

Middlebury Friends Meeting

June
2022

Inside:

Calendar of Events

Minutes of June 12, 2022



JUNE 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
June 13	4:00 PM	Earthcare Committee (Zoom)
June 16		Ramblings #4
June 18-19		Abenaki Heritage weekent: Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
June 23		Ramblings #5
June 25–28		Quaker Spring Summer Retreat https://neym.org/events-calendar/2022/06/quaker-spring-summer-retreat
June 26	8:30 AM	Combined Meeting of Ministry and Counsel Committees (Hybrid format)
June 27		Men's Group
June 30		Ramblings #6
July 17		Discussion of <u>Gatherings</u> at Rise of Meeting
July 24	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business (Hybrid format)
July 25		Men's Group
Aug. 6-11		NEYM Sessions at Castleton University and Hybrid

**“If light is in your heart,
you will find your way home.”**

— RUMI

Middlebury Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
12 June 2022 Hybrid Format

Clerking: Ruah Swennerfelt
Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present: Ruah Swennerfelt, Karen Way, Tom Baskett, Doug Way, Grace McGrath, Jean Rosenberg, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Spence Putnam, Leigh Harder, Don Peabody, Lianna Tennal, Willard Peabody, Alice Mae Peabody, Evelyn Landis, John Cook, Molly Anderson, and Grace Seale.

22:06:01 Opening Worship and Reading

Friends settled into silence.

Ruah Swennerfelt then read:

“It may be true as Martin Luther King Jr. once said, that the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice. What is equally true, however, is that most of the time we have to bend it with our very own hands.”

~ from Thomas Lindzey, Executive Director of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund

22:06:02 Agenda Review

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

22:06:03 Co-Clerks' Report

A) MFM received very positive feedback from Friends about the pollinator program shared at NWQM last Sunday. Thanks go to the Called Committee and especially to Leigh Harder for the amazing slide presentation of her gardens.

B) We need to set up a hybrid event to discuss the book, *The Gatherings*; possibly more than one such event will be necessary. By a bit later in the summer most who are interested will have read it.

Jean Rosenberg summarized the document sent to the listserv regarding this. Various options for gathering, with an emphasis on inclusion for all who are interested, were discussed. We agreed to gather at Rise of Meeting at Havurah House on 17 July for the first discussion. Detail will follow via email.

C) Instead of reviewing whether we have hybrid or all Zoom Meetings at each Meeting for Business, we agreed to have hybrid meetings regularly. If a serious impediment to doing so arises, the matter will be reconsidered.

D) Reminder that New England Yearly Meeting Sessions will be held 6-11 August at Castleton University. This will be hybrid at times and in-person for the entire duration. Friends are encouraged to participate in this important event for all New England Friends. Friends are encouraged to look for volunteer opportunities, especially to help with unloading before the start of Sessions. Please contact Don Peabody for information.

22:06:04 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee report and slate were presented. Tom Baskett expressed appreciation for all who have agreed to serve.

A) **Requiring decision:** Attached is the slate for our Meeting's 2022-3 committee and representative positions for consideration and approval by meeting for business. The slate, as approved by meeting for business on June 12, will be presented to the full meeting for consideration and possible changes or additions before final approval at meeting for business in July.

For discussion: Note that some of the "Activities of Interest to Meeting" listed on the slate last year have been removed because they relate more to an individual's activity that is not directly connected to the Meeting or Quaker world. These folks were intended to be listed by a Social Action Mapper. This has never been initiated, however. Do we need it?

B) Middlebury Friends Meeting Slate 2021-2

Numbers after people's names refer to the year they started if known.

Co-Clerks

Ruah Swennerfelt '21

Karen Way '22

Rising Clerk:

Open

Recording Clerk

Grace Seale '19

Treasurer

Laura Asermily '21

Committees

Worship & Study

Cheryl Mitchell '18, Jean Rosenberg, Leigh Harder '21, John Cook '21,
Evelyn Landis '22

Pastoral Care

Brud Leedom, Wendy Goodwin, Norm Tjossem, Grace McGrath,
Debbie Ramsdell '19, Meg Langworthy '19, Carrie Wiebe '22

Children's Program

Erin Ruble, Lianna Tennal

EarthCare

Fran Putnam, Mimi Love-Nicholson, Ruah Swennerfelt '19,
Louis Cox '19, John Beattie '21, Chris Stackhouse, Wendell Jacobs '22

Fellowship

Robert Wyatt '18, John Cook '18, Grace Seale '22

Finance

Karen Nawn-Fahey, Spence Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, Laura Asermily

Nominating (appointed by the clerks)

Tom Baskett '20, Louis Cox '21, Molly Anderson '21

Technology Committee

Ed Harris '21, Grace McGrath '21, Doug Way '22

Community/Organization Contact People--Official Meeting Roles**AFSC**

Ladybelle '20

Archivist

Lucy McKeon

Community Dinner

Karen Nawn-Fahey, Tom Dickinson, Susan Smiley(?), John Cook '19

CropWalk

Priscilla Baker '19

FCNL

Ladybelle Fiske

Friends Council on Education/Quaker education issues

Norm Tjossem

Havurah Contact

Spence Putnam

Library

Becky Holmes '21, Jean Rosenberg '21

Listserv

Ed Harris '21

MACA

Doug Way '22

Middlebury College Student Liaison

Sas Carey '18, Molly Anderson '18

Nametags

Win Colwell

Newsletter Editor

Maxine Fidler

News of Quakerly Interest

Open

NEYM

Susannah McCandless '18

NWQM Interim Committee

Don Peabody '19, Lianna Tennial '19

NEYM Puente de Amigos committee

Susannah McCandless '19

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox '22

Quarterly Sessions Planning Committee

Don Peabody '19, Lianna Tennial '19

Recorder

Brud Leedom

Website Coordinator

Win Colwell

Activities of Interest to the Meeting (Not appointed by MFM)

ACORN

Susan Smiley

Addison Allies Network

Norm Tjossem '20

Charter House/ Lunch Program Contact

Tom Dickinson

Food Shelf Delivery

Laura Asermily

Habitat for Humanity

Tom Dickinson

Homeshare

Manya Dickinson

Interfaith Climate Action Network

Fran Putnam

Spirit in Nature

Louis Cox '22

Friends are asked to communicate with a member of the Nominating Committee (Tom Baskett, Louis Cox, Molly Anderson) with questions or to express interest in volunteering.

