

Middlebury Friends Meeting

November
2008



NOVEMBER 2008

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QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Sun. Nov. 2 10:00 AM Inter-generational meeting followed by hospitality
- Wed. Nov. 5 7:00 PM Women's Group at Fran Putnam's (388-1644)
- Sun. Nov. 9 8:30 AM Friendly Forum: What Do You See When You Turn on the Light? A chance to share our experience of Meeting for Worship. Discussion led by Tom Baskett.
- Wed. Nov. 12 7:00 PM Men's Group at Christ Stackhouse's (388-9224)
- Sun. Nov. 16 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Fri. Nov. 21 6:00 PM Potluck at Carrie Reed's father's house (388-0436) David White will talk about hospice work in Tanzania
- Sun. Nov. 23 9:00 AM Fellowship Committee
- Tues. Nov. 18 7:00 PM Outreach and Social Action Committee meeting at Karen Nawn-Fahey's (989-3081)
- Sun. Dec. 21 10:00 AM Holiday Meeting, location TBA

on the cover: Beauty, Again. photo by Winslow Colwell

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

—THOMAS EDISON

A MINDFULNESS REMINDER

Please be aware that there are some participants in Meeting for Worship who find that strong scents distract them from their communion with the Spirit. Please refrain from using perfume or colognes in respect to these Friends.

Also, the Worship and Study committee would like to request that Friends be mindful of the fact that, due to the poor acoustics in our Meeting room, it is difficult for some worshippers to hear announcements, names spoken in the healing circle, and vocal ministry. Please remember to speak loudly and clearly. If you feel moved to do so, you may want to stand for vocal ministry, to help your voice carry better. Thank you!

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

19 October, 2008

Clerk: Carrie Reed

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Basket, Margie Bekoff, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Mary Kay Glazer, Stewart Kirkaldy, Faith Lowell, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Spence Putnam, and Jean Rosenberg.

08.010.01 Minutes from 21 September 2008 were accepted as printed in the newsletter with one clarification: the Outreach and Social Concerns minutes that were sent to the recording clerk after last MM and printed in last month's minutes, were intended to be reported at today's MM and printed in October's minutes.

cont.

08.10.02 Treasurer's Monthly Report and Finance Committee Report (from Spence Putnam and Laura Assermily). "During the month of September, we had income of \$150.00 and expenses totaling \$180.00 (\$180.00 children's program). The September report was in error in reporting \$180 in income for that period. Total income for the first quarter (or 25%) of our fiscal year is \$1,016.60, which is just under 10% of our budget of \$10,382. The checking account balance at the end of September was \$3,577.76. This includes \$700.00 in the Carry-over contingency fund. "As of October 15th we had income of \$270 and expenditures of \$1,143.50 for the month, leaving us with a bank balance of \$2,704.26."

It was noted that our income for the first quarter is below quarterly expenses. While it is not a problem, at this time, Friends are reminded that a significant outlay will be made before the end of the calendar year when the Treasurer pays out as many Benevolences as possible. It was agreed that Spence will send out this month's report on the ListServ and a note encouraging Friends to contribute before the end of the year.

08.10.03 Worship and Study Committee (reported by Tom Baskett)

Twenty Spiritual Life Surveys have been returned and the committee has met for their first readings of the surveys. They noted that they have found the feedback from Friends very informative and helpful. They will make a full report to the meeting in the future.

Other topics recently discussed (from committee minutes sent to the recording clerk): visiting Friend Elaine Emily's facilitated discussion, in September, on Eldering, November 9 Friendly Forum on what happens when people give vocal ministry, New England Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice revision, and support for Wake Robin and Ticonderoga worship groups.

08.10.04 Pastoral Care Committee (reported by Carrie Reed) continues to address needs of individuals within the meeting and holding Friends in the Light. They noted that a large number of Friends have needed support lately.

To help Friends identify the responsibilities of each committee it was decided that the committee list and responsibilities will be sent out via ListServ with a note encouraging Friends to print out the list and/or save it in their computers for future reference.

It was noted that the Pastoral Care Committee needs to followup on completing an updated Directory.

08.10.05 Fellowship Committee (reported by Margie Beloff)

- Finished planning a potluck for October 24, at which Sas will talk about her latest trip to Mongolia, at Margie Bekoff and Jim Morse's.

cont.

