

Middlebury Friends Meeting

May
2008



MAY 2008

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

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Sun. May 4 3:00 PM *Paper Clips*, a documentary about tolerance specifically targeted for middle- and high-schoolers at Memorial Baptist Church, S. Pleasant Street, Middlebury.
- Sun. May 11 10 AM Celebration of Life, Quaker Acres, Washington St. Intergenerational Meeting followed by potluck. Rain site: Havurah House.
- Sun. May 18 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Tues. May 20 7:00 PM Outreach Committee Meeting at Karen Nawy-Fahey's, 989-3081.
- Sun. May 25 8:30 AMV Worship & Study Committee meeting at Havurah House.
- Sun. June 1 9:00 AM Friendly Forum on "Who is Jesus?" led by Mary Kay Glazer.
- Fri. June 13 5:00 PM MFM hosts a simple, vegetarian Community Supper at Middlebury Congregational Church. To help volunteer please call Karen Nahn-Fahey at 989-3081.
- Sun. June 15 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business.

“All truth passes through three stages.
First, it is ridiculed.
Second, it is violently opposed.
Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.”

—ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

16 March, 2008

Clerk: Sas Carey

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Tom Baskett, Joanna Colwell, Olive Colwell, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Paul Davis, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Carrie Reed, Chris Stackhouse, and Becky Stratton.

Before settling into silence, co-clerk, Sas Carey read from George Fox: “The intent of all speaking is to bring into the life, and to walk in, and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy it, and to feel God’s presence.”

08.04.01 Minutes from 16 March 2008 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

08.04.02 Treasurer’s Report (from Becky Stratton): “During the month of March, 2008, we received contributions amounting to \$1,010.00. We paid for printing \$21.20, and \$100.00 for childcare. We continue to be grateful for the anonymous donation of \$502.88 for our song books, and enjoy singing together after Meeting. We ended the month with a balance of \$2,936.64.

“So far in the month of April we have had income of \$140.00. We paid \$21.20 for printing, \$6.90 for postage, \$60.00 for childcare, \$500.00 for rent, \$500.00 to New England Yearly Meeting and \$125.00 to Northwest Quarterly Meeting for a total expenditure of \$1,213.10. Our current balance is \$1,863.54.”

cont.

Additional item: Becky presented an appeal from the Middlebury Recreation Program for donations in support of their summer lunch program. It was decided to contribute \$100 which will come from the Frankie Kirkaldy Memorial Fund. Steward noted that Frankie very much liked to cook and it is fitting for some of this memorial fund to be used to provide nutritious food to children.

08.04.03 Worship and Study Committee (from Tom Baskett, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk; further action taken by MM indicated by italics): Meeting held on 13 April 2008; Members Present: Tom Baskett, Gary Margolis, Win Colwell, Joanna Colwell, Mary Kay Glazer, Rebecca Holmes, Carrie Reed.

- 1) **Greeter Arrangements:** Becky reported that she has reorganized the black Greeter Box to include most of the Greeter's needs and has rewritten the Greeter directions to reflect some changes in procedure. The new directions are both in the box and on the inside of the library cabinet door. She will add a contents checklist to the box.
- 2) **Celebration of Life** will be at Quaker Acres on Washington Street on May 11, at Havurah if it rains. A signup sheet for setup and cleanup will be circulated in the coming weeks. Some Friends will need to bring chairs. If it rains, Friends should bring vegetarian dishes for potluck at Havurah House, a simple way to avoid any problems with the kosher kitchen. Win will put this on the listserv. Joanna will talk with John Beattie about doing some dances. Bibles for two children will be prepared for presentation. *The sign-up sheet is being circulated; a sign will be posted on the Havurah door on May 11 with a map; the committee will clarify the theme to be established by the children, and they will establish who will open and close worship.*
- 3) **Spiritual Survey:** A draft survey has been circulated within the group. The purpose of the survey was discussed and suggestions were made to improve the draft survey. One question was discussed in detail: "Where do you see our Meeting on the continuum between appreciating the diversity of spiritual traditions and being faithful to our Quaker roots?" The group affirmed that developing the survey is a process that will take time, and that our process mirrors what the Meeting will be asked to do as it grapples with these questions. The committee agreed to let ideas germinate until the next meeting. It was suggested we consider a retreat focused on the survey. We will also use Friendly 8's and small groups to discuss issues.
- 4) **Article and Friendly Forum:** Mary Kay Glazer has written an article, "Who is Jesus?" that will be published in Friends' Journal next month. She offered to facilitate a Friendly Forum discussion focused on the article, scheduled for the first Sunday in June.

Additional items were discussed at monthly meeting:

cont.

