

Middlebury Friends Meeting

**March
2022**

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Calendar of Events

Minutes of Feb 20, 2022



MARCH 2022

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QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every First Day (Sunday) 9 - 9:45 AM First Day School
 10 AM Meeting for Worship
 If you need the Zoom link, contact
 Ed at edmund.m.harris@gmail.com
- Thur. Feb. 24 7:00 PM Presentation on pollinator gardens via Zoom
- Mon. Feb. 28 Men's Group
- Mon. Mar. 14 4:00 PM Earthcare Committee via Zoom

**“When you do things from your soul,
you feel a river moving in you, a joy.”**

— RUMI

**“True silence is the rest of the mind;
it is to the spirit what sleep is to the
body, nourishment and refreshment.”**

— WILLIAM PENN



Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

20 February, 2022
via Zoom

Clerking: Ruah Swennerfelt

Recording: Grace Seale

Present were Ruah Swennerfelt, Karen Way, Don Peabody, Spence Putnam, Doug Way, Louis Cox, Grace McGrath, Lucy McKeon, Cheryl Mitchell, Fran Putnam, Laura Asermily, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Jean Rosenberg, John Cook, and Grace Seale.

22:02:01 Opening worship

Following a time of quiet, Ruah Swennerfelt shared a reading from Caroline Stephen (1834-1909):

No clear impressions, either from above or from without, can be received by a mind turbid with excitement and agitated by a crowd of distractions. The stillness needed for the clear shining of light within is incompatible with hurry.

22:02:02 Agenda Review/ Additions

The agenda was reviewed; an addition was the Treasurer's Report.

22:02:03 Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Meeting for Business of 16 January 2022 were reviewed and approved.

22:02:04 Co-Clerks' report

~The Clerks wished to clarify that Karen Way is the acting co-clerk for Middlebury Friends Meeting since Joe Garren stepped down in November. Karen has been closely involved with agenda planning and discussions.

~Middlebury Meeting will host the June NW Quarterly Meeting. Volunteers as well as suggestions for topics are invited. Ruah suggested consideration of topics already under the consideration and study of the called committee.

We were reminded that the QM newsletter will be sent out the 15th of May, in which information for this gathering will be included. Further discussion will follow, both within committees and at our next Meeting for Business.

~Ruth Barenbaum's recent passing was acknowledged by Friends. We shared recollections of the multiple roles she had over decades in this Meeting, the deep bonds of friendship, and the many ways in which we are aware of her absence.

~The Co-Clerks spoke of their appreciation of the loving care, presence, and attention to those among us in need. We again expressed gratitude for the ongoing, often unacknowledged, work of the Pastoral Care Committee.

22:02:05 Passage of the Month: Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Revision

In the interest of time and the lengthy agenda this topic was deferred until the next Meeting for Business.

22:02:06 Meeting for Worship for March

A brief discussion of current information regarding COVID in Addison County and in what format to go forward with our gatherings followed. Ruah perceives the sense of the Meeting is that we continue remotely during the month of March, with consideration again of this at the next Meeting for Business.

22:02:07 April Meeting for Business

The usual time for Meeting for Business ~third Sunday of the month~ in April would fall on Easter Sunday. It was discussed that among us there are a variety of ways families may customarily gather, whether in celebration of Easter or not. We agreed to meet for business on the second Sunday, 10 April.

22:02:08 Worship and Study Committee Report

Cheryl Mitchell sent the draft State of Society 2022 report to the listserv prior to today's gathering, offering Friends the opportunity for review. In today's meeting, we shared reading this report aloud. Edits, comments, suggestions, and clarifications are invited, and should be sent to Cheryl.

Those meeting today concurred that this report articulately conveyed the sense of the gathering. We expressed great appreciation to Priscilla Baker, Leigh Harder, Jean Rosenberg, and Cheryl Mitchell for such care and attention to this report.

22:02:09 Called Committee on the Urgent Call to Loving Action for the Earth and her Inhabitants

Fran Putnam described the kick-off to a series of Meeting activities focused on supporting biodiversity and creating pollinator habitats which will be held on 24 February via Zoom, 7:00 to 8:30pm. Three Middlebury Friends, Wendy Goodwin, Carrie Wiebe, and Leigh Harder will share their gardening journeys in photos and words. The invitation link will follow a day before the event. This presentation will be recorded but Friends are encouraged to participate in 'real' time to encourage discussion.

The next event will be held on 10 March at 7:00pm; information will follow. Future educational activities and participation opportunities to nurture habitats are planned.

22:02:10 Earthcare Committee

Spence Putnam requested Friends save the date 24 March for a 7pm film *Sawalmem*. More information to follow.

22:02:11 Technology Committee

Doug Way reported continued attention to refine and improve the system evolved for hybrid gatherings, seeking maximum ease and utility for those both physically and electronically present.

Discussion followed regarding the task of refining the Meeting's website, which is in evolution.

Various resources were mentioned for accomplishing these tasks.

22:02:12 Fellowship Committee

~Greeters are still needed weekly, and Friends are encouraged to volunteer. Grace McGrath wished to lay down the coordination of this ongoing task. It was suggested that the sign-up sheet be included each time the Meeting link is sent out.

~John Cook spoke of upcoming Friendly Forum offerings in April and May.

22:02:13 Pastoral Care

This committee reported the ongoing presence to those in need.

The UU Fellowship offered the use of their sanctuary for the anticipated memorial service for Ruth Barenbaum. We acknowledged our appreciation for this generosity.

22:02:14 Treasurer's Report

Laura Asermily expressed gratitude for all the help the new Treasurer has received from Friends, in particular Karen Nawn-Fahey, in the transition to her new role.

22:02:15 Closing worship

Following a time of silence, the meeting closed.



MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING
 Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Maxine Fidler

Co-Clerks

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 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 via Zoom

www.middleburyquakers.org

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