



Middlebury Friends Meeting

June
2016

Inside:

*Book Review:
Awakening Hope*

News of Quakerly Interest

5•15•16 Minutes

JUNE 2016

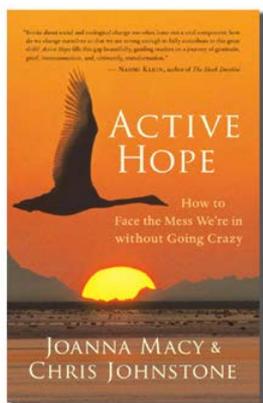
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 ●	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 ○
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sat/Sun. June 4 & 5 QM hosted by Quaker City & Monadnock meetings;
in Unity, NH
- Thurs. June 9 12:30 pm Pastoral Care Committee at Brud Leedom's
- Sun. June 12 8:30 am Worship & Study Committee at Havurah
Earthcare Committee at Havurah
- Tues. June 14 4:00 pm COSA location TBA
- Sun, June 19 8:30 am Monthly Meeting for Business
- Aug 6-11 NEYM sessions at Castleton University

“It isn’t the mountains ahead
to climb that wear you out;
it’s the pebble in your shoe.”

— MOHAMMAD ALI



A BOOK REVIEW OF *ACTIVE HOPE*

JOANNA MACY AND CHRIS JOHNSTONE

NEW WORLD LIBRARY, 2012

REVIEWED BY LEIGH HARDER

Like many of my contemporaries, I grew up and came of age in a time of volitional cultural regression, choosing a simpler way of life and eschewing materialism. I attended the first Earth Day in Fairmount Park (Philadelphia) as a teenager, went to conferences on alternative energy as a college student and embraced environmentalism and social action. But nothing changed; nothing much. Big oil and political powers carried on. Little or no money was allocated in our country for viable alternative energy research. And the use of pesticides, herbicides and other toxic solutions increased agriculturally.

My cynicism and feelings of hopelessness about environmental responsibility has grown over the years resulting in resigned passivity on my part. The embers of hope were stirred in me again recently as I read the book *Active Hope*.

In the book, *Active Hope* (subtitled “How to Face the Mess We’re in without Going Crazy”) written by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, a new view of environmental social action is described. The authors unflinchingly describe human reaction to the

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multiple environmental crises we are in. They describe carrying on as if everything is okay and why people do that. They describe the despondency and grief many people feel, not because they are irresponsible or unethical, but because they are convinced they have no power to change anything. They describe the widespread anxiety felt by many. And they resolutely call us to come together and act together, with intention, on behalf of our Earth.

A major theme in this book is “the Great Turning” of which there are three dimensions: holding actions, a shift in consciousness, and the development of life-sustaining systems and practices. The authors consistently connect the work of heart and mind stating, “...a new view of reality is emerging, where spiritual insight and scientific discovery both contribute to our understanding of ourselves as intimately interwoven with our world.” (p. 32). Macy and Johnstone discuss the importance of our awareness that we are interconnected to all in and on the earth and describe “the work that reconnects” as a qualitative (spiritual and psychological) quantitative (intellectual, social and action oriented) endeavor. They talk about this work as starting with the individual and growing outward. No quick fixes are ever mentioned.

There is more in this book than I can share in a brief review. I heartily encourage friends to read it, ponder it and come together to discuss and put into action. I believe it would be an important text for us as Quakers to share together. For me it has been reaffirming and hope-giver.

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



FRAN AND SPENCE PUTNAM are safely home from Ecuador and very much appreciate the expressions of concern at the time of the earthquake there. They had a great cross-cultural experience, learned a little Spanish and gained many insights from their hosts. They hope to put together a program about their experiences later this year to share with Meeting members.

KRISTEN LORD writes that she has been attending a conference in Quebec City and phone banking for Bernie Sanders.

—Lucy

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

15 May, 2016

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Sas Carey, Win Colwell, Tom Dickinson, Teresa Hyndman, Brud Leedom, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, and Lianna Tennial.

16.04.01 Monthly meeting opened with a reading from Patricia Loring's Listening Spirituality, Vol II. on Quaker discernment

16.05.02 April 17 minutes accepted as printed in the newsletter.

16.05.03 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey) All statements in this report as of April 30, 2016. During April, the Meeting had donations of \$426.

During April, Meeting expenditures totaled \$2046.23. This includes \$100 for child-care, \$160 for children's program coordination, \$750 to NEYM, \$600 to Havurah, \$125 to NWQM, \$105 to Little Pressroom for printing note cards, and \$206.23 for Community Supper.

From the Kirkaldy Funds, checks were sent to the Vermont Bird Museum for \$200 and to the Open Door Clinic for \$700. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$2345.54.

