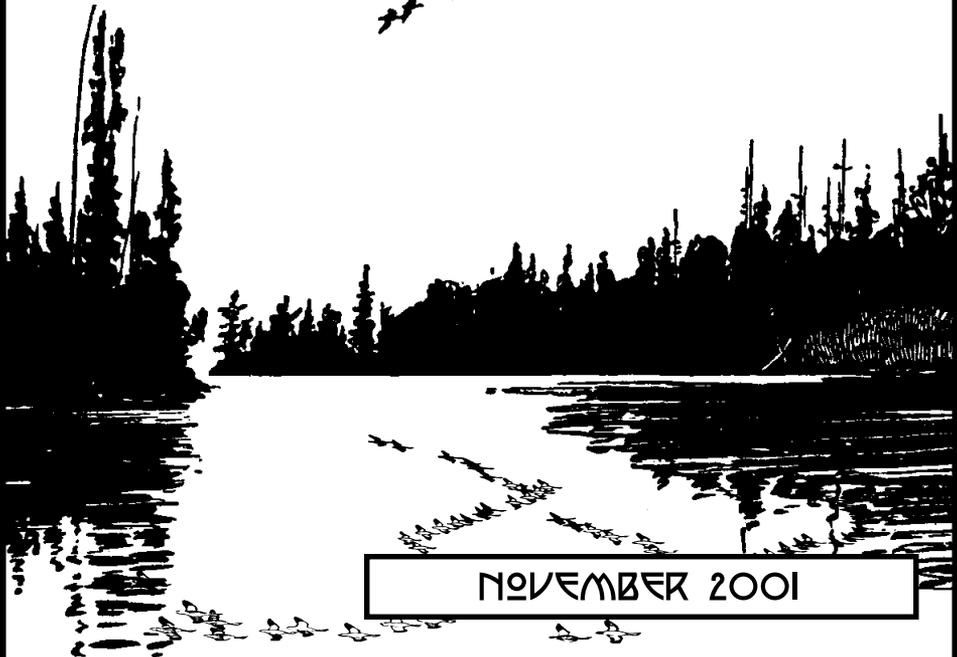
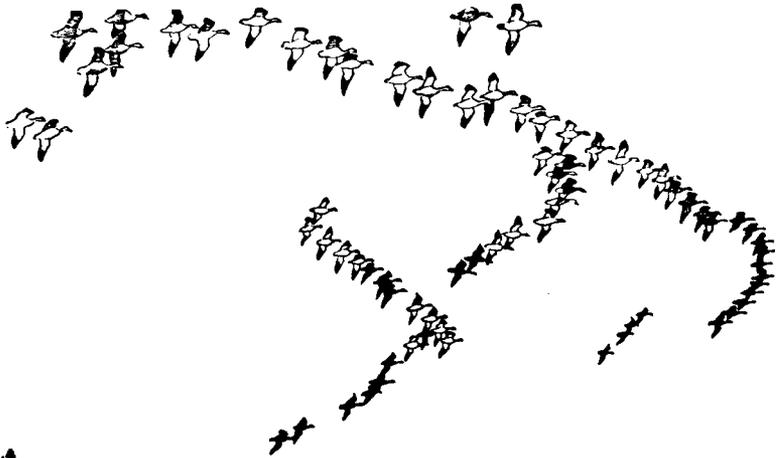


MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING



NOVEMBER 2001

NOVEMBER				1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- Sunday, October 28 9 AM Adult Discussion on “Ministering to Each Other” and planning for future sessions.
- Friday, November 2 6 PM Potluck Supper followed by a description of Sas Carey’s visit to Mongolia this summer. At the home of Sas Carey (388-7684)
- Monday, November 5 7 PM Men’s Group Meeting. All men of the meeting are welcome to attend. At home of Spence Putnam (388- 1644)
- Sunday, November 11 8:30 AM Ministry & Counsel Committee Meeting.
- Sunday, November 18 11:20 AM Monthly Meeting for Business.
- Sunday, November 25 9 AM Second Adult Discussion on theme of “Ministering to Each Other.”
- Friday, November 30 6 PM Potluck Supper with musical “Open Mike” and group singing. We hope to have some attendees for the Quarterly Meeting present. At the home of Meg, Charlie, and Mary Langworthy. (877-3217)
directions follow on page 3

“If you have spiritual eyes, then you will see the spirit among people, and you will see the kingdom of God even in the midst of a very, very disturbing world. I know people who are really able to live a life wherethey constantly see the kingdom at work even when the world is full of anguish and pain and separation. They see the spirit among people in little things, and they claim it and they celebrate it and therefore they create community wherever they go because they never get pulled into darkness.”

