

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Be like the fox
who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.

- WENDELL BERRY



March
2020

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Minutes of Feb. 16, 2020*

THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

— WENDELL BERRY

MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 ^o	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 [●]	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every first Saturday	10:30-11:00 AM	ICAN Climate Vigil. New location on Cross Street Bridge
Thurs Feb 20		Nationwide Faith Climate Action. Statehouse in Montpelier
Sun Feb 23	11:30 AM	Friendly Forum: "Living into the NEYM Minute on Israel - Palestine"
Mon Feb 24	7:30 PM	Men's group at Tom Baskett's
Thurs Feb 27	8:30 AM	ICAN meeting, Weybridge Congregational Church
Mon Mar 2	7:00 PM	Reading Group at Cheryl Nitchell's
Thurs Mar 5	4:30 PM	Nordic Presentation by Fran and Spence Putnam Hillcrest Building, Middlebury College
Sun Mar 8	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Worship and Study Committee, Havurah House Earthcare Committee, Havurah House
Sun Mar 15	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business, Havurah House
Sun Mar 29	11:30 AM	Friendly Forum: "Money and Finance" led by Spence Putnam and Karen Nawn-Fahey

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT 2019

Dedicated to our dearly beloved Friend Ted Colwell

Being Quiet, Getting Healthy, Feeling Our Hearts Beating

Friends gathered First Day, January 19, 2020 to reflect on the questions:

How is Worship in Your Meeting? How do you Know?

Our worship is usually deep and powerful, in both silence and spoken ministry.

It nourishes our physical and spiritual health and allows us to go out into the world refreshed, caring more deeply about one another and about those in need. In the silence of meeting we drink from the well of the spirit and listen to what our hearts tell us, comforted in the knowledge that our beloved community will give us strength to do as we are called.

Our worship has been deepened in the past year by the continuing practice of afterthoughts. These encourage more people to speak, allow us to know one another better, and bring to the surface that which might have remained unsaid.

Many individuals have deep spiritual practices that are amplified in corporate worship. Sometimes one person's message will resonate with what is in the heart of others until it seems that we are offering corporate ministry.

The healing circle continues to be very central to the depth of our worship. We come with the intention of holding persons in the Light and trust that the spirit will surround us all.

The intimacy of our Meeting contributes to the sense of being a warm, loving, and inclusive family. It allows us to know one another more deeply, to share in one another's lives, and to support one another's work in the world. Some feel in deep relation to the wider world of Quakers and spiritually led activists. We feel that the spirit speaks to each of us differently and calls on us to walk different paths, and this is Okay. Similarly some feel centered almost all the time and others feel only momentary sweepings of the spirit, and that too is all right.

We come to meeting with an intention to be gathered in the spirit, we settle down and settle in to the silence, we listen to what our heart is teaching us about ourselves and calling us to do, we go forth refreshed and comforted knowing that our community and the spirit will guide and support us. We are slowing down yet very vibrant, learning to do what has to be done with love and intention.

As in most years, our reflections on what is, lead us to suggest what could be. We know we often fall short of our aspirations and we know that those who attend may have differing desires for what the meeting could be and do.

Some aspirations for the future:

We would love to include more families with young children, and more people from a wide r variety of backgrounds and experiences. How to accomplish this might be a topic of a future Friendly Forum

We might try a longer period of sharing after meeting to include joys, concerns, and news of friends in need.

A sound amplification system or way of assuring that friends can hear ministry and messages would be most welcome.

Could we create a closer connection to Cuba Yearly Meeting (similar to the Bolivia and first day school work)?

We would appreciate more learning about the lives and practices of early Quakers

More corporate projects related to the concerns of individuals or committee might be welcome.



A MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR HARRY E. “TED” COLWELL III

(NOVEMBER 3, 1922 – NOVEMBER 28, 2019)

The Middlebury Friends Meeting community celebrates the life of Harry “Ted” Colwell, a member of the Meeting since 1982, after he and his wife, Olive, took up permanent residence in East Middlebury and transferred their membership from Scarsdale Friends Meeting in New York. Ted and Olive became dedicated supporters of Middlebury Friends Meeting, and warmly embraced members and attenders, serving on Meeting committees and often opening their home to all for special Christmas celebrations. Ted also represented Middlebury Friends as a member of the Middlebury Area Clergy Association and the Addison Country Clergy Association. He offered strong support for such local organizations as Addison County Home Health and Hospice; Ilsley Library; Small Holders group; and Friends of the Arts.

