

# Middlebury Friends Meeting



April  
2015

# APRIL 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 <sup>○</sup>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 <sup>●</sup>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wed, April 8 4:15 PM Interfaith Green Team, Middlebury UCC
- Fri, April 10 5:30 PM Potluck and film, *No Impact Man*, Ilesley Library
- Sat, April 11 9 AM-4 PM Addison County Sustainable Living Expo at MUHS
- Sun, April 12 8:30 AM W & S Committee at Havurah
- Sun, April 12 8:30 AM Earthcare Committee at Havurah
- Sun, April 12 10:00 AM Everybody Lesson
- Tues, April 14 4:00 PM COSA meeting at Dickinson's
- Sun, April 19 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Fri, April 24 5:00 PM Community Supper at Middlebury UCC
- Sun, April 26 11:30 AM Friendly Forum: Traveling Gently on the Earth
- Sun, May 10 10:00 AM Annual Celebration of Life
- Sat/Sun, June 6 & 7 Quarterly Meeting

“The harmful effect on the atmosphere brought about by chemical emissions in industrialized countries is a very dangerous sign. Although this is a new thing for us Tibetans, the world is paying a lot of attention to this problem. It is the responsibility of us, who speak of the welfare of all sentient beings, to contribute towards this.”

— HIS HOLINESS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DALAI LAMA

## Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

15 March, 2015

Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Win Colwell, Tom Dickinson, Manya Dickinson, Brud Leedom, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, and Peter Schenck.

15.03.01 The meeting opened with a group reading of the final draft of the **State of the Meeting** (SOM) report, after which Friends settled into silence.

15.03.02 **Treasurer’s Report** (Karen Nawn-Fahey) All statements in this report are as of February 28, 2015.

During February the Meeting had member donations of \$950. During February, Meeting expenditures totaled \$344.25. This includes \$160 for Childcare and First Day School Coordination, \$90 to Paige Keren for childcare, \$20 to Wren Colwell for childcare for State of the Meeting, \$30 to Claire Armstrong for NWQM childcare Saturday evening, \$19.25 to Fran Putnam for supplies, and \$25 for MACA annual dues. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$7444.32.

FOLLOW UP: Regarding Quarterly Meeting expenses, Karen will submit receipts to the QM treasurer for reimbursement. It was agreed that co-clerk, Cheryl Mitchell, will write a letter of thanks to Counseling Service of Addison County with a donation for \$100 since they do not charge nonprofits for the use of their space. MFM will next cohost with S. Starksboro in June 2016.

*cont.*

The Annual Addison Independent annual worship directory will be published at the end of March. The charge is \$175 for a 1/3 page ad. All agreed to run the same ad as last year.

The treasurer requests that another Friend be responsible for picking up the mail at the Middlebury post office since most of the mailings received are not treasurer-related. The clerk will assume this responsibility.

**15.03.03 Earthcare Committee** (Fran Putnam, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. Several members attended the third meeting of the Interfaith Green Team. Betsy Hardy from Vermont Interfaith Power and Light attended and offered suggestions. This is the first Vermont interfaith group focused on climate disruption and one of the few in the country so far. There is enthusiasm for a “Climate Revival” as well as other potential projects.
2. The first in the 3 part Friendly Forum series was well attended. The March 22 forum will be led by Mimi Love-Nicholson on the topic of *Peace on Earth, Peace With Earth*.
3. The Low Carbon Diet series has been postponed for now.
4. A brain-storming session resulted in ideas for possible Meeting-wide projects for MFM to undertake during the Year of Earthcare. These will be narrowed down to make a simple survey for finding out which, if any, projects the Meeting would like to undertake.

