

Middlebury Friends Meeting



March/April
2014

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A P R I L 2 0 1 4

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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“Love and trust, in the space between what’s said and what’s heard in our life, can make all the difference in the world.”

— FRED (MR.) ROGERS

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun. March 2 11:30 AM Friendly Forum: Holding one another in the Light
- Tues. Mar 4 Town Meeting Day and voting for local officials & issues. MFM's Laura Assermily is on the ballot for Select Board
- Sun. Mar. 9 8:30 am Worship & Study Committee at Havurah House
- Sun. Mar. 9 8:45 AM Climate Committee at Havurah House
- Tues. Mar. 11 4:00 PM Fellowship Committee at Midd. Natural Foods Coop
- Tue. Mar. 11 4:00 PM COSA at Dickinson's
- Sun. Mar. 16 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business at Havurah House
- Mon. Mar. 24 7:30 AM Men's group at Tom Baskett's
- Sat. Mar. 29 9 am-4 PM Addison County Sustainable Living Expo at MUHS. Go to www.acornvt.org for details
- Sat. Mar. 29 3:30 PM A talk about Ukraine by Jennifer Dickinson. At Ilsley Library community meeting room.
- Sun. Mar. 30 11:45 AM Program and workshop on Passages with Care. At Havurah House.
- Sun. Apr. 13 8:30 AM Worship and Study Committee at Havurah
- Sun. Apr. 13 8:45 AM Climate Committee at Havurah
- Tues. Apr. 15 4:00 PM COSA at Dickinson's
- Sun. Apr. 20 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting at Havurah House.
- Fri. Apr. 25 2-7:00 PM Community Supper hosted by MFM (Note: at MUHS)
- Sun. May 4 11:30 AM Friendly Forum on All Ages Religious Education. At Havurah House.
- Sun. May 11 10:00 AM Annual Celebration of Life at Quaker Acres
- Aug. 27 New England Yearly Meeting at Castleton State College

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

16 February, 2014

Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Baskett, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Mary Kay Glazer, Sophia Hughes, Stewart Kirkaldy, Grace McGrath, Mark Moss, Spencer Putnam, and Bill Schneider.

14.02.01 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey):

"Through January 31, 2014, the Meeting had member donations of \$1965. Meeting expenditures through January 31, 2014 totaled \$1524. This includes \$600 for Havurah rent, \$499 to NEYM, \$125 to NWQM, \$120 for childcare, \$160 for First Day School Coordination, \$20 for First Day School supplies. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$6265.82.

"During January, I distributed donation receipts via email and by mail. Also, 1099-MISC forms were prepared and sent to Lianna Tennal and Paige Keren, as well as Federal and State tax offices."

FOLLOW UP: It was clarified that our child care coordinator is a contractual worker, not an employee of MFM.

14.02.02 Worship and Study Committee (Tom Baskett)

1. All Ages Religious Education will move forward with a survey to be sent out to parents and others in MFM. Lianna Tennal will attend a RE workshop in April.
2. Couple Enrichment: Mark Moss and Mary Kay Glazer have been leading couples retreats, a program supported by Friends General Conference, since 2000. They have been under the care of Rochester, NY, Monthly Meeting, with an oversight committee, budget line to help with travel expenses, and a travel minute expressly in support of this program. In anticipation of transferring membership from Rochester to MFM, Mark and Mary Kay seek to transfer official support for this ministry under the care of MFM. This would involve an oversight committee to meet with them 3 or 4 times/year, a travel minute and financial support for travel.

Friends agreed to endorse moving forward with this proposal. W & S will talk with Mary Kay and Mark, and then report back to monthly meeting about next steps regarding an oversight committee, travel minute and financial support.

14.02.03 Fellowship Committee (Laura Assermily)

1. A program on Passages with Care will be coordinated with W & S, to be held on March 30, after meeting for worship, at Havurah House.
2. A potluck to focus on green buildings and conservation will be held at the

Putnam's. Date TBA.

3. Celebration of Life will be held on May 11 (Mother's Day) at Quaker Acres.
4. Music is being explored for more inclusion in our community.

FOLLOWUP: It is noted that there are increasing opportunities for collaboration between and among committees. E.g., Fellowship Committee provides for practical details of such gatherings as Celebration of Life and the upcoming program on Passages with Care, while W & S focuses on the program.

14.02.04 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA) (Tom Dickinson)

1. The Friends Committee on National Legislation has once again asked for priorities to guide them in lobbying the 114th Congress to be seated next January. We reviewed our response two years ago and plan to follow the same process this year. Drawing on background material provided by FCNL and our survey of 2012, we will draw up a list of ten or so priorities. This survey will be available at Meeting for Worship and circulated on listserv prior to our March Meeting for Business. At that Meeting we will select five legislative issues as our top priorities and forward them to FCNL by April 16 as requested.
2. Our Meeting will again be hosting Community Supper on April 25. A complication is that during April and May, the suppers will be held at the High School because of renovations at the Congregational Church, and we will not have access to the kitchen until after 2 PM on the day of the supper. Our menu for the spring supper is lasagna, salad, and garlic bread, and we expect that we will need to assemble the lasagna at another location in order to have time for baking. We are starting our planning early because of the new venue and expect we will benefit from the experience of other host groups in the weeks prior.
3. At our next meeting, Tuesday, March 11, 4:00 PM, we will continue our discussion of the selection of social and outreach issues for corporate action by our Meeting.

