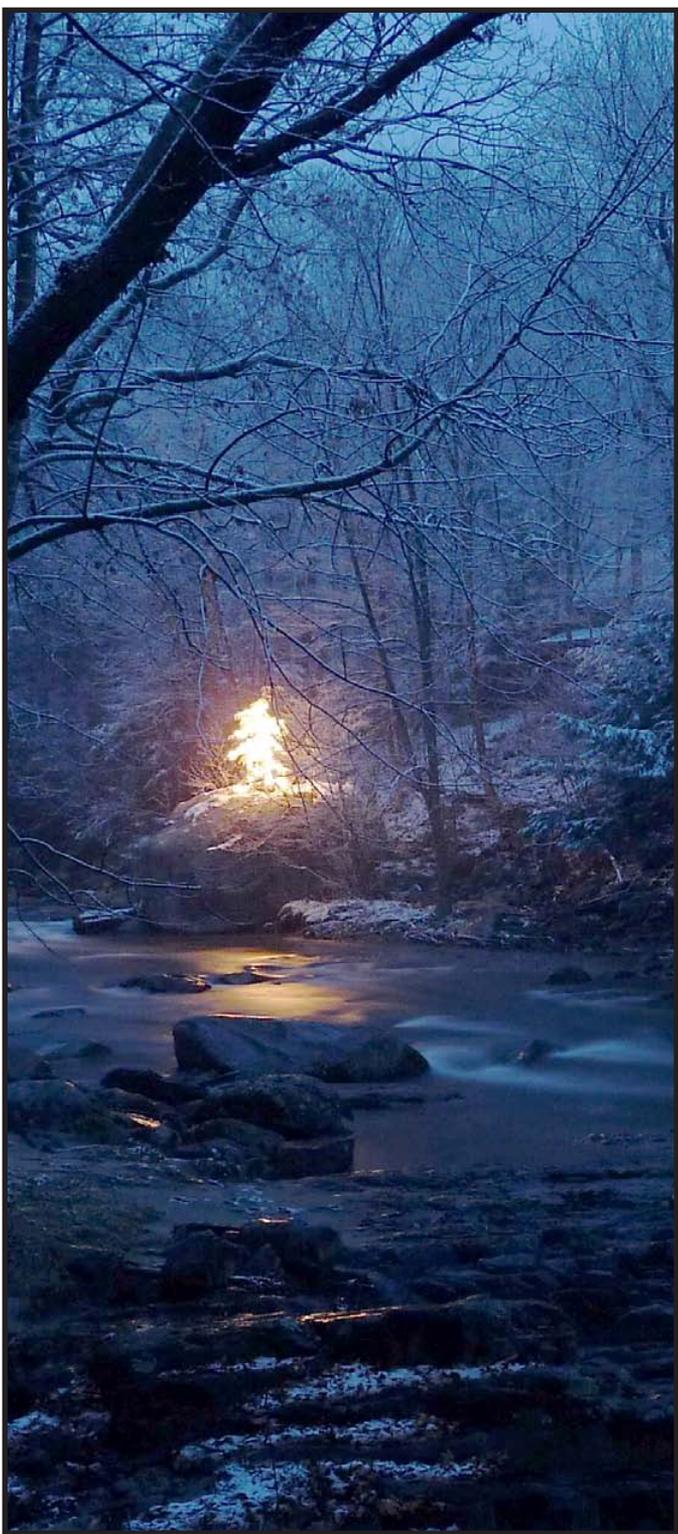


Middlebury Friends Meeting



December/
January
2009/10

DECEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		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		

JANUARY 2010 (!)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					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						

“[Imagination] must be the gift of the good fairies at birth and the years can never deface it or take it away. It is better to possess it, living in a garret, than to be the inhabitant of palaces without it.”

