~Volunteers are still needed for hosting and greeting. After discussion it was decided that Fellowship Committee will assume the role of securing volunteers. There was discussion of possible need for repeated training for those who would be willing but do not yet have the tech skills for Zoom hosting.
~The Clerks reminded us that Worship begins at the cloakroom door.
~Meeting formats, both hybrid and in-person, were again discussed. Friends remain concerned about COVID and also about those who are not able to attend in person under any conditions. Friends concur that continuing to gather both in person using masks and via Zoom

should continue. This will again be considered at our next Meeting for Business.

22:05:04 Plans for NW Quarterly Meeting, June 4-5, 2022

Northwest Quarterly Meeting will be held the weekend of June 4 and 5, hosted by MFM. The whole event will be on Zoom. On Saturday, June 4 there will be two “Kaffee Klatches” where people can gather to chat, hosted by the Interim Committee. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join us in a wandering open discussion of where the Spirit finds us. If you’re inclined, bring something to share—a poem, song, little story, art, etc... anything that touches your heart and/or your funny bone. (Zoom link to follow)

8:00-9:00am

7:00-8:30pm

On Sunday, June 5 the day begins with an 8:30 program, entitled “Gardening with Nature: Creating Backyard Habitats and Pollinator Friendly Communities.” It will feature a brief explanation of the “Call,” how we are responding to it, and how one member of Middlebury Friends Meeting has chosen to care for and honor the Earth through gardening. We will introduce our work helping create the Pollinator Pathway of Addison County and encourage others to think about creating their own local pollinator pathway efforts.

10:00am worship will be all online, no in-person worship at Havurah House.

1:30 pm Meeting for Business

22:05:05 Report from Called Committee

Report from Ruah Swennerfelt:

The Called Committee to Urgent, Loving Action for the Earth and her Inhabitants met for the last time on May 11, to tie up loose ends and to lay down the ad hoc committee one year after its first meeting. Our final action will be to present a reprisal of the Gardening with Nature program at NWQM on June 5.

We will send out word to MFM inviting them to request a garden visit with one of several Friendly gardeners who have agreed to give a tour and discuss pollinator gardening.

Ruah has sent reports to, and received responses from, the NEYM Racial, Social and Economic Justice and the Earthcare Ministry Committees, and the presiding clerk of YM sessions. She will let MFM know if there is a request from YM for a sharing of our committee work at YM Business Sessions at Castleton University.

We ended by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to work together, and to Fran Putnam for bringing us together and leading us through this year of meetings and organizing projects.

22:05:06 Report from Clearness Committee re: New Member

On May 1, 2022, a clearness committee made up of Cheryl Mitchell, Jean Rosenberg and Tom Baskett met with Wendel “Jake” Jacobs following up on Jake’s request to become a recorded member of Middlebury Friends Meeting. Jake explained that he has been a Quaker in spirit for many years, drawn to the quiet manner of worship, the lack of institutional direction which he had experienced growing up as a Catholic, and the essential Quaker values as set forth in the Testimonies. Jake has been attending MFM since 1998 along with his wife Becky, a life-long Quaker, and has participated in many of the Meeting’s social activities. He feels at this time in his life he would like a closer tie with Meeting and becoming a recorded member would provide this.

It was clear to us meeting with Jake that he is confident in his desire, has a solid sense of Quaker values and is prepared to be a responsive member of Meeting. We enthusiastically recommend his request for recorded membership be accepted.

In peace,
Cheryl Mitchell
Jean Rosenberg
Tom Baskett

We approved the recommendation of Pastoral Care to joyfully accept new Friend Wendel “Jake” Jacobs.

We had a conversation about membership; the suggestion was offered that Worship & Study consider offering a Friendly Forum on membership. Full participation in the activity of Middlebury Friends continues to include those who are both members and attenders

22:05:07 Report from Rachel Carey Harper Fund Committee

Tom Baskett reports:

Earlier this month our Meeting received a request from prominent Quaker activist George Lakey to help financially support the production of a documentary film on his life and work (see attachment). This request was forwarded to the Rachel Carey Harper Fund (RCH) committee for action.

The RCH committee met on April 13 to discuss the request. Committee members had viewed the documentary's trailer (website available on the attachment). We were all excited by the trailer which we felt promises a film of high quality, about this charismatic and determined Quaker activist and writer, and is certain to be an inspiration and support to those who share his compelling vision of fairer social and economic societies. Many of us met and listened to George speak when he visited Middlebury about three years ago. We feel our Meeting should contribute to the film's production and that the RCH Fund is an appropriate source as one of its missions is to "Contribute to Quaker programs at the national level that address the prominent challenges of our time. AFSC and FCNL are examples." In addition, the film should contribute to our outreach in Addison County as it can be widely shown.

