

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING



DECEMBER 2002

1	2	3	● 4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	○ 19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	DECEMBER 2002			

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Silent Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green,
Downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM
- Sunday, December 1 8:30 AM Ministry & Counsel
- Monday, December 2 7:00 PM Men's Group at Spence Putnam's (388-1644)
- Saturday, December 7 ALL DAY Northwest Quarterly Meeting hosted by
Plainfield/Barton-Glover at Plainfield Friends
Meetinghouse
- Sunday, December 22 10:00 AM Holiday Worship Sharing and Potluck at
Olive & Ted Colwell's (388-3632)
Theme: Peace & Kindness
- Wednesday, December 25 4:00 PM Christmas Day Meeting at South Starksboro
Meetinghouse. Dress warmly and bring a candle

Please Note: No Monthly Meeting for Business in December

“Inability to love is the central problem, because that inability masks a certain terror, and that terror is the terror of being touched. And if you can’t be touched, you can’t be changed. And if you can’t be changed, you can’t be alive.”

— JAMES BALDWIN

“What we chose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.”

— HOWARD ZINN

2003

Sunday, January 5	8:30 AM	Ministry & Counsel
Monday, January 6	7:00 PM	Men’s Group at Ted Colwell’s (388-3632)
Sunday, January 19	11:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
Sunday, January 26	3:00 PM	State of the Meeting. Annual discussion followed by potluck at Fran & Spence Putnam’s (388-1644)

Please Note: No Friends Forum in December or January

MINUTES, MEETING FOR BUSINESS

NOVEMBER 17, 2002

Co-Clerk: Spence Putnam

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Meeting began at 11:35 AM with a reading from Edward Burrough (*NEYM Faith & Practice*, pages 114-15) on the conduct of a Meeting for Business. Present were Spence Putnam, Priscilla Baker, Fran Putnam, Jerry McBride, Grace McGrath, Olive Colwell, and Ted Colwell.

02.11.01 **Minutes from 10/20/02** were approved with 1 correction, the addition of Sas Carey as present.

02.11.02 **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Olive Colwell submitted the following report: "During October 2002, contributions totaled \$405.00 and expenditures amounted to \$1,807.70. Regular expenses of \$1,282.70 included the quarterly payments for rent, contributions to New England Yearly Meeting, and Northwest Quarterly Meeting, plus amounts for books, the newsletter, postage, and planting of a tree in the Quaker Grove. Benevolence contributions were made to Addison County Community Action Group (ACCAG) and the Clergy Rental Fund. For the first four months we received gifts of \$1,833.00 and spent \$3,135.50. Our bank balance at October 31, 2002, was \$1,003.68.

"So far in November we have taken in \$145.00 and expended \$875.00. All payments were in connection with our budgeted benevolences going to Alternatives to Violence, Friends General Conference, American Friends Service Committee nationally and in Vermont, Habitat for Humanity, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Quaker United Nations Office. All our budgeted contributions to organizations have now been paid. Our cash balance on November 17th is \$273.68."

Grace McGrath presented a project and request for financial support. American Friends Service Committee will be sending personal hygiene kits to Iraqi refugees in Jordan. Each kit will have specific personal care items in them such as toothbrush, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. Grace will explore resources for these kits (donations and reduced cost possibilities) and will purchase the specific items that each kit must include. She will meet with the First Day School children on December 8th to assemble the kits as instructed by AFSC. Monthly Meeting gave full support for this project and agreed to have a Special Fund for Friends to make contributions for this project. It is estimated that each kit will cost about \$20 (which includes transportation of the kits overseas). Grace hopes to assemble at least 10 kits with the children on 12/8. Donations may be made out to Middlebury Friends Meeting, earmarked AFSC kits, and sent

to Treasurer Olive Colwell at P.O. Box 6, East Middlebury, VT 05740. Also, Grace will make up a flier to distribute to Friends after Meeting and at Saturday morning vigils.

Ministry & Counsel (M & C) Report, 02.11.03: (submitted by Grace McGrath)

(a) Circle of Care: Decided to continue and announce regularly as a practice of our Quaker Meeting's Ministry & Counsel. Divided list. Will review at next meeting to be sure no one overlooked.

(b) Outreach: Agreed to postpone postings at Middlebury College until next year.

(c) Mailing List: Reviewed list and agreed to contact those who haven't been involved in the meeting to see if they want to continue to be listed. If so, we would ask for a small contribution of about \$20 to help cover distribution expenses.

