

# MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING



OCTOBER 2002



*“What matters is living our lives in the power of love and not worrying too much about the results. In doing this, the means become part of the end. Hence we lose the sense of helplessness and futility in the face of the world’s crushing problems. We also lose the craving for success, always focusing on the goal to the exclusion of the way of getting there. We must literally not take too much thought for the morrow but throw ourselves wholeheartedly into the present. That is the beauty of the way of love; it cannot be planned and its end cannot be foretold”*

— Wolf Mendl  
*Prophets and reconcilers: reflections on  
the Quaker Peace Testimony*

# MINUTES, MEETING FOR BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2002

Co-clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Meeting began at 11:45 AM with a reading from Robert Barclay's *Apology* (see *NEYM Faith & Practice*, pg. 103). Present were Jean Rosenberg, Priscilla Baker, Spence Putnam, Fran Putnam, Jerry McBride, Grace McGrath, Olive Colwell, Ted Colwell, and Ruth Barenbaum

02.09.01 Minutes from 7/21/02 were approved.

02.09.02 Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Olive Colwell submitted the following report: "As of July 1, 2002, we started a new fiscal year. During July we had contributions of \$345.00 and expenses of \$1,229.00 consisting mainly of rent and payments to NEYM and NWQM. During August we received \$361.00, had expenditures of only \$53.20 for the newsletter, and changed our address in Friends Journal. As of the end of August the cash balance was \$1,729.98. In October we will be paying our usual quarterly payments, and we want to begin making contributions to our budgeted benevolences."

02.09.03 Ministry & Counsel Report: Grace McGrath gave the following report for the M&C Meeting held on 9/1/02:

1. A potluck with U.U.s on Sunday Sept. 29, at 6:00 PM will feature slides and report from the AFSC delegation that visited Iraq recently.

2. Particulars about Shep Colman Parker's memorial tree planting, which will take place after Meeting Sunday, September 29: David Tier volunteered to dig the hole. A site has been chosen by MFM representatives and Parent Child Center representative.

3. Meg Langworthy will attend Quarterly Meeting as our representative.

4. Adult Discussions: continuation of last month's discussion (see below).

5. Pastoral care within MFM (see below).

02.09.04 Adult Discussions/Friends Forum: It was reiterated that the purpose of these discussions is to provide opportunities for Middlebury Friends to explore topics of interest to us as a Meeting and to provide ongoing learning about Quaker beliefs and practices. It was stressed that everyone is welcomed and encouraged to participate. It was decided to change the name to Friends Forum.

Grace will conduct a survey asking Friends to make suggestions for topics and to determine the best time for discussions which will take place the last Sunday of each

month. Three possible times are 9:00 AM (before Meeting for Worship), 11:30 AM (following Meeting for Worship), or Sunday evening in a Friend's home.

The first discussion will take place on October 27 and focus on elder-care. It is suggested that Friends read "Issues Related to Elders and Their Caregivers" prior to the discussion. M&C will provide copies of this 6 page document. A facilitator is yet to be determined.

02.09.05 Circles of Care: M&C sought guidance for how to best care for all within our Friends' community. One way M&C has done this is for each M&C member to check in periodically with a specific number of Middlebury Friends, ensuring that all Friends are included. Also, M&C members identify themselves during introductions after Meeting for Worship, and remind Friends that M&C members are always available for any concerns or questions anyone may have. M&C was asked to prepare a description of their Circle of Care system to be printed in a future newsletter. Monthly Meeting expressed its support to, and appreciation of, M&C for all its work in providing care to our community.

02.09.06 Wake Robin: Ruth Barenbaum reminded MFM that we worship with Wake Robin Friends on the even numbered months. Wake Robin worship group meets every Sunday at 4:30 PM in the Dining Room. The next time Middlebury Friends will go to Wake Robin is October 20. Those wishing to travel together can meet at Priscilla Baker's at 3:45 PM.

02.09.07 Phone Tree: The co-clerks will revise the phone tree that is used when immediate communication is warranted.

02.09.08 Parent Child Center liaison: Nominating Committee was asked to name someone to act as point person, or liaison, between MFM and PCC. Co-clerks will update the Nominating Committee membership and ask them to appoint a liaison.

02.09.09 Space Committee: To date, two possibilities for increasing our Meeting space have been explored:

- 1) An addition that will be built, in the future, at the Parent Child Center, and
- 2) Havurah, from whom we are waiting to hear guidelines for making their space available to others. The Space Committee consists of Becky Holmes (convener), Spence Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, Joanna Colwell, Priscilla Baker. They are encouraged to meet again and assess where to go from here.