- * *Singing at the close of worship*: It was agreed to sing a few songs from our new hymnals on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.
- * *Sandwich sign*: Since moving to Havurah House, we have used a small sandwich sign at the curb, announcing Meeting at 10:00 am. It was decided to amend the sign to read: "Quaker worship 10:00 am. Middlebury Friends Meeting." Win Colwell will discuss this decision to change the wording with Ruth Barenbaum, who created the original sign, and offer to make these changes.
- * *Query reading on third Sundays*: It was noted that the new system is now in place. Friends will sign up to read a query on the Greeter list. If no one has volunteered for a particular month the Worship and Study Committee will be responsible to cover this.

08.04.04 Pastoral Care Committee (from Grace McGrath) continues to focus on personal concerns and updating the MFM Directory.

08.04.05 Fellowship Committee: (from Fran Putnam) met on April 6, talked about the greeter roster, Friendly 8's, and the next potlucks. A tentative potluck date is set for June 13; Wendy and Glenn will talk about their trip to Cuba. A location is needed and it is hoped a volunteer will come forward.

08.04.06 Outreach and Social Action Committee (from Karen Nawn-Fahey, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk; further action taken by MM indicated by italics): covering both March and April meetings; members present: David Andrews, Stewart Kirkaldy, Christine Kirkaldy, Spence Putnam, Anne Taylor, Becky Stratton, Win Colwell, Cheryl Mitchell, Karen Nawn-Fahey

- 1) **How can we make it easier to contact MFM?** The committee recommends the following:
 - A) Rent a small post office box, at a cost of \$90 per year. This box would be used for all correspondence to the meeting including contributions from members, and all mailings that currently come to the clerks and various others. *MFM approved the annual fee for a PO Box in Middlebury, not to exceed \$150/year. The committee will investigate size, cost, and make the purchase. They will discuss who should have keys to check the box and at what frequency.*
 - B) Continue to explore feasibility of purchasing a central phone number.
 - C) Continue to update our website. Win Colwell, Stewart Kirkaldy and Spence Putnam will be a working group to address updates. *Discussion ensued about privacy and the possible need to eliminate such information as phone numbers in the electronic version of the newsletters. The committee will continue to discuss this. Friends are encouraged to visit www.middleburyquakers.org*

cont.

- 2) **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**: Stewart Kirkaldy hosted a potluck meeting, attended by a representative of FCNL who spoke about the organization. The committee recommends that anyone interested in national legislation or interested in this important organization, should check out the website: www.fcnl.org. Of immediate concern: FCNL has created a formatted letter directed specifically to Senator Leahy. It needs urgent attention for the April 30 appropriations vote. The Outreach Committee recommends that the text of this letter be sent to the MFM list serv so that interested members may edit/personalize the text and send it along to Senator Leahy in a timely fashion.

All agreed this letter should be sent out to the listserv.

- 3) **A Community Supper** will be hosted by MFM in late August/September, an ideal time to use garden produce and focus on local foods. In addition, community supper coordinator, Dottie Neuberger, has asked MFM to host a Community Supper either the second or fourth Friday of June. *It was decided to have Karen Nawn-Fabey explore with Laura Asermily the feasibility of MFM hosting a simple, vegetarian supper on June 13. They will present a plan at next monthly meeting. It was clarified that this would be in addition to the end of summer community supper we will host.*

08.04.07 Facilities Ad Hoc Committee to explore the Unitarian building proposal (report given by Tom Dickinson; other committee members are Tom Baskett, Sam Fogel, Lucy McKeon, and Chris Stackhouse). A draft of a questionnaire for MFM Friends to complete, as a way to determine the overall space needs, was presented. A few suggestions were made to amend the questionnaire which the meeting agreed should be sent out on the listserv, to be filled out electronically and returned to the committee.

08.04.08 Middlebury Area Clergy Council: Becky Stratton, who is our representative, explained that she receives many informational items and requests for donations and action which the council would like disseminated to area congregations. It was decided that Becky should consult with the Outreach Committee about how to do this. They will consider, for example, if the best mechanism is the listserv.

Co-clerk, Sas Carey, announced that this was the last monthly meeting she will clerk, that Carrie Reed will continue as co-clerk, and the Nominating Committee will identify a new co-clerk. The meeting thanked Sas for her diligent service.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.



SPIRIT IN NATURE

“A place of interconnecting paths where people of diverse spiritual traditions may walk, worship, meet, meditate, and promote education and better stewardship on this sacred earth.”

The Spirit in Nature Interfaith Path Sanctuary is a network of eleven paths plus a Meeting Circle and a Labyrinth located on a wooded plot on both sides of the Goshen Road about a half-mile from Rt. 125 in Ripton. The property is owned by Middlebury College and is counted as a carbon-sink in the efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions; ie. wood is not harvested from this area.