Earthcare Dates:

**Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 PM:** Ilsley Library, Public Forum on Carbon Pollution Tax

**Sunday, March 29, 12:00:** potluck, 1:30-3:30 PM: talk by David Gwyn on *Sustainable Life*, at Burlington Friends Meeting

**Friday, April 10, 5:30 PM** Potluck, 6:30 film: *No Impact Man* at the Ilsley Library

**Saturday, Apr 11, 9 AM-4 PM:** Addison Co. Sustainable Living Expo. at MUHS

**Sunday, April 19, 1:30 AM:** Betsy Hardy, VTPL, at Cornwall Congregational Church

**Saturday, May 2:** Earth Day at Coop; Earthcare will set up a table

**Sunday, April 12, 8:30 AM:** Earthcare Committee meeting at Havurah

**15.03.04 Committee on Outreach and Social Action- COSA** (Don Peabody and Tom Dickinson; edited by the recording clerk)

1. Northwest Quarterly Meeting Review: The Ad Hoc Committee for the March, 2015 QM was applauded for an outstanding job. 60 persons attended and the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was represented by half of the Quarter’s monthly meetings. The “poster session” worked well as did the program.
2. Planning for Community Supper, April 24, 2015: Recruitment is underway for

leaders for the kitchen, serving, and cleanup work. Volunteer recruitment and supply logistics will follow.

3. Stewart Kirkaldy's letter to the editor on "hate speech" was published in a recent Addison Independent. A copy of the text was sent out on listserv.
4. A compilation of COSA meeting minutes and formal MFM minutes relevant to COSA are being compiled by Don with assistance from Brud Leedom.
5. COSA has initiated the first step in MFM becoming part of FCNL's monthly letter-writing program.
6. Ted Colwell wondered if there are local issues COSA might pay attention to. He noted one might be the increasing militarization of police departments. Members were encouraged to consider other local issues COSA might consider.
7. Don will attend "Emerging Practices in Quaker Outreach Day," at Dover Meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**15.03.05 Worship and Study Committee** (Tom Baskett and Leigh Harder, edited by the recording clerk)

1. Monthly Everybody Lessons, begun last fall, are underway. Friends are encouraged to share their feedback with members of the W & S Committee. FOLLOW UP: Several Friends commented positively about the lessons that have been presented so far
2. State of the Meeting report was further edited and prepared for a final review by monthly meeting.

FOLLOW UP: Friends approved the final version with a few clarifications of specific words. It will be published in MFM Newsletter and sent to QM and YM. A consideration of the Challenges and Growing Edges resulted in clarification of what each item entails and how they will be addressed, including which committee will focus on each item.

3. A policy on children's safety will be considered in the future.

**15.03.06 Fellowship Committee** (Laura Asermily, edited by the recording clerk)

1. The committee assessed their role in hosting of QM two weeks ago. Many Friends contributed to make it a successful gathering of Vermont and western New Hampshire Friends. The committee has compiled notes for future reference.
2. The Meeting Directory needs to be reprinted as there are no more available. The committee recommends annual, instead of the current biannual, printing.

FOLLOW UP: Friends agree to change updates from a biannual to an annual cycle because of more frequent changes in demographic information, sojourners, college students, etc.

3. Consideration has been given to the beginning and ending of each meeting, especially on greeting, welcoming and follow up with newcomers.

FOLLOW UP: Several suggestions were made which Fellowship will consider further. For now, those providing hospitality are encouraged to slow down cleanup so that people feel free to linger longer. It is suggested we replace the term “greeter” to “welcomer.” Pastoral Care has assessed the use of cards for newcomers and decided to dispense with these. They have re-introduce the Guest Book.

4. In collaboration with Earthcare Committee, Fellowship will host a potluck on April 10 starting at 5:30 pm at Ilsley Library. After potluck dinner the film No Impact Man will be shown. It is a humorous look at a young urban couple’s effort to reduce its carbon footprint toward no impact and what they learn about improvements in their quality of life as a consequence. This family-friendly, zero-waste event will be on the eve of the Sustainable Living Expo to be held at MUHS the next day. MFM will have a table at the Expo.
5. Future opportunities for Friendly socializing include our annual Celebration of Life in May and a summer outing in mid-August.

**15.03.07 Pastoral Care Committee** (Grace McGrath) In addition to addressing individual needs, Pastoral Care will follow up on the decision to accelerate frequency of publishing the Meeting directory. There is now a guest book for visitors and newcomers to sign and provide contact information.

**15.03.08 Manya Dickinson shared feedback from NEQM clerk, Connie Kincaid,** about use of the word “overseer” which has racially-negative connotations. A suggested neutral word to replace “overseer” is “coordinator.”