(d) Elder Care: Agreed to host a "Passage With Care" workday in winter (possibly some Feb. Sunday afternoon) when people could fill out their "Passage With Care" forms together. Laura reported on Friends Forum on Elder Care held 10/28 which she facilitated. It raised our consciousness and action (improved hearing, notification of visiting needs, support for caregivers). We will use handout as useful reference for addressing elder care in our meeting.

e) Friends Fourm: Agreed to focus on Peacework for Nov. 24. Win Colwell will facilitate.

f) Holiday Meeting: Grace will ask Cheryl to talk with children about what theme they would like for this year's holiday Meeting.

02.11/04 **Meeting Space Committee:** Spence reported that Becky Holmes is waiting to hear back from someone at Havurah with answers to our questions. Monthly Meeting requested that the Space Committee meet within the next 6 weeks to discuss all of our options and where to go from here in our quest for a larger space. Priscilla agreed to email the committee about setting up a time to meet.

Business Meeting closed after a moment of silence at 12:25 PM.

BENEVOLENCES PROFILES:

#3 ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP)

AVP is an national and world-wide program which conducts workshops in non-violence and conflict resolution in prisons and community settings. Its workshops are staffed entirely by volunteers using strategies and techniques developed by the Civil Rights movement. In 1975 a group of prisoners in GreenHaven, NY prison asked Quakers to come in to teach them these theories and techniques, and AVP was born.

Every month, the AVP/ Adirondack program, which MFM supports, conducts 22-hour weekend workshops with prisoners in the medium security Washington Correctional

Facility in Comstock, NY and trains participants to become co-facilitators with the outside volunteers. This Adirondack program, originally developed by Grace McGrath about 15 years ago, has seen participation by many Middlebury Friends, including Faith Lowell, Laura Asermily, Jean Rosenberg, Joanna Colwell, and Ruth Barenbaum.

- Ruth Barenbaum



SOME QUERIES ON FOOD!

Thanksgiving is a day of gratitude and celebrating the love of friends and family. It also carries on the timeless tradition of the harvest festival as we share wonderful food together. There are no Queries on food or diet, but allow me to share some that Joanna and I have written and have been trying to remember.

- Do we pause to give thanks before each meal, acknowledging that the food we eat is integral to our spiritual journey?
- Do we eat slowly and joyfully, so we may truly appreciate the effort that went into the growing, harvesting, and preparation of our food?
- Remembering that most food eaten in the United States has traveled 1,500 miles before it reaches our plates, do we make an effort to purchase and prepare food that is grown or raised locally, in order to burn less fuel and support the hardworking farmers of our region? Are we able to grow more of the food we eat ourselves?
- Do we do whatever we are able to encourage sustainable growing and animal-raising practices, so that we may consider ourselves good stewards of Earth?

- Winslow Colwell, with thanks to Ruah Swenerfelt and Louis Cox



GRACE and BOB McGrath have recently returned from a trip to Italy to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. It was a wonderful experience and they were in Florence during a massive Anti-War Demonstration against an attack on Iraq. Grace reports that the Italians they spoke with couldn't understand the policies of the USA. FRAN and SPENCE PUTNAM are planning a trip to Texas to see their son BENJIE and his fiancée ERIN. They will be enjoying Thanksgiving in the Lone Star State. DAVID ROSENBERG led a discussion on the opportunities and rights of those seeking conscientious objector status if there should be a new draft law passed. The

meeting took place on Tuesday, November 26, at the Unitarian-Universalist Meeting House in Middlebury. David has had much experience in this area, and it was a helpful session for young people at or near the draft age and their families. ANN TAYLOR recently had a frightening experience when the apartment next to hers at Otterside caught fire while she was in bed. Neighbors had a hard time convincing the firemen that she was in the building, but she was finally escorted outside in her nightgown and put up for the evening in a nearby B & B. The fire was extinguished with no harm to Ann's apartment. Now, she is back there, but with scary memories. Another frightening episode occurred in Fairbanks, Alaska when a severe earthquake hit the area. ANNE SUDKAMP told Olive Colwell that while they felt tremors, there was no damage to their home. The newsletter of the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy had a fine article about its Office for the Protection of Lake Champlain. HEATHER POTTER is directing that office and the story included a fine photo of Heather and her team. From the newsletter of Havurah we picked up the news that SAM FOGEL's daughter, Donna Jean Fogel, was married in Battery Park, New York City on October 26th. Her partner is Bekka Lindstrom. Sam wrote a "Declaration of Interdependence and Commitment" for the occasion. After a tough battle with pneumonia, ELEANOR GIBSON recovered sufficiently to fly to South Carolina, where she will spend the winter with her son and his family. JEAN ROSENBERG, Eleanor's daughter, flew down with her and was able to beat the recent ice and snowstorms in her trip home.

- Ted Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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

on the cover: Sugar-frosted Evergreens by Winslow Colwell