

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING



MARCH 2002

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Saturday, March 2

Quarterly Meeting in Hanover Meeting House with Ruth Barenbaum leading discussion on AFSC Summit on Sanctions Against Iraq

Sunday, March 10

8:30 AM

Ministry & Counsel Committee Meeting

Monday, March 12

7 PM

Men's Group gathering at David Rosenberg's (388 6453)

Sunday, March 17

11:30 AM

Meeting for Business. Open to all to attend!

Sunday, March 24

9 AM

Adult Discussion: AFSC Summit on Sanctions Against Iraq

Monday, April 1

7 PM

Men's Group at Spence Putnam's (388-1644)

Friday, April 5

6 PM

Peace Potluck with Louise Diamond at Colwell's (388 3632). See article on pg. 9!

*“We should be blessed if we lived in the present always,
and took advantage of every accident that befell us, like the
grass which confesses the influence of the slightest dew that
falls on it; and did not spend our time in atoning for the
neglect of past opportunities, which we call doing our duty.
We loiter in winter while it is already spring.”*

~ Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*
as quoted by John Elder in *The Frog Run*

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| Saturday, April 6 | 2-6 PM | <i>Practicing Peace Workshop</i> at Unitarian Church (6 Cross Street, Middlebury). Cosponsored by MFM and Middlebury UUs. Optional potluck to follow. See article on pg. 9! |
| Sunday, April 14 | 8:30 AM | Ministry & Counsel Committee Meeting |

TELEVISION WORTH WATCHING?

We think so! On Wednesday, March 27 at 8 PM Vermont Public Television will be showing the program *The Good War and Those That Refused to Fight*. This is a terrific documentary about Conscientious Objectors during World War II. It will be repeated again on Sunday, March 31 at 11 PM. This should be a program of real interest to Friends.

MINUTES, MEETING FOR BUSINESS

JANUARY 20, 2002

Co-clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Laura Asermily

The meeting began at 11:35 AM with silence, out of which the Clerk read a passage on Quaker values to remind us that God leads us on. Eleven people were present including Ted and Olive Colwell, Win and Joanna Colwell, Jean Rosenberg, Priscilla Baker, Laura Asermily, Fran and Spence Putnum, and Ruth Barenbaum.

02.02.01- Minutes: Approved minutes of the January 20, 2002 Business Meeting.

02.02.02- Ministry & Counsel: Grace McGrath read a report of the February 10, 2002 meeting. All items discussed in this meeting are addressed below. In addition, it was noted that work was nearly finished on the directory. It was agreed to include children of participants past their eighteenth birthday if they were active in the Meeting or in other Quaker activities. Those who have not been involved in either will not be listed. In preparation for the celebration of Life, the following transitions will be recognized: Alex Mayer, college graduation; Fiona Corrigan, Brendan Lea, Colin Spensley, high school graduation; and Daniel Williams, entering 11th grade. Cait Lloyd will be teaching the last third of First Day School program. Although new to our meeting, she has been involved in Quaker activities for a long time and has taught First Day School before. We are pleased that she wants to work with the children. David Tier will represent us at Ministry and Counsel meeting on March 2nd at Quarterly Meeting in Hanover.

02.02.03- Treasurer's Report: Olive Colwell reported that January contributions totaled \$907 and expenses amounted to \$1,109.80 which included quarterly payments to the Parent Child Center, NEYM, NWQM, and cost of printing the newsletter. For the first seven months of our fiscal year we received \$4,949 and spent \$5,308.15. Our cash balance as of January 31, 2002 was \$1,512.83. So far in February we have received \$224 in contributions. We spent \$13 for library books. Our current cash balance is \$1,723.83.

02.02.04- State of Meeting: Approved State of the Meeting report with minor additions. The meeting thanked the Putnams with admiration for their excellent work in preparing the report. It captures the spirit of our activity for the past year exquisitely.

02.02.05- Passage With Care: Passage With Care Committee has nearly completed its work. Once Win Colwell is finished with formatting, the forms will be distributed with encouragement to Friends to complete them. The committee wants to include informational materials along with the forms to help Friends complete the forms and to encourage all to have a Living Will. The meeting approved an expenditure of \$60 to

cover expenses including the purchase of 30 booklets from Vermont Ethics Network titled “Taking Steps to Plan for Critical Health Care Decisions.” The Meeting thanked Priscilla Baker and others for their important work on this project.

02.02.06- Quaker Grove: Ruth Barenbaum will be informing families that we will have a grove on the property of the Parent/Child Center in which to plant memorial trees.