02.09.10 Parent Child Center Wetland Walkway: The Parent Child Center owns a large amount of wetlands that extend beyond their parking lot. They are thinking about creating a raised walkway through these wetlands. If any one is interested in participating in this project, contact Donna Bailey at PCC, 388-3171.

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02.09.11 MFM Directory: After discussion about when to publish the next Meeting Directory, it was decided to aim for March '03 which is 1 year after the last Directory. Friends expressed appreciation for the Directory as a tool for keeping us connected with one another and for the process that prompts us to check in with everyone near and far.

02.09.12 NEYM *Faith & Practice*: As they prepare for a new edition of *Faith and Practice*, the NEYM *F&P* Revision Committee is seeking input from New England Friends. They have prepared a list of questions to help Friends consider what should be included in the next *F&P*. We agreed to include this list as an insert in our next Newsletter. We will discuss this project, further, at next Monthly Meeting.

Monthly Meeting closed at 1:15 PM with a moment of silence.

## NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Autumn began on September 23 and already the temperatures are beginning to reflect the new season. School and college are back in session. ANAIS MITCHELL is back at Middlebury College after a year away in Texas and forwarding her musical career by making a new CD. HEATHER POTTER AND KURT SUCHOMEL broke the exciting news that they are expecting a baby, according to the doctor to arrive on 3/3/03. In addition, Kurt was the subject of a fine article in the Addison Independent about the new computer game, “Magnurt” that he has developed. Those who want to test it out can log onto [www.magnurt.com](http://www.magnurt.com). Good news for many of us was the birth on September 2 of LIVIA ABIGAIL to HANNAH SESSIONS and GREG BERNHARDT. Hannah is the daughter of Abi and Bill Sessions who were active members of MFM for many years. She is also the great granddaughter of ELIZABETH and CLIFFORD PROCTER, who until their move a few years ago to Lebanon, NH, were a faithful part of this meeting. SPENCE PUTNAM has been in the news since his appointment as the Executive Director of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility. VBSR is the oldest and largest regional group of socially responsible companies in the US with over 400 members. With his long experience in business, education, and politics, Spence is an ideal man for this important role. From Alaska we have had a message from JO GOING, the artist, who spent a winter in the Middlebury area and was a faithful attender at meeting, adding much through her music and art works. She wrote to let us know that she will be teaching at the University of Alaska, and in the artists-in-the-schools program. She will be living in Homer, AK, which is a maritime town located “on the tip of a peninsula sticking out like a candle in the North Pacific.” She is excited to be near the sea and happy that the community has a Quaker Meeting. Her new address is: P. O. Box 2217, Homer, AK 99603 starting October 1. In her letter she enclosed a powerful essay by John Haines about the problem of our economy becoming

a new God for many people. The latest newsletter of Women Safe, The Advocate, contains an excellent essay by JOHN BEATTIE titled "Whole Boys." John has been at meeting frequently in recent weeks and also has participated in the Silent Vigil each week. His article concerns the need to educate young men and boys to be whole beings and get out of the box of excessive masculinity that leads to violence against women. John is the Addison County Coordinator of the Domestic Abuse Education Project (DAEP). Friends should note in their Directories the following changes:

JULIE BECKER  
808 Orchard Commons Road  
Hinesburg, VT 05461  
482-2978

JOHN BEATTIE  
8 Shard Villa Road  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
352-4416  
blmjib@together.net

KRISTINE KIRKALDY  
23 Evergreen Lane  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
388-3388 or 388-7362

KARA SPANGLER  
111 South Main Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753

BECKY STRATTON  
177 Rogers Road  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
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HEATHER POTTER &  
KURT SUCHOMEL  
1048 Basin Harbor Road  
897-2459

- Ted Colwell

## MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

### Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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#### Co-Clerks

Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)  
Spence Putnam (388-1644)

#### Ministry and Counsel Committee

Laura Asermily  
Meg Langworthy  
Grace McGrath  
Carrie Reed  
Chris Stackhouse  
David Tier

#### Treasurer

Olive Colwell (388-3632)  
PO Box 6  
E. Middlebury, VT 05740

#### Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

#### Newsletter Mailing

Ruth Barenbaum  
Olive Colwell  
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](mailto:winslow@well.com)

*on the cover: Crane by Jo Going*