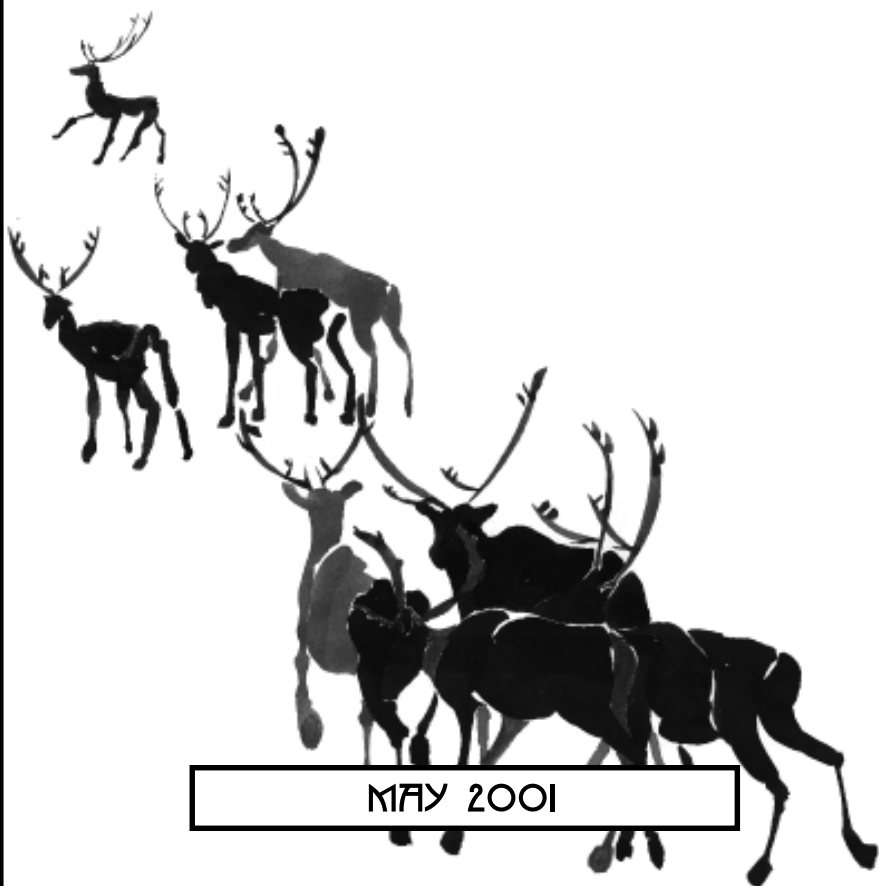


# MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING



MAY 2001

MAY 2001		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		

- Sunday, April 29      9 AM      Adult Discussion on Global Warming, led by Laura Asermily.
- Sunday, April 29      5 PM      A panel, followed by discussion on Global Warming with a Stone Soup Potluck, at the Methodist Church of Middlebury & sponsored by Middlebury Area Clergy & the College's Chaplains Office.
- Monday, April 30      4:30 PM      Talk on Iraqi Sanctions by Abbas Alnasrawi, sponsored by The Committee of Concern for the Iraqi People at the Jones Seminar Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the former Geonomics Institute).
- Tuesday, May 1      Noon      Mid-Week Meeting  
At Eleanor Gibson's, 266 Washington Ave.
- Wednesday, May 2      5 PM      Peace & Social Concerns Committee  
At Ruth Barenbaum's, East Middlebury
- Sunday, May 6      8:30 AM      Ministry & Counsel Meeting
- Sunday, May 6      10 AM      Meeting for Worship & Singing.



# MINUTES, MEETING FOR BUSINESS

APRIL 22, 2001

Co-clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Acting Recording Clerk: Ted Colwell

The meeting started at 11:27AM with a short period of silence, and a reading from the book *Courage to Grow* by Ruth Fawell, a British author. Present were: Jean Rosenberg, Olive and Ted Colwell, Priscilla Baker, Marshall Hoagland, Jerry McBride, Grace Seale, Anais Mitchell, and Cheryl Mitchell.