02.02.07- Adult Discussion: The February discussion will be on the Peace Testimony. It was proposed that the March discussion be on the recent AFSC Summit on Sanctions Against Iraq.

02.02.08- Louise Diamond Talk: We will have a pot luck on Friday, April 5 at 6 PM at the Colwells. Louise Diamond will speak on her peace work within families, communities and internationally. We approved \$59 to purchase 15 copies of her book, *The Peace Book*, and agreed to invite others including the Unitarian/Universalist congregation, local ministers, and Saturday morning peace vigilers.

02.02.09- “Practicing Peace” Workshop: Agreed to cosponsor a “Practicing Peace” workshop with Unitarian Universalists on Saturday April 6 from 2-6 PM at the UU church with option of a potluck to follow. A \$15 freewill offering per participant will be suggested. Workshop presenters include Richard Salzman, an Aikido instructor, and Joanne Ranney of Witness for Peace. It was agreed that this event combined with the many other peace-related events on this weekend would make for a wondrous peace-filled weekend.

02.02.10- Volunteers for Peace: The Meetings agreed regretfully to decline support of Volunteers for Peace for this year and evaluate if it is a possibility for us to support for another year. It was agreed that it was too much for us to manage this project without clear identification of projects. We agreed we could take it up at any point at which we might identify a worthy project such as participating in the building another Habitat for Humanity house.

02.02.11- AFSC Summit on Sanctions Against Iraq: It was recommended that we consider our position and action concerning AFSC’s idea regarding help for Iraq as proposed at the recent Summit on Sanctions Against Iraq. This plan proposes that we replace plans to send in water purification pumps with a plan to adopt a county in Iraq and offer to repair the county’s entire water system. The pumps tend to get overtaxed and break from the excess silt and residue flowing through the pipes. It doesn’t make much sense to send pumps without addressing repair of the entire water system. AFSC would have Iraqi labor to do the work. It would be the hope of AFSC that meetings in the U. S. would raise the money necessary, estimated to be \$36,000. Sending money instead of supplies should minimize the danger of civil disobedience exposure while providing a more lasting solution to Iraq’s water purification. The effort to raise money could be focused on money raising projects that help people see the Iraqis as people and

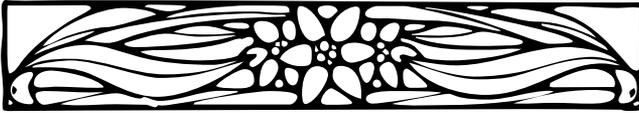
not demons. Ruth Barenbaum will be leading a discussion on the AFSC Summit at Quarterly Meeting.

02.02.12- Peace and Social Concerns: The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will report on its upcoming meeting on Wednesday February 20 at next Meeting for Business. The Peace Vigils on Saturday mornings at the Middlebury Green from 10:30 to 11 AM continue.

02.02.13- Growth: The Growth Committee has begun looking at sites offering more space for the meeting. Becky Holmes visited Havarah' new structure. It is a great space although parking is a major problem and they are still deciding whether the kitchen will be strictly kosher. The Growth Committee will look at other sites in the area in upcoming months.

02.02.14- Released Friends Minute: A revision, which artfully blended the two versions that were discussed at length at last business meeting, was submitted. This merged version was approved with two minor changes. The meeting acknowledged with thanks the efforts of the committee.

After setting dates, the meeting ended at 1 PM with a moment of silence.



2001 STATE OF THE MEETING MIDDLEBURY MONTHLY MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Middlebury Monthly Meeting is in a period of renewed vitality. There is an increased sense of commitment to ministering to each other within the Meeting as well as greater involvement working towards peace and social justice in the wider community. The Meeting is showing growth both in the number of people who are active and in the scope of their activity.

The First Day School has been reinvigorated with a small but stable group of children and a system in which one adult leader works with the children for a three month period. Our vocal ministry has been healthy, with a good balance between silence and inspiring messages. Our business meetings have enjoyed increased attendance. Ministry and Counsel has been quietly at work giving guidance to the Meeting and supporting individuals. Our library has been reorganized and expanded, First Day adult discussion groups have become a regular feature, and recently we have seen greater attendance by Middlebury College students.