FOLLOW UP: Karen pointed out there is a normal ebb and flow to income and outgo, which explains the greater outgo at this time. She noted that while we usually pay benevolences in November a few are paid earlier, e.g., summer lunch program and support for attendance at NEYM in August. It was agreed that these expenses will always be paid in early summer, rather than be brought up for discussion each year.

16.05.04 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam; no meeting in April; next meeting June 12)

The Earthcare committee would like to remind Friends that the compost buddy program is continuing. Anyone who would like to bring food waste to Meeting in a portable bin and replace it with an empty bin can do so. We have three Friends who are willing to take the waste home to their own compost piles.

16.05.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action - COSA (Don Peabody, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. At the May 10 COSA meeting, Cheryl Mitchell introduced Beatrice Parwatikar, a Board member of Jubilee USA/Vermont. Beatrice explained that Jubilee is an alliance of more than 75 US organizations, 550 faith communities and 50 global

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partners. Finding expression of its spirit in, and taking its name from, Leviticus 25, and scriptural concepts of “redemption,” “forgiveness,” and “release,” Jubilee addresses the problem of institutional, structural, debt-enslavement around the world.

A hand-out explains: “[Jubilee works] to create an international financial system that protects and ensures participation of the most vulnerable within the context of human rights. Our advocacy promotes responsible lending and borrowing, increasing debt relief for poor countries, curbing illicit financial flows and corporate tax avoidance, moving forward an international debt resolution process, pushing reforms in international financial institutions and protecting poor people from predatory financial behavior.”

FOLLOW UP: COSA will discuss further the request from Jubilee VT, including if and how to present this to MFM for contribution.

2. COSA plans to follow-up to the Journey of Healing Workshop at a future meeting.

FOLLOW UP: Co-clerk, Tom Baskett, noted that COSA has many concerns to consider and could easily be overwhelmed by the volume and subject of concerns. He reminds Friends that we are all responsible and to take time and effort to be informed.

16.05.06 Worship and Study Committee (Leigh Harder, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. Lucy McKeon was welcomed as a new member of Worship and Study.
2. Children’s Program: Lianna reported that she is looking for a new person to assume childcare.
3. Friendly Forums: The final FF on Quaker Testimonies will be held May 22. This will be a wrap up to assimilate the 6 previous FFs and consider how the testimonies guide our lives. Previous Testimonies facilitators will be invited to participate in the wrap up session.

Two summer FFs are scheduled: June 26, *Wisdom for Living in Community*, led by Tom Baskett and Peter Schenck, and July 24, *Poetry: Spirit and the Word*, led by Leigh Harder.

Fall, 2016 FFs will focus on the book *Active Hope* by Joanna Macy.

4. Query reading and the binder: W & S has created a binder containing a record of queries read, dates and by whom. The binder includes a uniform introduction and a variety of materials from several yearly meeting advices and queries. The binder is in the library.
5. Newsletter discussion: Newsletter editor Win Colwell, joined W & S to discuss the newsletter which has been a mainstay among Middlebury Friends. He stated that he still enjoys this work and feels that it connects the MFM community and serves as an archive. The Welcoming Committee suggested having a number

of hard copies available for newcomers and others to pick up at meeting. It was suggested that minutes go at the end and a quotation or inspirational story at the beginning, perhaps provided by the co-clerks. Other ideas discussed include book reviews (starting with a review of *Active Hope*), an editorial board, spiritual biographies, interviews, First Day School contributions and “What I didn’t say at Meeting for Worship.”

16.05.07 Fellowship Committee: (Laura Asermily) It was noted that Celebration of Life moved indoors, at Havurah, due to rainy weather. The 2017 Celebration will be held at Treleven Farm.

It has been difficult to recruit new members for this committee. Co-clerks will meet with the committee to explore how to move forward.

Friends noted with much appreciation, Laura Asermily’s ongoing work on and with Fellowship over the past few years.

16.05.08 Pastoral Care Committee No report this month.

16.05.10 Nominating Committee (Sas Carey) The roster for July 2016- June 2017 was reviewed and will be published in the newsletter.

16.05.11 Quarterly Meeting (Tom Dickinson) June QM to be hosted by Quaker City and Monadnock meetings, will be held at Unity, NH. A clerks table workshop will be held in October, 2016

16.05.12 Committee Structure: It was noted that it is time to review our committee structure, recruiting members to serve, and distribution of specific tasks. This will be addressed at a future monthly meeting.

Meeting closed after a brief moment of silence.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Tom Baskett 989-7034
Jean Rosenberg 388-6453

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 (558-1005)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

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

News of Quakerly Interest — lucym@shorcham.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