

Middlebury Friends Meeting

August/
Sept 2014



AUGUST 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 [●]	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2014

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

“What you get by achieving your goals
is not as important as what you become
by achieving your goals.”

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. Aug. 17	11:30 AM	Summer gathering at Branbury State Beach, Lake Dunmore (rain date: 8/24)
Mon. Aug. 25	7:30 PM	Men's Group
Sun. Sept. 7		QM at Putney, VT
Sun. Sept. 14	8:30 AM	Worship and Study committee at Havurah
Sun. Sept. 14	8:45 AM	Earthcare Committee at Havurah
Sun. Sept. 14	10:00 AM	Meeting for Worship to include remembrances of Barbara Fiske Calhoun who died 4/28/14
Tues. Sept. 16	4:00 AM	COSA, location TBA
Sun. Sept. 21	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting
Fri. Sept. 26		Community Supper
Fri. Oct. 3	5:00 AM	Solar Tour of Putnam's house
	6:00 AM	Potluck at Putnam's

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

27 July, 2014

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Sas Carey, Tom Dickinson, Martin Glazer, Brud Leedham, Mark Moss, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, and Lianna Tennial.

14.07.01 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey, amended for these minutes by the recording clerk):

During June, 2014, the Meeting had member donations of \$690.

Meeting expenditures during June, 2014 totaled \$601. This includes \$120 for child-care, \$160 for First Day School Coordination, \$25 for shelf, \$100 benevolence to Summer Lunch Program, \$100 to NEYM to support Rojas, and \$96 for annual PO Box Rental.

As of July 25, 2014 the Meeting had member donations of \$425.

Meeting expenditures until July 25, 2014 totaled \$1724. This includes \$500 to NEYM Equalization Fund for Summer Sessions attendance, \$499 to NEYM, \$600 to Havurah for rent, \$125 to NWQM.

When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$5,010.57.

FOLLOW UP: It was explained that the \$499 quarterly payment to NEYM reflects the withholding of money requested by a MFM Friend in protest of the Friends United Meeting continued policy to deny Lesbian and Gay Friends employment or volunteer assignments within FUM. NEYM provides financial support to FUM.

It was noted that at the half way point in the fiscal/calendar year we have received only 1/3 of our expected income.

14.07.02 Committee on Outreach and Social Action (COSA) (Tom Dickinson)

The committee has not met since last monthly meeting. They plan to attend meetings of NEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee during the yearly meeting sessions in August.

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

The new monthly Queries have been edited extensively by Priscilla Baker and Jean Rosenberg, for which Earthcare committee members expressed gratitude. The commit-

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tee members discussed further edits to some of them, with special attention given to reducing length and “density” of each month’s reading.

The committee will submit a proposal to present our Earthcare Queries during an informal afternoon discussion time at NEYM in August.

FOLLOW UP: The committee will write a description for the newsletter about the upcoming year to be dedicated to MFM’s concern for earth care. They seek suggestions for what to cover in the September Friendly Forum, which will be a launching of this special year.

14.07.04 Pastoral Care Committee (Grace McGrath)

The committee has been busier than usual attending to several Middlebury Friends in need of support. They are making plans for meeting for worship on Sept. 14 when members of Barbara Fiske Calhoun’s family will attend worship. Friends will be remembering Barbara and her long and active life. Barbara died on April 28, 2014.

14.07.05 Fellowship Committee (Laura Asermily) The committee has not met since last monthly meeting. When they meet in August, they will discuss the status of Friendly 8’s.

14.07.06 Worship and Study Committee (W & S) (notes from Tom Baskett, edited by the recording clerk, presented by Lianna Tennal)

1. All Ages Religious Education (AARE) is proposed to start on September 14, with the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship devoted to a Faith and Play presentation on prayer. The AARE lessons will alternate between a Faith and Play presentation and story telling.

FOLLOW UP: AARE will start in October and will coincide with an intergenerational meeting for worship. Under consideration is dedicating the second Sunday of each month to AARE, unless there is an intergenerational meeting scheduled on a different Sunday in which case AARE will occur on that Sunday.

2. Earthcare queries were reviewed as well as the introduction to the queries. These documents have been sent to the Earthcare Committee. The list of all Earthcare queries will be sent out on listserv at the beginning of September. Thereafter, each monthly query will be posted at the beginning of the month during which it is to be read. Members of W & S and Earthcare will share reading the queries for the coming year. A new introduction was presented, edited and will be sent to Earthcare. Earthcare has been asked to consider facilitating the Friendly Forum in September as a way to begin this year of concern for the earth.
3. First Day School subcommittee met to plan the upcoming year focused on earth

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care. They are considering a proposal to monthly meeting to increase our first day school program to 3 times/month instead of the current 2.

Lianna will write for the newsletter a brief description of the new AARE and what Friends can expect on AARE Sundays.