1. The minutes of the March 18, 2001 Monthly Meeting for Business were approved.
2. Grace Seale reported on the April 8, 2001 meeting of Ministry & Counsel. They welcomed David Tier as a newly appointed member of the committee, and accepted with regret the resignation of Anne Corrigan. There was discussion of the Spiritual Formation Program being proposed at both the Yearly Meeting and the Quarterly Meeting levels. It was felt that a more local program might be preferable for our situation. The committee originally called the Death & Dying Committee has considered changing its name to the End of Earthly Life Committee, but there has been some objections to both these names. Further consideration will be given to the name. This committee consists of Grace Seale, Ruth Barenbaum, Priscilla Baker, and Faith Lowell. Its purpose is to facilitate matters for participants of the meeting in the event of death of a person in the group, including keeping a record of individuals' preferences for arrangements, having available various legal documents, and assisting in any food or housing arrangements for families in mourning.
3. There was a review of Adult Discussions for the coming year, a topic that had been discussed by Ministry & Counsel. It was decided that during the summer months there would be several gatherings to study *The Earth Charter*, and a regular adult discussion on September 23. This latter session will be after a major statewide gathering at Shelburne Farms scheduled for September 9 on the Charter, and which for those attending should provide additional insights into the plan. Jean Rosenberg and Ted Colwell will be shepherding this study program.  
Beginning in October, we will hold monthly adult discussions on the topic "Ministering to One Another," which follows up on our Potluck meeting on March 11 on this same topic.
4. Treasurer Olive Colwell read the following report on the finances:  
In March 2001 our contributions totaled \$445.00 for the month, and the expenses amounted to \$120.00. Included in expenses were payments for costs of printing the Newsletter and postage. For the nine months of our fiscal year we have received

\$6,309.00 from contributions, and our expenditures were \$5,730.85. Our cash balance as of March 31, 2001 was \$2,521.69.

In April so far we have received gifts of \$350.00 and had expenses of \$1,101.27, which covered quarterly contributions to NEYM, NWQM, and three months rent to the Parent/Child Center, plus two videotapes on Iraq. We expect a bill for this month's newsletter. The present cash balance is \$1,770.42.

We approved a payment of \$80.00 to the College Chaplains' Office to cover our share of the costs of the Lecture given by Professor Abbas Alnasrawi of the UVM Department of Economics. The meeting will be at 4:30 PM on April 30 at the Jones Seminary Room (second floor of the former Geonomics Institute). Professor Alnasrawi will be speaking on the sanctions against Iraq. This meeting is sponsored by "The Committee of Concern for the Iraqi People" and involves not only MFM and the Chaplains' Office, but various campus groups including the Islamic Society of Middlebury College, Amnesty International, Maika Simone Peace Project, and the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

5. Anais Mitchell told us about her desire to go with other New England Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends to Cuba, where she would attend Cuban Yearly Meeting and also visit a number of monthly meetings in that country. The trip will take place from August 8 to 15. Anais has met with a Clearness Committee of our meeting, which has enthusiastically approved her participation, and with other groups of NEYM. The meeting gave its wholehearted approval and support to Anais, and authorized the Clerks to prepare an appropriate Letter of Introduction. Also, it was agreed that \$200.00 be given to Anais from the Quaker Camps & Conferences allocation to help cover the estimated \$1,200.00 cost of the trip. We will also make available to Friends an opportunity to individually contribute additional funds to Anais. Furthermore, Anais will report to meeting what medical supplies may be helpful to take with her for the Cuban Friends.

6. The status of the Mid-week Meetings for Worship was discussed, and will be continued at least through May. A decision on meetings during the summer will be discussed at the May Business Meeting.

7. The Annual Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, May 13 at the home of Burt Knopp in Orwell. We selected as the theme for the day *Courage to Grow*. Jerry McBride volunteered to serve as facilitator, and there will be a sign-up sheet for people needed to help Burt to set up and then clean up.

8. We also authorized Grace Seale to write a letter of congratulations to David Moats, Editorial Page Editor of the Rutland Herald, on winning a Pulitzer Prize for his editorials on the Civil Union Bill. David at one time attended our Meeting.

The meeting ended with a silent prayer at 12:47 PM.

## “CIAO, FRIENDS!”

“Ciao” means both good bye and hello, one of the many subtleties in the Italian language that communicates how the interconnections between people are eternal.