We recommend to meeting for business the release of \$1,000 from the RCH Fund (which currently stands at \$5,000) to be contributed to the George Lakey Documentary Film Committee. We believe contributing at this level will help the GLDFC convince potential grantors of the grassroots seriousness of this essentially Quaker-inspired project. Of the \$350,000 budget, about \$100,000 has been raised.

After discussion, Friends approve this expenditure, which meets the criteria of the Fund.

22:05:08 Worship & Study Committee

Leigh Harder submitted:

Upcoming W & S meetings:

Monday, 6/6/22 - 9:30 a.m. online

Other Dates:

Business Meeting - 5/15/22 Jean will attend

Query Readers - Leigh Harder, 5/22; Jean Rosenberg, 6/19

Friendly Forum - 5/22/22 - “Tools for the Spiritual Journey, Part 2” - Leigh will facilitate. (Online only)

Quarterly Meeting - Sat. 6/4, Sun. 6/5. (Online only)

Yearly Meeting in Castleton - 8/6-8/11 - in person with some online opportunities

(Opened and closed in silence)

Dates

As listed above

Review of Friendly Forum

Leigh will facilitate this with a focus on Retirement as a way to intentionally set aside one’s busy-ness. This is a continuation of the other Friendly Forum on “Tools for the Spiritual Journey.” Cheryl will reach out to NEYM to see if Leigh can make chapter one on “Personal Practices in Listening for God” from *Listening Spirituality* available to Friends as an auditory text. Friends will be encouraged to bring some examples of helpful texts to this session.

The queries for this will be:

During the last Friendly Forum we discussed some of the tools we have used on our spiritual journey. Today we are going to consider “retirement” as an intentional setting aside of our ordinary life to listen for the still small voice...

- Describe the qualities of “time intentionally set aside to listen for Spirit” that have been helpful for you.
- What texts have you found helpful as you intentionally wait on Spirit?
- Have you ever experienced resistance to such a time of “retirement”? How do you work that out?

Rambling

The first “Rambling” session will be Thursday, 5/19 at Silver Lake. Friends will meet in the parking lot off of Rte. 53. Leigh will send another invitation/reminder to the MFM listserv, as well as a reminder to people who earlier expressed interest in this.

Children’s Programming

Leigh will be the W & S Liaison to Children’s Programming and will reach out to Lianna Tennel to get the date of the next meeting.

Library

Jean is assisting Becky Holmes in the MFM library. Shelves have been available for Earthcare, Pastoral Care and Worship and Study. There are many books in boxes as well as additional boxed material in storage in that room. Jean will check with Havurah to see if things can be moved. Cheryl has more books to share (not to totally give away, but to make available for lending). W & S is in favor of having books such as Listening Spirituality (volumes 1 & 2) available. Jean and Becky are working on an online catalog. Jean has written an article for the newsletter about the library, following below:

The Middlebury Meeting library is reorganized and open for lending out our books and pamphlets. They are shelved by category in the two cupboards on the right as you enter the little room off the foyer, AND also now on the shelves in the left rear corner of the room. The shelf names indicate what kind of books are where. The right-hand cupboard has most of the specifically Quaker books, including Quaker history, biography, and general Quakerism. The left-hand cupboard has various general categories, such as racism, mysticism, etc. The Pendle Hill Pamphlets are in boxes on the lower shelves in the left cupboard, arranged by number. There is an index with them, so you can browse or look up the number if you know the author or title that you want.

The shelves in the back left corner of the room include a shelf of Earthcare books, carefully chosen by the Earthcare committee, and a shelf of songbooks (top). It has shelf sections for Pastoral Care books, Worship & Study books, some children’s books (most are upstairs), oversized books, and “books” written or compiled by members of

Meeting. We encourage you to come in and explore the collection.

The Returns Box, the Greeter Box, and the Newcomer's Box are also on these shelves.

How to borrow (and return) a book

Take out the card from the envelope on the inside back cover of the book. Write in your name and the date (month, day, and year, please) and put it in the little box for the library cards. When you return the book, put it in the labeled RETURNS box on the floor under the shelves in the back left corner, so that the librarians may put the card back in and reshelve it. We do not have a defined time limit on the books, but please try to get them back in a month or so. If you find a book without a card, please give it directly to the librarians.

How to borrow (and return) a pamphlet

The pamphlets do not have cards, so sign out the pamphlet by writing your name and the date (month, day, year) on the list on the clipboard labeled "Pendle Hill Pamphlets." Return the pamphlet by putting it in the RETURNS box on the floor under the shelves in the back left corner.

We have quite a few new books, as well as the old collection. If there is a book you think we should have, please let us know. It is a small collection, but we want it to meet the needs of Middlebury Friends as much as possible.