—L.M. MONTGOMERY

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Every Saturday | 10:30 AM | Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM. (Every Saturday again!) |
| Sun. Dec. 20 | 10:00 AM | Holiday Meeting at Colwell's, 1 Lower Plains Rd, East Middlebury. 388-3632/388-1961. Worship sharing followed by holiday potluck. All are welcome! |
| Mon. Jan. 11 | 4:5:30 PM | Outreach & Social Action Committee meeting at Spence Putnam's, 388-1644 |
| Mon. Jan. 11 | 7:00 PM | Women's Group at Karen Nawn-Fahey, 989-3081 |
| Wed. Jan 13 | 7:00 pm | Men's Group at Bob Clagett's home, 938 West St., Cornwall. 462-3610 |
| Sun. Jan. 17 | 11:30 AM | Monthly Meeting for Business |
| Sun. Jan. 24 | 3:5:00 PM | State of the Meeting meeting at the Rosenbergs, 232 Washington St, Middlebury. Hosted by Sas Carey and Becky Stratton. If weather is doubtful call 388-1301. |
| Sun. Jan. 24 | 5 PM | Potluck at the Rosenbergs at the finish of the State of the Meeting meeting. You are welcome to join us even if unable to participate in the earlier meeting! |

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

15 November, 2009

Clerk: Stewart Kirkaldy

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Ted Colwell, Stewart Kirkaldy, Spence Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, and Becky Stratton.

09.11.01 Minutes from October 18, 2009 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

09.11.02 **Treasurer's Report:** (from co-treasurer Spence Putnam) "During the month of October we had income of \$380. Total income for the fiscal year so far is \$1,605. The income for the comparable period last year was \$2,271.60. Expenditures during October totaled \$1,395: \$150 for the children's program, \$500 for New England Yearly Meeting, \$500 for Northwest Quarterly Meeting, \$25 for dues to the Middlebury Clergy Fund, \$44 for postage, and \$51.00 for the Community Supper (Outreach). In addition, \$200 has been contributed to the Clergy Rental Fund and \$100 was sent to the Clergy Emergency House Fund from our Contingencies line item (\$100 is left in Contingencies). The checking account balance at the end of October was \$3,535.33, which includes \$1,200.00 in the carry-over surplus fund.

"The bank balance as of November 12th was \$1,530.38. This reflects the early payment of normal quarterly payments as well as all benevolences except for Summer Lunch, Quaker Camps, AFSC Vermont (which is pending a decision for redirection), and MAGWAC, which is now Middlebury Energy Committee (so redirecting this could also be considered).

"The Finance Committee has considered the question raised at the October business meeting concerning a request from the Middlebury Area Clergy Association for donations in support of fuel assistance. The committee's recommendation is that the Meeting set up a special fund to which members may contribute, and that the Meeting appropriate \$25 from the contingency line item to "seed" this fund. The committee suggests that the treasurer transmit to the Clergy Fund by December 31 all the monies contributed to that date to take advantage of the financial matching feature of the program. The fund should be kept open until January 15 for later donations. This opportunity needs to be announced regularly after Meeting and in the Newsletter."

FOLLOW-UP: (1) It was approved to start a special fund for Friends to send earmarked support for Addison County fuel assistance and to start with a MFM contribution of \$25.

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(2) It was decided to redirect the \$50 for MAGWAC to ACoRN. It was confirmed, as decided at September MM, that \$200 originally intended for VT AFSC be sent to our Regional AFSC office in Cambridge, MA.

(3) The co-treasurers point out that the current balance in the MFM check book, minus the carry-over fund, which is restricted, is approximately \$330. This is due, primarily, to the earlier than usual payment to most of our benevolences. Friends are encouraged to consider donations.

09.11.03 Worship & Study Committee (from Jean Rosenberg, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk):

1. *Nominating Committee* is asked to find a new member to serve from December through April, to replace Mary Kay and Jean who will be absent for that time.

2. *First Day School* for young children on the 2nd Sunday is going well. It seems to be a good focus for families with young children to come once a month. The 3rd and 4th Sunday program for the older kids also is going very well, with individual Quakers meeting with them. We note, sadly, that Martin Glazer will not be able to come after the Ticonderoga ferry closes for the season and until either the bridge or ferry is functional again.

3. *Query reading on MM Sundays*: We remember that we need to identify someone to read a Query on business meeting Sundays.