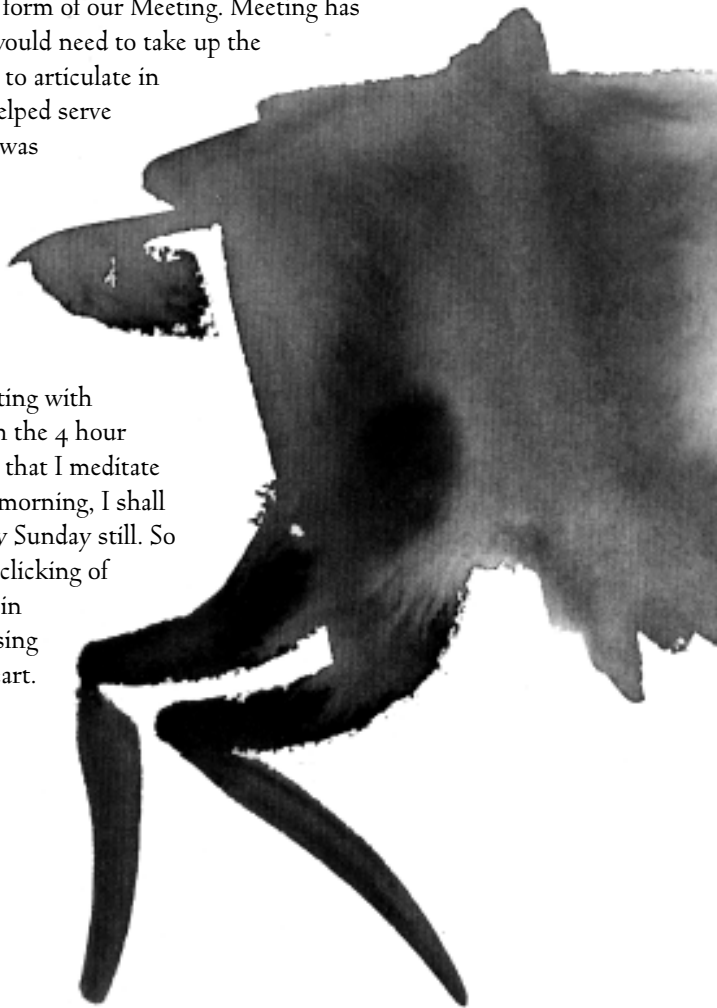
When I entered into Spirit and received guidance that I was to spend this time in Vermont, it kept coming up over and over again that I should nest in the Middlebury area. It was obvious to me that the cultural life that the College offers was folded into that prompting. But I knew there was more to the guidance, that there would be a spiritual center for the axis of my stay here.

That axis appeared in the form of our Meeting. Meeting has meant so much to me, I would need to take up the entire newsletter if I were to articulate in detail how Meeting has helped serve the deeper reasons why I was directed to this area by Spirit. But know that the energy of Meeting folded into the essence of my being on this planet.

And I shall continue meeting with you all each Sunday. With the 4 hour time difference, and given that I meditate when I first awake in the morning, I shall be meeting with you every Sunday still. So if you occasionally hear a clicking of caribou hooves as you sit in silence, it is just me, crossing the tundra spirit of the heart.

So I say “Ciao, Friends”,  
and I hold you all in  
Northern Light.

- Jo Going





Please join us for a  
thought-provoking event:

**The People  
of Iraq:**  
**Burdened  
by Oil &  
Sacrificed  
to Sanctions**



**A Talk by  
Abbas  
Alnasrawi**

Iraqi-born Professor  
of Economics, UVM

**Monday, April 30  
4:30 PM**

**Jones Seminar Room  
Center for International Studies  
(former "Geonomics" Building)**

Sponsored by Committee of Concern for the People of Iraq  
(Middlebury Friends Meeting (Quakers), The Middlebury College Chaplain's Office  
Amnesty International, Islamic Society of Middlebury College,  
Maika Simone Peace Project, Intersarsity Christian Fellowship)



## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Our library has come into the possession of a number of books on living more simply. Plain living is one of the basics of the Quaker way, so these volumes should be of interest to many people.

*Voluntary Simplicity: Toward a way of Life that is Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich*, by Duane Elgin is one of the early books on this subject, the first edition having come out in 1981 and a second edition following in 1993. It staked out the broad parameters of how individuals can live much plainer lives that can be richer than the normal mad pursuit of possessions. Elgin stressed living with balance.

Another old-timer is *Living More with Less*, by Doris Janzen Longacre, a Mennonite. It is a very practical guide to how to live, and contains a multitude of ideas on how one can practice a less money-oriented life. Longacre comes up with recipes, games, plans for making toys, clothing patterns, and so forth. She has drawn on her own and other Mennonites' experience.

