

Middlebury Friends Meeting

August/
September
2015



AUGUST 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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SEPTEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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**“Historically, the most terrible things
— war, genocide, and slavery — have resulted
not from disobedience, but from obedience.”**

— HOWARD ZINN

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 1-6		NE Yearly Meeting at Castleton State College
Sun, Aug. 9	8:30 AM	Earthcare Committee, at Havurah House
Thurs, Aug. 13	8:00 AM	ICAN Weybridge Congregational Church
Fri, Aug. 14	12 NOON	Pastoral Care Committee
Sun, Aug. 16	12 NOON	Lake Dunmore picnic
Mon, Aug. 24	7:00 PM	Men's Group
Sun, Sept. 6	11:30 AM	Fellowship Committee at Havurah
Sat/Sun Sept. 12 & 13		Quarterly Meeting at Bethany Birches
Sun, Sept. 13	8:30 AM	Worship and Study Committee at Havurah
Sun, Sept. 13	8:30 AM	Earthcare Committee at Havurah
Sun, Sept. 20	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
Fri, Sept. 25		Community Supper
Sun, Sept. 27		Everybody Lesson
Sun, Oct. 11	7:00 PM	Rise Up Singing concert, Middlebury
Sat, Oct. 17		VT Interfaith Power and Light Conference, Montpelier

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

26 July, 2015

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Sas Carey, Wendy Goodwin, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Spence Putam, and Peter Schenck.

15.07.01 The meeting opened with a reading from Harvey Gilman on spiritual hospitality: "We are called to be welcomers. As welcomers, we help others find that of God in themselves and in the world around them. Spiritual hospitality is enabling each human being to find his or her sacred space and to dance therein."

15.07.02 June 21 minutes corrections: 1. Also present Jean Rosenberg 2. Ad hoc chair committee volunteers are Tom Dickinson and Don Peabody. June 21 minutes accepted with two corrections.

15.07.03 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey) All statements in this report are as of July 23, 2015.

During June, the Meeting had member donations of \$470, plus \$775 in memory of Stewart Kirkaldy. During July, the Meeting had member donations of \$350 plus \$100 in memory of Stewart Kirkaldy.

During June, Meeting expenditures totaled \$513.04. This includes \$160 for Childcare and First Day School Coordination, \$15 to Wren Colwell for childcare, \$210 to Paige Keren for childcare (this includes May payment), \$28.04 for checks and \$100 for PO Box annual rent.

During July, Meeting expenditures totaled \$1794. This includes \$600 to Havurah, \$599 to NEYM, \$125 to NWQM, \$400 to NEYM for support of Summer Sessions attendance, and \$70 for meeting listing in Friends Journal.

When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$7111.51.

FOLLOW UP:

1. Karen clarified that the Finance Committee was asked to review the bank balance and recommend a prudent reserve to keep in our account. Once that's agreed upon, we'll know what surplus remains and needs to be considered for disbursement. Friends approved asking the Finance Committee to review the bank balance and recommend a prudent reserve and amount that can be considered as surplus.
2. Friends approved an Amazon gift card for \$100 for Paige Keren as an expression of our gratitude for her years of service to our children. Paige starts her social work graduate program in NY in a few weeks.

3. Discussion about patterns of contributions and contributors. Some in the meeting contribute regularly, some sporadically, and a few not at all. Karen will provide a total number of donors (excluding names) + the number of donors whose donations represent the greatest percentage of our budget. It is our hope to inform and encourage those who have not yet contributed to be part of the stewardship of MFM. It is noted that because we do not own property, we are able to operate with a modest amount of funding. Were we owners of property (land and meetinghouse) our financial needs would be much greater.
4. Clarification about the purpose of the hoc chair committee, consisting of Tom Dickinson and Don Peabody who volunteered last month and Spence Putnam who volunteered this month to be part of the committee. The committee will research options for possibly replacing the folding chairs. It has not been approved to take any action beyond information gathering. MFM liaison with Havurah, Laura Asermily, contacted Havurah liaison, Karen Lefkoe, to ask if Havurah would approve our purchase and storage of new chairs. Karen will bring this to the Havurah Steering Committee, who meets at the end of July. We will need to know our budget surplus amount, which will be known after the Finance Committee meets. Clarification is needed about whether new chairs will be a gift to Havurah or if MFM will own them. We acknowledge we are proceeding with some ambiguities, but we want to begin the process of information gathering.
5. Child care reimbursement: We agreed to revisit our child care rate as we prepare for a change in child care provider. The Child Care Committee (Llanna Tennal, Fran Putnam, Win Colwell and Aaron Coburn) is asked to consider and recommend a rate of pay for child care. During the interim it is approved to pay a rate of \$20 per meeting for worship, 9:45-11:15am, and other events such as Friendly Forums and monthly meetings.