-Henri Nouwen

Directions: From the center of Vergennes go South on Rt. 22A to the blinking light. Turn right on MacDonough Drive, which turns into Sand Rd. 2.2 miles from the blinking light look for their gray house on the left, #1217.

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|----------------------|---------|---|
| Saturday, December 1 | 8 AM | Northwest Quarterly Meeting preceded by NWQ committees. MFM and Bennington FM are the hosts, and this is a great opportunity to meet other Friends and learn about the Quarter. At the Weybridge Public School (Tentative). |
| Monday, December 3 | 7 PM | Men’s Group Meeting. Location to be announced. |
| Sunday, December 9 | 8:30 AM | Ministry & Counsel Committee Meeting. |
| Sunday, December 16 | 10 AM | The Annual Holiday Celebration and Gala Potluck Luncheon. Come join in a fine feast, singing and a Worship Sharing Meeting. At the Colwell’s, 1 Lower Plains Road, East Middlebury (388-3632) |

There Will Not Be A Monthly Meeting For Business In December.

MINUTES, MEETING FOR BUSINESS

OCTOBER 21, 2001

Co-clerk: Priscilla Baker

Acting Recording Clerk: Ted Colwell

The meeting started at 11:38 AM with silence. Clerk Priscilla Baker read from an article in the magazine "Teaching Tolerance," which described a visit of middle school children in Ashville, Georgia to several religious organizations in Atlanta, including a Muslim mosque. The young people learned to respect other young people that dressed and worshiped in ways different from their own.

Attending were: Priscilla Baker, Faith Lowell, Marshall Hoagland, Grace McGrath, Win and Joanna Colwell, Jerry McBride, Jann Grace Seale, David Tier, Ruth Barenbaum, Ann Taylor and Olive and Ted Colwell.

1. The minutes of the September 16, 2001 Meeting for Business were approved.
2. Treasurer Olive Colwell gave the financial report as follows: In September contributions totaled \$805.00 and expenses amounted to \$132.00. Included in expenses were for the newsletter, postage, and Child Care. For the first three months of our fiscal year we received \$1,350.00 from contributions, and our expenditures were \$1,390.75. Our cash balance as of September 30, 2001 was \$1,831.23.

In October so far we have received gifts of \$395.00 and have spent \$1,157.50. Expenses included our regular quarterly payments of \$500 to New England Yearly Meeting, \$200 to Northwest Quarterly Meeting, and \$375 for rental of our space at the Parent/Child Center. In addition, we had current expenditures for the Newsletter, and for library books. Today's cash balance is \$1,068.73.

3. David Tier reported on the Meeting of Ministry & Counsel held on October 7. Among the topics discussed were:
 - The format of the questionnaire prepared by the Passage with Care Committee.
 - Recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
 - The Meeting response to the September 11th attack by terrorists.
 - The need for additional seating in the Meeting Room.
 - The need for a First Day School teacher to handle the Spring Term. Decision to have the First Day School children attend Meeting for Worship, leaving after the Healing Circle.
 - Jann Grace Seale was named to read the Query on October 21.

There was discussion of the idea of additional seating. It was agreed that we would hold a one-month's test using additional folding chairs placed in back of the regular seats at the ends of the circle.

4. Win Colwell reported for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The group has had three meetings recently to organize a response to the terrorist attacks. It was agreed that there would be a weekly Silent Vigil on the Green in Middlebury, we would draft and print a statement of the purposes of the Vigil for distribution and for letters to editors, that approaches be made to the Muslim Community for their support, and that discussions and “teach-ins” be organized.

All these plans have been put into effect: there have been weekly Vigils held, there was a teach-in at Ilesley Library at which Mouawia Bouzo and Deborah Felmeth spoke about the situation in the Middle East, especially in Syria, and also discussed Islamic fundamentalism, and contacts have been made with Islamic groups at Middlebury College and in Addison County. Further activities are to be organized. Also, the committee plans to continue its work on other issues such as the Death Penalty, The Earth Charter, and increased cooperation with other faith groups. The next committee meeting will take place on November 7 at the home of Joanna and Win Colwell.

5. Following up on the September 23 Adult Discussion on The Earth Charter, we discussed the idea of our Meeting officially endorsing the Charter. We approved such action, and Ted Colwell will handle the necessary paperwork.