**15.03.9 Start of terms:** Co-clerk Cheryl Mitchell reported that she received feedback from several Friends about the question of whether to change the start of meeting offices and committees from July to January, to coincide with our new fiscal year. There is consensus to stay with July.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

## NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Mary Kay Glazer  
mkgglazer@me.com



News of Quakerly Interest is taking a break this month. Send your news tidbits to Mary Kay Glazer - mkgglazer@me.com - for inclusion in next month’s!

## MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT, 2014

On January 25, 2015, about twenty Friends met in worship sharing to reflect on the year, 2014. Gratitude for the Monthly Meeting and its presence and work was expressed throughout this gathering.

We were invited to consider our committees with special interest, and how they express the way the spirit is moving among us. Our committees were said to be operating like a well-oiled machine, with many parts working together efficiently and with thoughtfulness. This year, an **Ad Hoc Committee** reviewed the committee structure created in 2007, updating committee descriptions and responsibilities.

The **Committee for Outreach and Social Action** (COSA) organized, among other activities, two Community Suppers hosted by MFM. At both of these events many Friends provided meals for over 200 community members. **Pastoral Care** has helped various Friends in need of support, including oversight of Clearness Committees.

**Worship and Study** began All Ages Religious Education lessons in October, and continues to oversee this newly evolving experience. First Day School adopted a year-long focus on Earthcare. Friends appreciate the monthly Friendly Forums for their variety of topics and especially the focus on poetry in two of this year's sessions. **Fellowship Committee** organized several opportunities for Friendly socializing in response to a desire among MFM Friends for more connection. They also organized the annual Celebration of Life in May and the Holiday Gathering in December in conjunction with Worship and Study. The **Finance Committee** shepherded the Meeting decision to make a generous donation to the New England Yearly Meeting Sessions' equalization fund this summer. This helped to make NEYM's new "Pay as you are led" experiment a success and will help Friends to be able to attend Sessions regardless of ability to pay.

**Earthcare Committee**, a new committee set up this year, launched MFM's year-long focus on Earthcare. An initial Friendly Forum began the theme in September, and specially designed Queries were drafted for each month. Several energy saving initiatives were introduced to educate and challenge Friends, and the extended community, about the best sustainable use of resources (e.g., composting during hospitality, no-waste potlucks, carpooling, etc.).

Our **Co-Clerks** have done a much-appreciated job of sensitively presiding over Monthly Meeting for Business and overseeing the Meeting's many activities and concerns. Friends expressed appreciation for the MFM **monthly newsletters**, including the reinstated *News of Quakerly Interest*. Friends also honored attention given to the **MFM library**, particularly the Pendle Hill pamphlets and the newcomers' basket.

Spirit has been active and alive within the meeting. Some friends expressed that vocal ministry has seemed to consistently come from Spirit and been relevant. Sometimes there has been completely silent, spirit-filled worship. A number of friends spoke of the power of being held by Meeting for Worship and our Healing Circle when unable to be physically present.

We value connections and involvements outside our monthly meetings as well. A few Friends ran for political office within the past year, providing opportunities to bring deep listening and Quaker principles to the larger community. We are grateful New England Yearly Meeting was held at nearby Castleton College, allowing more MFM Friends to attend. We appreciate our connections with neighboring Burlington and South Starksboro meetings, though we expressed a desire to have a closer relationship with Quarterly Meeting.

Although change is a given we are aware of important and abiding constants within MFM, in our connections with and support of one another, our concern for peace, social justice and care of the earth, and our leadings to bear witness.

#### **Challenges/growing Edges for the year to come:**

- How can we make Friends more aware of the supports and resources that exist in Meeting such as Clearness Committees, Pastoral Care, Meeting Clerks, etc?
- How can we maintain a sense of connection with college students?
- How can we make the opening and closing of meetings for worship more inviting to all (visitors and regulars)?
- How do we talk with one another in ways that promote deeper joy and satisfaction?
- What are other ways we can expand our year of concern for Earthcare beyond what is already planned?

## MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

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### Co-Clerks

Cheryl Mitchell 545-2278  
Jean Rosenberg

### Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker  
388-8024

### 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.

Sas Carey (388-1301)

Norm Tjossem (388-0338)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

We welcome your submissions! — [winslow.colwell@gmail.com](mailto:winslow.colwell@gmail.com)  
News of Quakerly Interest — [mkglaizer@me.com](mailto:mkglaizer@me.com)

## 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](http://www.middleburyquakers.org)