Ted was raised in a Presbyterian household, served in the US Air Force during WWII, and earned a BA in Philosophy in 1946 from Dartmouth College. For a short time, he considered a career in the ministry and enrolled in Princeton Theological Seminary. Ultimately, he decided to pursue a career in banking and joined Chase National Bank in 1947, from which he retired as Division Executive of Aerospace in 1981. His time at Chase took him around the world on many occasions.

Ted came to Quakerism through his love for philosophy and wide reading. The works by Rufus Jones, Henry Cadbury, D. Elton Trueblood, and other major Quaker writers brought him to the concept of “continuing revelation” and he found the Quaker leading to go inward in search of one’s own spiritual truth a very compelling path. Always deeply dedicated to ethics and the pursuit of leading an ethical life, he sought to set high standards for himself and lead by example.

He would always start the day with a spiritual reading, often from the Bible, and always found time for prayer throughout his life. Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and Thomas Kelly inspired Ted to embrace a life of service to others and follow the example of Jesus of Nazareth as a model for how to live our lives in the here and now. In his later years, Ted began to study Buddhism and found its teachings an inspiring extension of his Quaker faith. His dedication to peace, justice, and environment stewardship is aptly reflected in his motto: “Small is Beautiful; Less is More; Moderation in All Things.” Ted is fondly remembered as a great companion and loyal friend.

Ted was predeceased by his wife, Olive, and his son-in-law, Jack Bouffard. He is survived by his two daughters, Sally of Minneapolis, MN, and Linda of Middlebury, VT, and his son, Win, who continues Ted’s active involvement in Middlebury Friends Meeting. He also leaves seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Middlebury Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

16 February, 2020

Clerks: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Grace Seale

Present: Tom Baskett, Chris Stackhouse, Spence Putnam, Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Fran Putnam, Tom Dickinson, Hyla Dickinson, Cheryl Mitchell, Grace Seale

20:02:01 Opening Worship

A time of quiet, taking Ted Colwell into our silence, holding in Light his elegant Quaker mind and his activism.

20:02:02 Review of Minutes

Minutes of January 2020 reviewed and approved.

20:02:03 Clerks’ report

The Memorial Minute for Harry E. “Ted” Colwell (thoughtfully composed by Priscilla

cont.

Baker and Norm Tjossem) was read, considered, and appreciated. It will appear in MFM newsletter and also be submitted to NWQM.

20:02:04 Treasurer's Report No report

20:02:05 Worship and Study Committee Report

- Draft of 2019 State of the Meeting Draft Report, dedicated to our dearly beloved Friend Ted Colwell, read aloud and discussed. Appreciation for Cheryl's care and articulate attention to detail in preparing this report expressed by Ruah and all in attendance.
- There was discussion of our group's numbers, and characteristics: "we are small, and grey, we could be larger, younger, and browner," and how we, as a small Meeting have an impact. This is, perhaps, a topic for a future FF.
- Friendly Forum is planned for the 23rd of February; topic is Living into the NEYM on Israel - Palestine

20:02:06 Earthcare

Watershed Discipleship Project

Ruah and Louis will create a blown-up map of the Otter / Lewis Creek watersheds, and a trifold display to help MFM participants learn about their local watersheds. Perhaps in the fall, we will help with a remediation project such as tree-planting in our local watershed.

We would like to get onto calendar with Worship and Study for a Friendly Forum to introduce the subject.

ICAN and ACORN Solar Array

Spence reported that the array in Shoreham is nearing completion and should go on line soon.

We are respectfully reminded that all things, micro to macro, are interconnected and that our actions or inactions are of significance in our care of the Earth.

20:02:07 Pastoral Care No report

20:02:08 Fellowship No report

20:02:09 New Business

20:02:10 Closing worship

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Tom Baskett 989-7034
Jean Rosenberg 388-6453

Recording Clerk

Jan Grace Seale
mrs.seale@gmail.com

Treasurer

Karen Nawn-Fahey
PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753

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! — winslow.colwell@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

Havarah House, 56 N. Pleasant St. (Rt.7), Middlebury

www.middleburyquakers.org

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