6. Ann Taylor reported on discussions she has had with Rev. Johanna Nichols of the Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship about working jointly on a program for the young people to help the children of Afghanistan in some meaningful way. Ann has also contacted Joseph Gainza of AFSC (VT). He would be willing to come to Middlebury with a speaker, Ruhin Yuridullah, to talk with the children. It was agreed that Ann would continue her discussions and report back.

7. Joanna Colwell, who is teaching the First Day School for the Fall Term, told us that the program is going well, and she has four students so far.

8. The Passage with Care Committee is waiting for replies from those people who have the proposed form of personal instructions upon death. The Committee will meet again on October 30th at the home of Priscilla Baker.

9. Ruth Barenbaum asked that we remember that Friends are needed to visit the Friends Worship Group at Wake-Robin. Ruth is planning to go up there next Sunday, October 28th, at 4 PM. Contact her for further information.

10. Win Colwell reported that Middlebury Friends Meeting has raised at least \$770.00 for the Crop Walk held October 7th. There were nine people walking from the Meeting.

11. Priscilla Baker outlined the progress being made for the Northwest Quarterly Meeting, which Middlebury and Bennington meetings are hosting on December 1. We decided to have a Social Potluck Dinner on Friday, November 30 for any Friends arriving early. It has been suggested that we have some music for the gathering.

12. Jerry McBride read the text of two statements prepared by the committee on Special Funding, one that outlined the procedures for appointing Released Friends, and the other indicating that the Meeting did not approve of having Released Friends. Copies of these texts will be put in the forthcoming newsletter, and it is hoped that participants of the Meeting will carefully read them and be ready to reach agreement on one or the other statement.

13. Win Colwell stated that a committee on Conscientious Objector Counseling has been organized, and currently consists of David Rosenberg, Spence Putnam and Win Colwell. The committee will be able to advise young people from the meeting and the community about their rights as conscientious objectors should a draft be instituted.

After a discussion of the dates for future events, the meeting ended at 1:05 PM with a period of Silence.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING COMMITTEE ON FUNDING AND RELEASED FRIENDS

The Committee explored two different positions regarding Released Friends, but was unable to come to unity on a single recommendation. Business Meeting would like all persons in the Meeting to read and think about both positions and come to the November Meeting for Business in hopes that we might be able to proceed with clarity toward a single idea. Either statement allows the Meeting to fund the work of persons in the Meeting according to the funding guidelines printed in the October Newsletter. The issue is whether or not Middlebury Meeting will formally designate individuals in the Meeting as Released Friends.

PROCEDURE FOR APPROVING RELEASED FRIENDS

A Released Friend is one “whose leading to carry out a particular course of action has met with approval from a Meeting which then promises to provide such support as would enable the Friend to follow that leading.” (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, 1997)

The events leading to a request to be a released Friend, and the work of a released Friend, are transforming experiences in the life of an individual and in the life of a Meeting. Given the seriousness of this step, approval at each step in the process is given only when all have reached clarity and unity.

A person in the Meeting who requests recognition as a released Friend should inform Ministry and Counsel of his/her intent and should request the appointment of a Clearness Committee to help explore the spiritual depth and commitment of the leading. Ministry and Counsel will consult with the individual to appoint committee members who will be both supportive and objective. Once clarity has been reached, a report will be made by the person to Ministry and Counsel on the outcome of the clearness process. In most cases it will be helpful to submit a written report. Ministry and Counsel will forward the report with its recommendation to Meeting for Business for final consideration. Meeting for Business records its decision in a formal minute. Following approval of a Released Friend, Meeting for Business will apply the Practices for Funding Personal Leadings and Projects to provide the financial, practical, and spiritual support needed.

POSITION ON RELEASED FRIENDS

“Friends believe the divine Light is accessible to all people, regardless of race, sex, age, or material wealth. Everyone has the potential to respond to God within. All persons ought to have the opportunity to develop their talents and skills under the leadings of the Spirit. Equality is not sameness. It is equality of respect. Every person is a child of God.” (New England Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, 1985)

The equality of all persons is a central tenet of Quaker faith and thought. Since the Light Within is available to all and not to just a privileged few, there is no basis for distinguishing the spiritual leading of one Friend from that of another. The designation or recognition of some members within the Meeting as “Released Friends,” establishes a separate category or class of Friends and places them apart from the main body by calling special attention to a particular leading. A leading is other than a decision, a resolve, or a desire to do something, and involves a fundamental change in the life of a person and the Meeting. It is not connected to earthly gain or change, but rather spiritual transformation. Any Friend may bring a spiritual leading to the attention of the Meeting for action or consideration and does not need to seek a special status within the Meeting to do so.