FOLLOW UP: The committee is considering whether to propose changing Friendly Forums to a different Sunday. For the past few years, they have been held on the first Sunday of the month but this conflicts with Quarterly Meeting 3 or 4 times/year.

14.07.07 New Storage Cabinet. It is noted that a new shelf was purchased at a yard sale and has been bolted into place. Doors will be added to make into a cabinet.

14.07.08 A minute from Olympia (WA) Friends Meeting protests the Ugandan law which outlaws and punishes those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered. They suggest starting a New Friends Underground RR. The minute has been sent out to the listserv.

14.07.08 Committee Structure (Jean Rosenberg, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

After reading the summary of MFM's committee structure, adopted in 2007, as well as the questions prepared by co-clerk Cheryl Mitchell, it was agreed to ask each committee to do the following:

1. Review its 2007 job description, its current practices as a committee, and write up a revised version reflecting actual practices. This would include collaborations or shared tasks with other committees, as well as any questions it wishes to submit to the meeting.
2. Appoint a committee member to serve on a special committee to address these issues. The co-clerks will convene this special committee, consisting of those appointed by each committee plus any others the clerks appoint. The committee will consider the questions raised, actual practices, and committee membership. It will look at how we nominate people to committees, how long people should serve, and how we balance retaining people with a special calling or gifts with how we bring in new people to the work and service of the meeting. After seeking information from Friends and within each committee, this special committee will prepare a report after which they will facilitate an all meeting session to further discuss, on a broader level, the various issues of concern about our committee structure, practices and membership. It is hoped the special committee will start its work in September.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

YEAR-LONG EARTHCARE THEME BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

At Business Meeting in April, the idea arose of having a year-long theme around the topic of Earthcare. This is an exciting new departure for MFM and one which we hope will generate discussion, insight, and action. Several committees have been studying this idea and have come up with many interesting suggestions to flesh out the theme.

The Earthcare and Worship and Study committees have jointly produced a set of 12 new Queries which combine the traditional Queries with new language that focuses on Earthcare. Each month's Query will be sent out on the Listserv at the beginning of each month and then it will be read on the third Sunday. It is hoped that these Queries will serve to guide us into a deeper consideration of how care for the Earth relates to our Quaker tradition and practices.

The Fellowship Committee will keep Earthcare in mind as they plan events for our Meeting and the Worship and Study Committee will generate some of their Friendly Forum topics around this theme.

The Children's Program Committee has begun to plan the First Day School Curriculum around the topic of Earthcare in a manner that is age appropriate for our children.

The next Friendly Forum, led by members of the Earthcare Committee, date to be announced, will serve as a kick-off for our year-long Earthcare theme. Everyone is invited to come and participate, ask questions, and contribute ideas to the ongoing discussion.

-Fran Putnam

End of my sleeves

by Michael Resman

I looked at the end of my sleeves
and there I saw God's hands.
I'd been wondering for years
how God's work would ever get done.
I see these hands come equipped
with arms and eyes and mind and heart.
Now, to sink this will in That One
and yet again, bring God on earth.

from his Pendle Hill Pamphlet, #390, 2007,
Special Education as a Spiritual Journey

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Mary Kay Glazer
mkglazer@me.com



Spence Putnam is campaign manager for **Susan Smiley**, who has begun her campaign for the Vermont House to represent the towns of New Haven, Bridport, and Weybridge.

Ethan Mitchell and **Susannah McCandless** are in Switzerland for a month where Susannah is putting on an international seminar for the Global Diversity Foundation. <http://www.global-diversity.org/>

Tom Baskett and his wife **Di** have completed their move into Middlebury from Bridport. It was tough to leave the Bridport house and property, but life is easier in Middlebury and our condo is wonderful! New contact info: 6 Nedde Lane, Middlebury, 05753. Phone 989-7034. Email tomrbaskett@gmail.com.

Sas Carey and **Alexandra Cotafano**, a Romanian anthropology student from Indiana University, were recently in Romanian villages interviewing healers and magic people. Alexandra's thesis is on treatment of these people during the Soviet period. They hitchhiked, rode buses and walked from one village to another. You can follow Sas' adventures on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sas.carey>
Send her a friend request!

Bjorn Coburn has opened a remarkable natural history museum that he has curated himself over many years. Called "The Forest Museum," it's located in and near their Ripton home, 823 Deacon Hill Rd. The hours are weekdays from 9-11 AM and 3:30-6 PM. Weekend hours by appointment. The museum phone is 388-0544. Quakers may be especially interested in the "Spiritual Exhibit."

Jerry McBride, a former member of Middlebury Meeting, married **Camilla Lu** under the care of Palo Alto Friends Meeting on May 24. He writes: "We love each other very much and wanted to spend our lives together. The meeting agreed."

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

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)
Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Norm Tjossem (388-0338)
Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)
Carrie Reed (388-0436)

We welcome your submissions! — winslow.colwell@gmail.com
News of Quakerly Interest — mkgazer@mc.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