- Began planning for a Nov. 21 potluck at Carrie Reed's father's house, at which David White, from Hospice Volunteer Services, will talk about the partnership between Vermont hospices and hospice care in rural Tanzania.
- Hopes, in the near future, to organize a book group open to all MFM Friends, both men and women.
- Next Fellowship Committee meeting for Sunday, November 23.

08.10.06 Outreach and Social Action Committee (reported by Karen Nawn-Fahey)

- *Community Supper:* Dottie Neuberger has sent a letter of thanks to MFM for hosting another successful Community Supper at the end of September. (See letter on page 6). Friends are reminded that they are always invited to share a community meal any Friday evening and this is a good way to meet others in our community while being nourished. It was agreed to commit to two meals in 2009, dates to be set at a later time.
- *Listserv:* After discussion about guidelines for the MFM Listserv, the following actions will be pursued further:
 - Consider creation of two separate vehicles of communication; one would be focused on spiritual learning and pastoral care, the other would be a kind of bulletin board or front porch at which Friends can post announcements, activities, etc.
 - Encourage Friends to carefully select words for the subject line which will help others discern what the content is before opening the email
 - Send out a simple questionnaire for feedback asking Friends how they use the Listserv, what works, etc. The committee will go ahead and send this out. Concern was raised about the circulation of political messages on our Listserv.
- “*Threshing session*” on nuclear power: The committee clarified the difference between a “threshing session,” which is for Friends to listen to each other with the purpose of reaching unity on an issue, and a “forum,” whose purpose is to learn more about an issue, i.e., educational. Since we, as a meeting, do not need to reach a unified position about nuclear power, the committee recommends that we not hold a threshing session, but encourage all Friends to educate themselves more fully on all aspects of nuclear power.
- *The Middlebury Interfaith Group* met, recently, to discuss needs within Addison County for food and fuel during the coming winter. Three MFM Friends, Margie Bekoff, Jean Rosenberg and Jim Morse, participated in these discussions and

reported that several practical suggestions are under consideration. One of these is to provide community lunches 4 days/week. There is funding available for food and supplies, but volunteer personnel will be needed. The committee will look into this further.

Monthly Meeting closed with a few moments of silence.

LETTER TO MFM FROM DOTTIE NEUBERGER, COMMUNITY SUPPER COORDINATOR

October 3, 2008

Dear Karen et al,

Many thanks for the delicious harvest chili meal you served the guests at the Community Supper a week ago. I heard many reports about how good the meal was and your friendly way of dealing with the guests. You served about 90 people with 30 take-outs—that is a lot of meals to prepare, particularly with seconds for anyone who asked. We are finding that more people need these meals and the atmosphere created by organizations and people like you make it a safe place to come.

This program only works because organizations and individuals are willing to put in the time, effort and money to make the meals as well as serve and clean-up. Our guests join me in sending your heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

“Dottie”

Dorothy Neuberger

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

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

KEVIN LEHMAN spent a week in mid-October in sunny San Diego for the International Solar Power Conference. He came back excited about what is happening in the solar industry, his head full of information and his bag full of business cards. He also reports that the ocean wasn’t bad, either!

cont.

JAKE AND BECKY HOLMES just came back from a weeklong stay with their children and grandchildren TURNER (5), WILLIAM (3), and NATALIE (13 months) in Highlands, North Carolina at 4118 feet. A grand time was had by all... they even went gem mining surrounded by more lovely fall foliage.

PRISCILLA BAKER is at Porter Hospital recovering from surgery after her appendix ruptured. She is healing well, and happy to receive visits. Let us all continue to hold our dear Friend in the Light.

WIN and I had the great pleasure of seeing SUSIE SMOLEN perform in the White River Valley Player's production of "Woody Guthrie's American Song," a musical about the life and times of Woody Guthrie. It was a fantastic show, amazingly relevant to the times we are now living in.

Joanna Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Becky Stratton (388-2487)

Carrie Reed (388 0436)

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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.

Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)

John Beattie (352-4416)

Sas Carey (388-7684)

Meg Langworthy (877-3217)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

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

Newsletter Mailing Ted & Olive Colwell, Ruth Barenbaum

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 1026
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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