V

*To my granddaughters who visited the Holocaust Museum
on the day of the burial of Yitzhak Rabin*

Now you know the worst
we humans have to know
about ourselves, and I am sorry,
for I know that you will be afraid.
To those of our bodies given
without pity to be burned, I know
there is no answer
but loving one another,
even our enemies, and this is hard.

But remember:
when a man of war becomes a man of peace,
he gives a light, divine

though is is also human.
When a man of peace is killed
by a man of war, he gives a light.

You do not have to walk in darkness.
If you will have the courage for love,
you may walk in light. It will be
the light of those who have suffered
for peace. It will be
your light.

~Wendell Berry
from *A Timbered Choir*



The In Place to be seen in Middlebury these Saturday mornings in on the Fountain Triangle, where a faithful group of Friends and friends have been holding a Silent Vigil from 10 to 11 AM. There have been a few miserable days of rain and/or brisk wind that make holding signs a bit difficult, but those present carry it on. More volunteers will help make a greater impact on the community as it rushes by doing Saturday morning shopping, etc.

Several of our participants have recently received publicity in a variety of publications. MARSHALL HERBERT HOAGLAND had a wonderful photo portrait plus a biographical sketch in the *Silver Treads*, newsletter for Elderly Services. Along with revealing his middle name, the article had a lot about Marshall's interesting background as a teacher and worker at the Fellowship of Reconciliation. It was at FOR that he met his wife, Jessica. The same issue also had a quotation from JOHN BENSON praising the ability of Project Independence to revitalize older citizens. John is a Registered Nurse and the evening coordinator there. In the *Valley Voice* of ELI BENSON was featured painting a landscape. Eli is a Friday Night instructor at the new Performance Art Center in Middlebury. In Addition, the *Addison Eagle* ran an article about the recent accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children of the Evergreen Preschool in Vergennes. Our FRAN PUTNAM, program director, was quoted extensively about this prestigious recognition. The Evergreen Preschool is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year and serves 32 children. SARAH McGRATH has landed an exciting job in Boston with a non-profit organization. Sarah has her own office, and is working with people who use government food stamps, helping to see that the people get full use of the program. We welcome two new names. One is Alden Woodrow, a student at Middlebury College who hales from Holliston, MA. Alden listed himself as a Quaker when he came to the college. And we welcome Daniel Ahearn, who has lived in Middlebury for many years and works at McIntyre Fuel. ANAIS MITCHELL gave an interesting report on her recent trip to Cuba as a representative of New England Yearly Meeting Young Friends. She spent two weeks in Cuba, and visited most of the meetings there, as well as attending the Cuban Yearly Meeting, and the Yearly Meeting of Cuban Young Friends. Her reactions to the people of Cuba and the local scene were very acute and interesting. She stated she had never seen so many old cars before, all adroitly kept running by the skilled Cuban mechanics. The Blockade of the island prevents any new American autos from being available. ELIZABETH ROSENBERG is studying Arabic at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. She is in frequent e-mail contact with her family and reports that she feels safe and has many Egyptian friends. JEAN and DAVID ROSENBERG are planning to visit her in January 2002. On a very sad note, JANN GRACE SEALE recently lost her father who has been living in Texas. She was able to reach her father's bedside before he died. We all join in expressing sympathy to Grace.

New Addresses:

Daniel Ahearn
967 Washington Street Ext.
Middlebury, VT 05753

Carrie Reed
2669 South Street Ext.
Middlebury, VT 05753

Alden Woodrow
Middlebury College
Box 3725, 401 Starr
Middlebury, VT 05753
802/443-4743
awoodrow@middlebury.edu

-Ted Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Priscilla Baker (388-8024)
Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)

Ministry and Counsel Committee

Donna Belcher
Meg Langworthy
Jerry McBride
Grace McGrath
Jann Grace Seale
David Tier

Newsletter Editor Winslow Colwell (388-1961, winslow@well.com)

Treasurer

Olive Colwell (388-3632)
1 Lower Plains Rd,
E. Middlebury, VT 05740

Recording Clerk

Laura Asermily

Newsletter Mailing

Ruth Barenbaum
Olive Colwell
Ted Colwell

Meeting for Worship

10:00 AM every First Day

Parent/Child Center, 111 Monroe Street, Middlebury

www.middlebury.edu/~jmcbride/mfm.htm

Please send newsletter submissions to

Winslow Colwell, 278 Washington Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

or to winslow@well.com