The paths are maintained in a cleared but natural state (in contrast to the manicured “sidewalks” of the nearby Robert Frost Interpretive Trail). Each path is sponsored by a religious or spiritual group, such as the Friends, and several quotes pertinent to nature and derived from that faith’s teachings are posted along the path.

The board of directors and all work crews are 100% volunteers, so the SPIN’s budget goes entirely to print and mail a newsletter, insurance, occasional promotional material, and a very reasonable lease on the land to Middlebury College. Income is derived from memberships, donations on site, and donations from groups such as the Friends.

I will be glad to maintain the Friends presence on the trail and on the board of directors and to answer any questions about SPIN that anyone may have.

—David Tier

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

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

SERVICE: KAREN NAWN-FAHEY is organizing Friends to provide a simple vegetarian Community Supper at the Congregational Church, Friday, June 13. Please contact her (kawnfaheycomcast.net or 989-3081) if you would like to participate.

After many weeks of grating beeswax, melting cocoa butter, and filling our little tins, the **Helping Hands Healing Hand Balm** (made by the Middlebury Friends kids) is ready to be sold! Each tin costs \$5 and all money will go directly to H.O.P.E. (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects- formerly A.C.C.A.G.). If any of you are reading this newsletter from afar, and would like to order some of this wonderful Quaker-made salve, just let us know and we will be very happy to mail some to you! Local Friends, please see us after Meeting, and take away with you as many tins of balm as you think you can sell!

FAMILY: On April 2 FRAN AND SPENCE PUTNAM proudly attended the proceedings at the courthouse in Elizabethtown, NY, when the adoption of their grandson was completed and his name officially became RICARDO FELIX PUTNAM-POULIOT (Rico for short). Congratulations, Putnam family!!

FAR AWAY FRIENDS: SAS CAREY just figured out that if all goes well, while our Meeting is sitting for the Celebration of Life, she will be flying from Beijing to Mongolia and arrive at 11:30 when the Meeting is breaking! The main difference is that in Mongolia it will be 11:30 at night, not morning!

Note from JO GOING: "since being in greenland last summer and working on healing global warming, i have been placing healing energy directly into the global matrix. i may be called to do more of this global work. Jo sends love to all at middlebury..."

Note from JAN and KIRK ROBERTS, founders of our Meeting with SHEP and DICK COLMAN and others: We read every word of all of MFM's newsletters and are very happy that the Meeting is doing so well.

Kirk and I are both doing well and are able to keep active with our usual activities. We are heading for Philadelphia this weekend to attend a wedding of one of Kirk's nieces. The wedding will be held in the Moorestown Friends Meeting where Kirk grew up. So it will be such a joy to see Kirk's siblings and spouses and also some of our closest college friends we knew at Earlham College.

Our special greetings to those at MFM. We will be back to Vermont in July to visit our son and his family in Essex Junction and friends in Middlebury. I don't think we will be in Midd on Sunday, but if we are, we will certainly attend Meeting.

cont.

We hope the MFM will continue to thrive and grow. Kirk joins me in sending our best to you all. — Jan

WORK: AARON and LAUREL COBURN have started their own business. Coburn & Cuadrado, Incorporated (www.coburncuadrado.com) is a small software company that designs advanced search tools. Aaron is the computer programmer, Laurel does the big-picture business planning and their business partner John is a mathematician who lives in Maine. Starting the business allows both to work flexible hours and be able to take care of son BJORN (now 2 1/2).

SHELLEY GUSTAFSON has launched her new business as a consulting scientist. After establishing her name in her field after 8 successful years with a busy firm, she is now available for independent environmental consulting. www.shelleygustafson.com.

ART: The College & Community Chorus Spring Concert, is Sun. May 4th, 3 PM, Mead Chapel, Middlebury College. Singers from our meeting include, BECKY STRATTON, tenor, WENDY GOODWIN, tenor, PRISCILLA BAKER, alto, and MIMI LOVE-NICHOLSON, soprano. We're singing selections from "The Seasons," Franz Joseph Haydn; John Rutter, "Requiem," with a small instrumental ensemble and work by contemporary composers, Morten Lauridsen, Randall Stroope and VT composer, Gwyneth Walker. Over 70 singers create such a wonderful sound!

Joanna Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Sas Carey (388-7684)
Carrie Reed (388 0436)

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

Treasurer

Becky Stratton
177 Rogers Road
Middlebury, VT 05753
388-2487

Newsletter Mailing

Ruth Barenbaum
Olive Colwell
Ted Colwell

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)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Sas Carey (388-7684)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

Meg Langworthy (877-3217)

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

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 203
Ripton, VT 05766

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