4. *FGC Traveling Ministries*: Mary Kay described many resources available to meetings from FGC Traveling Ministries, including people to come to lead meeting retreats, First Day School training events, or sessions on various topics like vocal ministry. There also are some funds for Friends released to travel to other Quaker meetings in the ministry.

5. *The State of the Meeting meeting*, to be held Jan 24, will need a facilitator, note taker and draft writer as well as a home to host it. Mary Kay will consider whether she can be facilitator.

6. *The annual Holiday meeting*, on December 20, has been invited to the Colwell home in East Middlebury. We will circulate a list for helpers to assist with the event. Joanna will ask First Day School to identify a theme.

7. *Quaker Quest*: Our first event, attended by 10 Friends and no questers, consisted of wonderful presentations and fruitful discussion. QQ is a way of sharing our Quaker experience, or testifying to the Truth as the early Quakers called it. In the future we will explore expanding our advertising. We might consider a QQ in Ticonderoga next summer.

cont.

FOLLOW-UP: The second QQ took place on Nov. 15. 23 people attended including several community members, college students and middle school students. Following the presentations by three Quakers, there were many questions and interactive discussion. During the 15 minutes of worship several people shared ministry.

8. *The extended worship session* scheduled for Dec 5 will be postponed until next spring or summer when Mary Kay can travel across the lake.

9. *MFM Spiritual Life Survey*: Quarterly Meeting has requested that we send someone to their December 6 business meeting to report on our Spiritual Life Survey, its process and outcomes. Jean Rosenberg will give this report.

09.11.04 Pastoral Care Committee: No report this month. The recording clerk notes that the Passage with Care gathering took place after worship on Nov. 8. A dozen Friends were given updated packets, started to fill out forms, asked questions and shared information among themselves.

09.11.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee (from Karen Nawn-Fahey & Spence Putnam, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. *Community Supper wrap up*: The cost of the fall Community Supper was \$186.00, not including the value of donated garden produce. (Thanks to Tom Dickinson for putting value on all the purchased items that were donated.)

2. *Middlebury Area Clergy Council* is attended by Sas Carey as the representative from MFM. Karen will talk with Sas to discuss how to get information about the MACA discussions, projects, and funding requests to Meeting in a timely fashion. We are reminded that funding requests that come through COSA will be funneled to the Finance Committee.

3. *Peace witness*: The history and perspective of the Meeting's peace witness activities and participation over the years, especially during the Vietnam War, is instructive. Given the closing of the Vermont AFSC office, and the refocus on social issues of the Peace and Justice Center in Burlington, it is important that we consider the opportunities for individuals and for the Meeting. We will continue our consideration and discussion in future meetings. We welcome your thoughts.

FOLLOW-UP: Spence Putnam has recently joined the Board of the Peace and Justice Center and will be positioned to keep us updated on important issues.

See www.pjcv.org for more information

09.11.06 Fellowship Committee (from Fran Putnam; edited for these Minutes by the recording clerk):

1. *Friendly 8s groups* for the coming year have been reformed. We have been in touch with every convener and will check up on the groups in the next month. If there are

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other Friends who would like to join a Friendly 8s group, please talk to someone on the Fellowship Committee.

2. *Potluck Gatherings*: The next potluck gathering under the care of our committee will be Saturday, February 14 at the Putnams' house. This is planned as an intergenerational event with winter sports such as x-country skiing, sliding, and possibly ice skating in the afternoon, followed by potluck dinner.

09.11.07 **Letter to the Addison Independent on the Peace Testimony**: Stewart Kirkaldy drafted a response to a letter supporting peace printed in the Nov. 12 *Addison Independent*. He presented the letter to MM to consider sending it on behalf of MFM. Suggestions were made to shorten and emend the letter. Stewart and Becky Stratton will make these adjustments and read the edited version after meeting Nov. 22 for approval to send to the paper for publication.

09.11.08 **Requests for Membership**:

1. The membership committee has met with Don Peabody and Lianna Tennial and recommends them for membership. The co-clerks will write a letter of welcome.

2. A committee has met with Shirley Hill to discuss completion of her transfer of membership from N. Dartmouth Monthly Meeting to MFM. This transfer is now in place.