Our Meeting continues with its strong traditions of celebrations, singing, birthday salutes, a weekly healing circle, refreshments after Meeting, regular potlucks, the women's Christmas meeting, and a monthly Men's group. Our internal communications include a web page, newsletter, greeter, and phone tree. A "Quaker Grove" has been established, enabling Friends to place memorial trees on the grounds of our meeting place. We are working toward publishing our practices for the benefit of newcomers and clarifying procedures concerning requests for funding and Released Friends. There have also been experiments with a mid week meeting. Our finances are healthy and well handled.

Our work in the community is strong and has kept a broad focus, in spite of the national preoccupation with the aftermath of the events of September 11. We conducted a called meeting for worship shortly after the terrorist attacks which drew many attenders from throughout the area. A reinvigorated Peace and Social Concerns Committee has spearheaded weekly peace vigils, which has led to the formation of the Addison County Peace Coalition. Meeting members have also been instrumental in organizing local contributions to the AFSC blankets for Afghanistan project, the Campaign of Conscience, Volunteers for Peace, the CROP Walk, Alternatives to Violence, Habitat for Humanity, Fifth Force, Spirit in Nature, and other worthy projects. The Meeting approved a minute in support of the AFSC campaign against economic sanctions on Iraq, co-sponsored a talk on that subject by Abbas Alnasrawi, endorsed the Earth Charter, and initiated work on a minute opposing the death penalty. We have continued our fruitful relationships with local interfaith groups, as well as with the local Jewish and Unitarian congregations and the Wake Robin Worship Group. We hosted Quarterly Meeting in December, and several members attended Yearly Meeting. We supported a Young Adult Friend in her trip to Cuba Yearly Meeting. Our Meeting's international outreach has included contacts with Japan, Mongolia, Egypt, and India, as well as Cuba.

Among the challenges we are still facing is conducting an efficient business meeting while honoring the Quaker tradition of finding the sense of the meeting. We must also make the purpose of Business Meeting clear, and make all feel welcome. While being sensitive to the ministerial needs of our community, we need to strike a balance between intrusiveness and reaching out appropriately. We feel the need to attract more families with small children and have established a committee to examine our growth needs. We continue to seek ways of staying more connected with Friends outside our meeting and maintaining contact with college students who seek us out. Friends feel we are in a strong position to take on these challenges and to continue the healthy growth of the Meeting.

MINUTE ON RELEASED FRIENDS AS APPROVED AT MEETING FOR BUSINESS

FEBRUARY 17, 2002

“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)

Notwithstanding the above, Friends over the years have recognized the special leadings of certain people and have designated them as “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)

A leading is other than a decision, a resolve, or a desire to do something. It involves a fundamental, spiritual transformation in the life of a person and is not connected to worldly gain. 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 point 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, the person will make a report 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 a 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.

A PEACEMAKING AND NON-VIOLENCE WEEKEND

We are lucky to be able to look forward to a weekend of study about issues of Peace with three remarkable teachers. We have planned a potluck dinner with guest speaker Louise Diamond to be held Friday April 5 at the home of Olive and Ted Colwell in East Middlebury. The next afternoon Middlebury Friends are joining the Unitarians in sponsoring a Practicing Peace workshop, to be held at the Unitarian Church on Cross Street.

Louise Diamond lives in Lincoln and has a PhD in Peace Studies from the Union Institute. She has dedicated her life to helping people live in peace, within themselves and with each other. Louise has a long history as a peacebuilder with individuals, couples, families, communities, businesses, and in places of deep-rooted social conflict around the world. She is cofounder of the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, a non-governmental organization based in Washington, DC that takes a systems approach to peacebuilding in places of ethnic and regional unrest. She is founder of PeaceTech, a company promoting the human technology for peace through consulting, public speaking, and special events. Her writings include the books *The Courage for Peace* and *The Peace Book*.

Louise will talk with us about her work and issues of personal peacemaking after our always-delicious potluck. Friends are all encouraged to attend. As usual we will gather at 6 PM. If you need directions to the Colwell's please call 388 3632.

The next day, Saturday April 6, there will be a related event that sounds very exciting. At 2 O'clock at the Unitarian Church (6 Cross Street, Middlebury) we are cosponsoring a workshop entitled Practicing Peace. The class will be led by Richard Salzman, an instructor in Aikido, and Joanne Ranney, who is the New England regional coordinator of Witness for Peace. They both live in the Richmond area.

Here is how they describe their workshop: "Nonviolence is both a philosophy and a life style. It begins with a belief in the ultimate worth of every individual. As a philosophy, nonviolence is an extraordinary tool for helping recognize cause and effect—for joining good intentions with action. As a training and lifestyle, nonviolence encourages us to examine the way we treat ourselves and to see it reflected in the way we interact with others."