A much more recent book is *Simpler Living/Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*. This is an anthology of essays on the topic of simple living and deals primarily with the basic reasons and history of this way of life. Among the contributors are Henri Nouwen, Richard Foster, Wendell Berry, Frederick Buechner, and many others prominent in the field. The book also contains a study guide.

Much more practical and loaded with the stories of actual people who have tried to change towards simplicity is *Choosing Simplicity: Real People Finding Peace and Fulfillment in a Complex World*. It is authored by Linda Breen Pierce who for a number of years has been collecting data in this area.

Finally, there is a national best-seller, *Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence*, by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin. This book has had a phenomenal success and has helped many people to get control of their finances through careful attention to where they are spending their funds. By equating dollars to hours worked, the authors show how so much of our time is used in nonessential spending. They demonstrate how people can cut their expenses, invest cautiously and wisely, and be able to retire at an early age.

-Ruth Barembaum

The key Quebec Summit Meeting to discuss the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas has come and gone, but we will remember our Friends who made the trek to Quebec City to register their protest against the proposed agreement. ANAIS MITCHELL attended with a group of Middlebury College students and WIN and JOANNA COLWELL drove up on their own. Overall their protests were made in a peaceful manner, as befits Quakers, and we will hope that the Powers That Be will listen to the many objections to the proposal. Anais is also planning a trip to Cuba this summer, as a member of a delegation from the Young Adult Friends of NEYM. JERRY McBRIDE has returned from California, where he spent close to three weeks caring for his mother who is suffering from cancer. Her outlook is still uncertain, but we are certain that all of us are holding her in The Light. Jerry will be playing in a concert at the CFA Concert Hall on Monday, May 7 featuring chamber music of Brahms and Tchaikovsky. He is a fine performer, so do go to hear great classical music and support Jerry. Everyone is the Meeting will miss JO GOING who is leaving to go back to her home in Alaska. Jo has been a great addition to MFM during her stay in Vermont, for her always incisive messages, her wonderful music making, and her hospitality at a Potluck at her house here. We wish her well, and hope she will be back this way again. ANN TAYLOR made the long drive down to Castleton to attend the concert given to honor MARJORIE RYERSON. Ann reports that it was a wonderful evening, with a fine pianist playing with some of Marjorie's nature photographs on a screen and the reading of some of her poetry. The occasion was the celebration of Marjorie's being named a Vermont College Faculty Fellow. MIMI LOVE-NICHOLSON and her daughter, TERRA NICHOLSON, had paintings in a wonderful exhibit at the Ilsley Library featuring works by family members. Mimi, Hobart Popick and Terra shared wall space with pictures by Mimi's and TOM NICHOLSON's mothers—a real three-generation performance. The *Addison Independent* had an excellent photo of Mimi and Terra in a recent issue, looking at their paintings. Also displaying family artworks was JOHN BENSON, plus two of his sons and other members of his extended family. ELEANOR GIBSON, mother of JEAN ROSENBERG, will be returning to Middlebury on or about May 13<sup>th</sup> after spending the chilly winter months in Columbia, S. C. It will be a treat to have her back with us again. She has been most generous in allowing us to use her home for the Mid-Week Meetings for Worship. JAN LYONS has been traveling in the Andes of South America with a group of dedicated Vermont weavers who tour the world studying native forms of weaving. Jan has also been named a Trustee of Spirit In Nature, and joins ANN TAYLOR on that board.

We have some more address/e-mail changes:

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Barbara Battelle  
ecoicon@gmavt.net

- Ted Colwell

**MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING**  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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Anne Corrigan  
Marshall Hoagland  
Jerry McBride  
Grace McGrath  
Jann Grace Seale

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**Newsletter Mailing**

Ted Colwell  
Olive Colwell  
Ruth Barenbaum

# MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

278 Washington St.  
Middlebury, VT 05753

Meeting for Worship

10:00 AM every First Day

Parent/Child Center, 11 Monroe Street, Middlebury

[www.middlebury.edu/~jmcbride/mfm.htm](http://www.middlebury.edu/~jmcbride/mfm.htm)

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above  
or to [winslow@well.com](mailto:winslow@well.com)

Cover art and page 6-7 drawing by Jo Going