NEYM

Faith & Practice has a new chapter on marriage that warrants our review. Karen will send this out. This topic will be further discussed at the Yearly Meeting in August. There was further conversation about women's reproductive health issues, specifically abortion.

Perhaps we should propose a minute on this at a Business Meeting related to women's rights to self-determination of their bodies. Discussion was held about the possibility of creating a Committee on Sufferings that would be available to support those involved in helping women get abortions.

MFM should have intentionality around issues of marriage and women's reproductive issues.

This is related to issues of discontinuity discussed earlier. It is important to continue this conversation with others in our community (both MFM and other faith communities).

Interfaith Study

The possibility of Parker Palmer's *The Heart of Democracy* as a basis for an interfaith study is a good one. Jean will reach out to Karen Nawn-Fahey. This should go on our Worship & Study agenda for June.

22:05:09 Fellowship Committee

John Cook submitted:

1. The Fellowship Committee welcomes Grace Seale as a new Committee member and expresses deep gratitude to Dick Cuyler who is ending his time on the Committee.

2. On April 16 the Fellowship Committee joined the First Day School in hosting a "Pet Social" via zoom. Several Friends and their pets attended and had a great time. We met several beautiful pets and heard about a few more who were not able to attend. We ended the Pet Social with consideration of whether the love we feel toward our pets is any different from the love we feel toward humans. We unanimously expressed that they are the same thing; love is love. We hope to have another pet social sometime in the not-too-distant future.

3. The Fellowship Committee is very thankful to Doug Way, Win Colwell, and Ed Harris for their work in reviewing and updating the MFM website. The website now has up-to-date and accurate information, and its operation and management are current. There was a small expenditure related to the update, and the Fellowship Committee trusts the Clerks, Finance Committee, and Tech Committee to double-check that this expenditure was completed and recorded in good order.

4. The Fellowship Committee worked with other committees and Friends in organizing and preparing for the annual Celebration of Life

on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 8. The Celebration was held inside at Havurah House due to concerns for the cold weather. After some silent worship, there was a "drumming circle" with drums and percussion instruments provided. Friends played and sang several songs celebrating motherhood, and mother nature.

5. The Fellowship Committee welcomes thoughts and ideas from all members of the Meeting community about ways we can contribute to Spiritual Hospitality in the Meeting community while remaining sensitive to limitations necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

22:05:10 Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee has been finalizing and implementing the plans for the Barenbaum Family Memorial Meeting on May 15th as requested by the Barenbaum family. All members of the Pastoral Care Committee will be with the family on May 15th and be a Quaker presence. We will then focus our attention on the Meeting's Celebration of Ruth's Life on June 11th, 2022 at 1:00 PM at the Ripton Community Church. The committee has begun work on the 2022 Meeting Directory. Respectfully, the Pastoral Care Committee

22:05:11 Treasurer's Report

All statements in this report are as of May 15, 2022. From April 10, 2022 through May 15, 2022, the Meeting had member donations of \$750. From April 10, 2022 to May 15, 2022, the Meeting expenditures totaled **\$1,257.33**: \$133.33 for First Day School Coordination, \$949 for OWL purchase (arranged by Doug Way); \$175 for Addison Independent Worship Directory Ad. When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be **\$15,676.67**. Current balance of Rachel Carey Harper Funds: \$5,000
Respectfully submitted, Laura Asermily

22:05:12 Finance Committee

NEYM sessions to be held at Castleton University are 'pay as led' this year, and children are welcomed without fee.

22:05:13 Tech Committee Report

Doug Way reported:

We have acquired an Owl Zoom camera/microphone device. It has been successfully tested on the Chromebook that we have been using at Havurah house. There is a problem, however. The Owl works on the Chromebook when connected directly to its single USB port, but does not work when connected to the USB hub. Since we also use the hub connect to the monitor, we cannot use both at once until we resolve the problem. One possible solution is to purchase a computer that has more USB ports or a port that will support a connection to the monitor. The computer repair shop in Middlebury is selling a used Windows laptop for ~\$200 that looks like it will work.

Discussion followed, after which Friends approve this purchase if it is determined to be necessary.

22:05:14 Closing worship

After a time of silence, this meeting concluded.

**“Moonlight floods the whole sky
from horizon to horizon;
How much it can fill your room
depends on its windows.”**

— RUMI



MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING
 Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Maxine Fidler

Co-Clerks

Karen Way (732) 208-7624
 Ruah Swennerfelt (802) 922-2259

Recording Clerk

Jan Grace Seale
 mrs.seale@gmail.com

Treasurer

Laura Asermily
 PO Box 1026
 Middlebury, VT 05753
 388-4894

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! — maxine.fidler@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 (hybrid format)

www.middleburyquakers.org

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to
maxine.fidler@gmail.com