09.11.09 **Controversial Issues among Friends**: Stewart Kirkaldy has spoken with Dena Chase of New England Yearly Meeting about attending the March 2010 Quarterly Meeting when the Friends United Meeting (FUM) policy against hiring lesbian and gay employees will be discussed. Dena plans to attend.

09.12.09 **Friends Committee on National Legislation** has sent an appeal for Friends to send letters to President Obama protesting the sending of more troops to Afghanistan. Ted Colwell will send out more information about this via Listserv. Friends are encouraged to visit the FCNL website: fcln.org

09.13.09 **The Middlebury Campus weekly newspaper** published an article, "Quaker Community Fits Vermont Culture" by Grady Ross, in the Nov. 12, 2009 issue. It may be read at www.middleburycampus.com.

Meeting for Business closed with a few minutes of silence.



FRIENDLY BOOKS OF INTEREST



Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy

by Peter Brown, Geoffrey Garver, et al

The authors and their contributors, Quakers from Canada, New Zealand, and the United States, have come together to write a fine book on the very possible ways we may be able to reverse the current world trend towards catastrophe and move us toward sustainability and greater peace and plenty. They propose that humanity should move into a “right relationship” to nature, defined as when something tends to preserve the integrity, resilience, and beauty of life. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

They attempt to ask, and then respond to, five important questions: What is the economy for? How does the economy work? How big is too big? What’s fair? And how should the economy be governed? Recognizing that there are ecological limits and that continued, endless growth is an impossibility, the authors use Quaker principles to confront these questions and manage to come up with some excellent ideas of how we should proceed.

They believe that new international organizations are needed to supersede or supplement existing bodies such as the United Nations and which will guide and regulate the new concepts. These would include a Global Federation that would be concerned with global security and the protection of human rights and life’s commonwealth, a Global Court that could prevent the abuse of power of global agencies, or their subsidiaries, and to hear cases of enforcement of global rules, and a Global Reserve to analyze the earth’s life support systems and their proper use.

This is a book that tackles the major problem facing the population of the world at this time. It makes a brave attempt to explore the difficulties of getting all peoples to face the need for a global approach to avoidance disaster and to create new ways to insure fair and equitable solutions for the future. For Quakers and others it is a fine starting point towards understanding where we currently stand and the urgent need to bring about change. They have a strong sense of hope that we can take the necessary steps to turn the world’s economy in these sensible new directions.

— Ted Colwell

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

“If you don’t like the news, go out and make some of your own!” — Scoop Nisker

SPENCE PUTNAM has been elected to the board of directors of the Peace and Justice Center in Burlington, which is trying to strengthen its presence outside the Chittenden County area. (NQI editor’s note: this seems like great news for Addison County Friends—now we will have a direct connection to statewide efforts for peace and justice, which often seem centered in Burlington. Spence’s new position can be a real opportunity for us to get more involved!)

MEG FAHEY will be a Charter House intern this winter working with families in transition. She’s headed to Costa Rica early February.

On November 22, 16 Friends of all ages peeled and chopped apples to make pie filling for HOPE. We processed enough apples to make 46 pies for Thanksgiving meals! Thank you to everyone who helped.

WOODROW TRAVERS is working for the Directors’ Guild of America in a training program for Assistant Directors. He is currently working on the NBC television series ‘Mercy’. His brother JAKE will start his first coop program at Northeastern University working as a Probation Officer Assistant in Suffolk County. CONNIE and TRAV are busy with Trav’s growing Freeaire Refrigeration business and Connie’s work in the health field. They send their best to everyone in the Meeting.

— Joanna Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)

Becky Stratton (388-2487)

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

Treasurer

Laura Asermily

266 Washington St. Ext.

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9478

Co-Treasurer

Spence Putnam

575 Morgan Horse Farm Rd

Weybridge, VT 05753

388-1644

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.

Priscilla Baker (388-8024)

Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)

Sas Carey (388-1301)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

Newsletter Editor: Winslow Colwell (388-1961, win@wcolwell.com)

Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

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 win@wcolwell.com