15.07.04 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam and Spence Putnam, edited by the recording clerk)

1. Compost buddies program: The Earthcare committee polled Friends about becoming a compost buddy to assist those in our Meeting who do not have an available method for composting food waste. Four members volunteered to accept compost and two members showed an interest in bringing compost. Earthcare Committee proposes that the Meeting support this effort by underwriting the purchase of 7 countertop compost containers, available at the Addison County Transfer Station, at \$5 each, as a way to launch this program. It is noted that by 2020 municipalities will likely introduce curbside pickup of food waste, as mandated by state law.
2. News from Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN): Regular meetings continue to draw good numbers and a new faith group has joined, bringing the number up to five. The Climate Revival is tentatively scheduled for October 2 and 3

and plans are underway to include an event at Middlebury College. Next meeting: Thursday, August 13, 8:00 AM, Weybridge Congregational Church.

FOLLOW UP: Composting buddies plan: MFM approved the purchase of 8 composting buckets from the ACWMD at \$5/bucket. It is noted that this purchase is in keeping with our annual theme of Earthcare.

15.06.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action - COSA (Karen Nawn-Fahey)
The current focus of COSA is preparing for the next Community supper on September 25.

15.07.06 Worship and Study Committee (Peter Schenck, edited by the recording clerk)

1. **Friendly Forums:** There will begin a series of Friendly Forums on Friends Testimonies, to run September through May, 2016. The working schedule is as follows:

09/27/2015	Introduction To Testimonies – Jean Rosenberg and others
10/25/2015	Peace – Peter Schenck
11/22/2015	Community – Priscilla Baker
02/28/2016	Equality
03/27/2016	Simplicity
04/24/2016	Integrity
05/22/2016	Integration of the Testimonies

The facilitator for each month would request a brief statement from members, in the month before a given Testimony, regarding the upcoming testimony.

The leader will review these statements and submit them for publication in the newsletter. It is hoped this will help to promote the forums and deeper interest through the newsletter.

2. **Welcoming - The role of Worship and Study:** Since W & S is responsible for monitoring the spiritual wellbeing of MFM we believe we should extend a welcome to newcomers that reflects the spiritual life of Friends and of MFM. It is our responsibility to respond to questions about Friends, and help promote a better understanding of our faith and practice. We might periodically offer meetings for visitors, new attenders, and all Friends, to provide brief summaries and discussion about Friends history and our practices. These would best occur in someone's home with invitations to visitors/new attenders coming from the host. We would consult with Pastoral Care about a list of newcomers and visitors. We would coordinate with Fellowship to provide hospitality such as a light snack or potluck meal.

3. **Quaker Speak Videos:** We will request Win Colwell to create a link to the weekly Quaker Speak videos on our website. Also, we will ask the MFM librarian to purchase a copy of the first season of videos for our library.

cont.

4. Earth Care Witness Focus Year: We will suggest that Earthcare Committee lead a session (before or after worship) to consider the program of the last year, what worked and what didn't, etc.

15.07.07 Fellowship Committee No report this month.

15.07.08 Pastoral Care Committee (Sas Carey) Pastoral Care helped to organize the Memorial Service for Stewart Kirkaldy held on June 20, at Havurah House. About 55 people attended. Many messages and memories were shared. A lovely time of refreshments and fellowship followed.

15.07.09 Nominating Committee (Sas Carey) An updated report was presented with a few new additions since last month. The report was approved by MFM and will appear in the newsletter. To be considered in the future will be additional members on Fellowship and Worship and Study committees.

FOLLOW UP: A Clearness Committee has met with and recommends Tom Dickinson to serve as MFM representative to Northwest Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee. In addition, MFM expresses its gratitude to Lianna Tennal and Don Peabody who serve as co-clerks of the QM Planning Committee and provide reports of QM activities to MFM. They will deliver a report to MFM every few months.

15.07.10 Welcoming Newcomers: This discussion is postponed until September monthly meeting for business. Each committee is asked to consider their role in welcoming newcomers and visitors, and be prepared to share this at the discussion in September.

15.07.11 It is noted that Cheryl Mitchell's father, George Warfield, died last week. MFM will host a memorial service for George Warfield on August 1, at Havurah House.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



I am starting to write the "News of Quakerly Interest" and looking forward to collecting stories of interest, accomplishments and fun about what you all are doing that we can share.

I am on Nantucket for the month of July enjoying family and friends and reading about the huge and fascinating Quaker community that thrived here during the whaling era. Also was able to participate in a lovely and inspiring 2 day yoga festival that was held last week. Feel immensely lucky. —Lucy

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)

We welcome your submissions! — winslow.colwell@gmail.com

News of Quakerly Interest — lucym@shoreham.net

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