*Of note, the Children's Program and News of Quakerly Interest seek volunteers.

22:06:05 Worship and Study Committee Report

Leigh Harder submitted this report:

We met on 6 June to discuss several items. We opened and closed in centering silence.

A) We reviewed the most recent Friendly Forum which was a continuation of "Tools for the Spiritual Journey". The session, facilitated by Leigh, focused on the idea of retirement as intentional daily practice to bring us closer to Source. An article for the newsletter will follow with suggested texts and practices Friends have found helpful.

B) We discussed how "Ramblings" facilitated by Leigh, is going, with two of six sessions so far. This is an opportunity for Friends to gather, reflect on a poem, respond in writing/visual art, then share and discuss. A variety of people have attended, usually 8-9. This has been a good opportunity to know one another better, and welcome new attendees.

C) Regarding welcoming hospitality for a new member: he has shared that he would most enjoy celebratory welcoming at one of the MFM Community Picnics via cupcakes or cookies. (The fellowship Committee is setting dates for these gatherings.)

D) Members of this committee are interested in helping to facilitate the discussions of the book **Gatherings** and may have ideas about possible venues. John Cook recommended **Native American Testimonies** by Peter Nabokov as a supporting text for our discussion.

E) Friendly Forum events will resume in the Fall.

22:06:06 Treasurer's Report

All statements in this report are as of June 12, 2022. From May 15, 2022

through June 12, 2022, the Meeting had member donations of \$800. From May 15, 2022 to June 12, 2022, the Meeting expenditures totaled **\$1,435.33**: \$133.33 for First Day School Coordination, \$100 to Havurah toward carpet cleaning, \$1,000 to Greater Philadelphia Film Office in support of George Lakey Documentary from Rachel Carey Harper Fund, \$202 for mail box renewal (up \$32 from last year and slightly over our budget of \$170). No summer lunch program benevolence of \$100 was paid because this program is in remission. The meeting can decide how it wants to allocate this. When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be **\$15,041.34**. Current balance of Rachel Carey Harper Funds: \$4,000

Respectfully submitted, Laura Asermily

Friends questioned the absence of the Summer Lunch Program; Karen Nawn-Fahey will clarify.

22:06:07 Pastoral Care Committee

A) Brud Leedom submitted the following report:

On May 15th Middlebury Meeting hosted a Memorial Meeting in memory of Ruth Barenbaum. It was the family's wish to have a small private family and close friends gathering. All of the planning and preparation by the Pastoral Care Committee was evident. It was a wonderful gathering of approximately 40 folks many of whom shared their personal stories and memories of Ruth. It ended with catered food and beverages and wonderful socializing. Ruth's family was very appreciative of our Meeting's efforts.

The preparations and planning of the Meeting's Celebration of Ruth's Life on June 11th, 2022 at 1:00 PM at the Ripton Community Church is almost complete. It was publicized in the Addison Independent and the Brandon and Middlebury Front Porch Forums. It is expected to be a memorable celebration.

The gathering and editing the of the changes in Friend's contact

information for the 2022 Meeting Directory is complete and ready to be forwarded to Win for final editing and publishing.

Respectfully, the Pastoral Care Committee

B) Friends expressed great appreciation to the committee for such a gracious and respectful Celebration of Ruth's Life held on the 11th of June in Ripton, attended by 65 people. MFM provided an abundance of food and beautiful seasonal flowers.

22:06:08 Abenaki Joint Statement

This statement was shared with Friends:

A Joint Statement from the Four Vermont State Recognized Abenaki Tribes in Response to Certain Recent Events

June 6, 2022 - We, the four Vermont state recognized Abenaki tribes, stand together in affirmation of our own shared, lived experience here in the Northeast, which is necessarily different from that of our relatives in other places, and which has been acknowledged by the State of Vermont.

The distinct historical and contemporary realities within the southern reaches of Ndakinna, our homelands - under the influence of British and French colonial, Federal, and State governments - have brought us to where we are today. Through common experiences of colonization, marginalization, and displacement, our citizens are now found within what is now called New England and points beyond.

We are appreciative of the public process of change that is underway, to raise awareness, remove imposed divisions, and restore balance in these homelands. We wish to work together for healing and understanding among All of our Relations and all of those who are here now.

We look forward to opportunities for dialogue and collaboration - a responsibility incumbent upon us all - in these increasingly challenging times. Traditional teachings make it clear that we owe this to each other, our children, and to the Earth, our Mother.

Signed by the Chiefs of the Four Vermont State Recognized Tribes, on behalf of their Councils and Communities (signatures on file),

Chief Richard Menard,
Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi

Co-Chief Shirly Hook,
Koasek Traditional Band of the Koas Abenaki Nation

Chief Donald Stevens ,
Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation

Chief Roger Longtoe Sheehan,
Elnu Abenaki Tribe

22:06:09 Closing Worship

After a time of silence the Meeting concluded.

“Believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance, and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so large that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step outside it.”

— RAINER MARIA RILKE

LETTERS TO A YOUNG POET



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 (hybrid format)

www.middleburyquakers.org

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