"This workshop offers nonviolent strategies to end personal, interpersonal, and systematic violence. We will evaluate how the daily practice of nonviolence can become a part of our lives; how to work for peace, equality, and community empowerment; renew hope and inspiration for the future; and gain confidence in our abilities to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others."

"Using the principles practiced in the art of Aikido we will explore the 'meeting' place. We will learn to experience the ways in which we are connected and disconnected, are

in confluence or in conflict. We will ‘witness’ the obstacles to harmony we set before us as we practice deepening our trust and respect for one another. Through the sincere and diligent practice of nonviolence we can increase our sense of inner peace by engaging more and more of the world. The solution to violence is the dissolution of the boundaries that keep us feeling separated and alienated.”

The workshop will run until 6 PM, and anyone is welcome to stay for a potluck dinner. We are asking for a donation of \$10-15 for the workshop to pay for Joanne and Richard’s expenses, though you may pay whatever you are able. For information please contact Win at 388-1961, Joanne at 434-3233, or Richard at 434-5933.

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Starting alphabetically, PRISCILLA BAKER spoke to the Friends of Cornwall School on February 6th on the importance of play in a child’s life. The paper described our Co-Clerk as “noted researcher and child-family therapist.” It also wrote that her “interest in the role of play in children’s lives grows out of her professional experience as a preschool educator (she owned a preschool for many years) and as a therapist. She will be talking about the importance of play in social, emotional and cognitive development as well as concerns regarding the decrease in creative play as media and electronic toys have increased.” Another speaker is RUTH BARENBAUM, who will be the featured program at the March 2nd Northwest Quarterly Meeting session at Hanover Friends Meeting. She will be reporting on the American Friends Service Committee Summit Meeting in Philadelphia, which she attended. There are new plans for a continuation of the Campaign for Conscience for the People of Iraq that will expand the aid given for safe water to drink. We have heard from MARK BOUTWELL, who recently moved to a new home in Hartland, VT. The place has more room for his growing boys. JONATHAN is in 6th grade, loves airplanes, and wears size 12 shoes! NICHOLAS is in 3rd grade and into soccer and other sports. Mark continues to commute to Brattleboro where he is the Area Manager of the CRT mental health office. Continuing through the alphabet, there is news from CONNIE COLMAN, daughter of the late Shep Colman Parker who was a founder of this meeting. Connie and her husband, Richard Travers, and children, Woody and Jake, were disappointed not to be able to attend the annual Holiday Potluck, but had a conflict with the Warren, VT Christmas Pageant. They hope they can get over the mountains to visit soon. WOODY is now attending Deerfield Academy, and is slated to travel to China this summer with his Chinese teacher. Jake is still at home, but Connie is already concerned about the “empty nest” blues. She wrote that she continues to enjoy the newsletter and feels it is great to see so much concern for others and so much activity. Within the past few weeks,

JOHN ELDER was awarded the 2002 Spirit in Nature Award, given annually by Spirit in Nature group. Bill McKibben, another outstanding writer on the environment and a new resident of Middlebury, introduced John. It was a great opportunity to hear two such fine writers speak, and the audience included a number of MFM faces. From beautiful Banff, Alberta in the Canadian Rockies, there was a report from JO GOING, Artist-In-Residence at The Banff Centre. A solo exhibition of her art, entitled "Seeding Light," is currently on display at the Centre. The artwork tells of light on its journey from mystery into being. She also has had some poems, in English and Italian, published in *Ice Flow*, an international poetry journal. She wonders how Italian got to the arctic! Additionally, she will have an essay and some color prints in *A Broad View*, published by Middlebury College. She ended her e-mail with the following: "With love that is the only color that does not fade." Finally at the end of the alphabet, we apologize to DEVIN ZATORSKI for giving him credit for a fine article in the local paper, when the true author was Devin Zarkowsky. Our Devin is also a fine newsman and your news hound got confused at the similarity of the names.

Mark's new address is:

Mark Boutwell
48 Rice Street
Windsor, VT 05089
802/436-1128
mboutwell@hcrs.org

- Ted Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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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

Treasurer

Olive Colwell (388-3632)
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Recording Clerk

Laura Asermily

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Ted Colwell

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

MIDDLEBURY 
FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 203
Ripton, VT 05766

Meeting for Worship

10:00 AM every First Day

Parent/Child Center, 126 Monroe Street, Middlebury

<http://community.middlebury.edu/~jmcbride/mfm.htm>

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above
or to winslow@well.com

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