14.02.05 Pastoral Care Committee (Grace) The 2014 MFM Directory is finished and some copies printed out in a draft form, to allow for one more round of corrections. Copies were distributed. Friends are asked to review for mistakes and omissions. It is noted that this year's directory has new feature: an alphabetical listing of first names and a separate list of last names, to make easier the finding of someone whose full name may not be known.

14.02.06 Climate Committee (Spence Putnam) Havurah House has given permission for us to use their plates and utensils, provided we wash, dry and put them away. This will enable us to avoid using disposable paper and plastic items.

14.02.07 The 2013 State of the Meeting report draft was read and discussed. A few corrections and clarifications were noted. The rewrite will be sent out on the Listserv and considered for final approval at next monthly meeting.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

Monthly Meeting for Business

16 March, 2014

Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Basket, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Don Peabody, Spencer Putnam, Bill Schneider, Claudia Stoscheck, and Lianna Tennal.

14.03.01 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey):

"Through February 28, 2014, the Meeting had member donations of \$400. Meeting expenditures through February 28, 2014 totaled \$250. This includes \$90 for childcare and \$160 for First Day School Coordination. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$6415.82."

14.03.02 Worship and Study Committee (from Sophia Hughes, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk):

1. The next Friendly Forum will be on March 30 at 11:30. It will be on Passage with Care, facilitated by Priscilla Baker who will provide packets and advance directives forms.
2. The May 4th Friendly Forum will be on the topic of All Ages Religious Education, led by Lianna, who recently attended a training in Wellesley, MA. Lianna will prepare a survey to send out to the listserv.
3. On May 11 we will host, with Fellowship Committee, the annual Celebration of Life to be held at Quaker Acres.
4. The June 1st Fiendly Forum will be a two hour experiential opportunity for participants to contribute, learn from each other and perhaps see the movement of spirit through visual metaphor using the medium of a shared sand tray. Sophia will bring equipment and facilitate.
5. Mary Kay Glazer's current discernment committee will become the oversight committee for the Couples Encounter Program, led by Mary Kay and Mark Moss. Tom Basket will explore adding an additional member, as well as Jean Rosenberg when she returns In May.
6. We will take steps to assure that the alternative introduction to the queries is located in the Faith and Practice book as well as on the Greeters clipboard. We discussed tightening up the assignment of monthly readers.

FOLLOW UP: Appreciation was expressed for the several friendly forums that have been sponsored by W & S this past year.

14.03.03 Fellowship Committee did not meet this month

14.03.04 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA) (Tom Dickinson)

1. Tom Dickinson has distributed a survey to help FCNL prioritize issues for the coming year. He shared results from the 16 respondents, so far. He will resend the survey, with a deadline, encouraging Friends to voice their thoughts. Our results are due to FCNL by mid-April.
2. April 26 community supper organizing will start in earnest in early April with sign up sheets and food preparation planning.
3. On Saturday, March 29, Jennifer Dickinson will give a talk about the history of and current situation in Ukraine at the Ilsley Library.

14.03.05 Pastoral Care Committee

No report this month. Appreciation was expressed to PCC and Win Colwell for the excellent MFM Directory.

14.03.06 Climate Committee (Fran Putnam, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk; reported by Spence Putnam)

1. Claudia Stoscheck posted a Moveon.org online petition in support of two pieces of proposed legislation co-written by Sen. Bernie Sanders. One proposes a federal carbon tax and the other a reduction in subsidies for fossil fuel industries. There are currently 62 signatures on the petition.
2. We want to encourage the Town of Middlebury to accelerate their plan to make the new town office building closer to net-zero by installing solar panels on the roof. Spence will draft a letter to the editor that he will circulate and take to Meeting for Business.
3. We are discussing with Havurah composting and using reusable cups, plates, etc. We have been given permission to use any of their dishes, but their kitchen does not have reusable cups. We will recommend to MM the purchase of 3 dozen plastic stacking cups that we can store in the kitchen and make available for Havurah or Aurora School to use. Havurah is not interested in having a compost bin at Havurah. We will pursue a meeting with Aurora School to discuss other options. We have permission to give food waste, except meat products, to the neighbors' chickens. Since the Vermont state law requiring composting all food waste goes into effect in July, 2014, and banned from landfills entirely in 2010, we hope to revisit this issue with Havurah.

FOLLOW UP: It is approved to purchase 24 reusable stacking cups; however, the Climate Committee is asked to further research the pros/cons of plastic vs. glass.

4. We will propose to MM that we purchase more copies of the booklet, "Walking Gently on the Earth." We will suggest to MM that we condense and use the queries in the booklet when we read our monthly query, on monthly meeting

Sundays, beginning in April and extending for one year. We would take this on as our responsibility. We will provide an introduction to be read with the queries.

FOLLOW UP: MFM approved purchase of an unspecified number of pamphlets, but an amount greater than the proposed 6 copies. Friends expressed interest in using some version of specially adapted queries for a period of 1 year. Furthermore, Friends decided to dedicate a year focused on Climate Change/The Earth during which all aspects of MFM will examine ways to include this issues into their work and decisions, including First Day School, finances, friendly forums, potluck programs and our presence in the wider community. Climate and Worship and Study committees are asked to work together to create queries that both express our concern for the planet and maintain the historic and valued areas covered by New England Yearly Meeting queries. Both committees are scheduled to meet on April 13 during which time they might spend some time together to begin working out details.

5. Several participants in our Meeting have signed a civil disobedience pledge in case the Keystone XL Pipeline is approved by President Obama. We will ask how MFM might support the civil disobedience of Meeting participants.

FOLLOW UP: Win will resend the pledge in case other Friends want to sign it.

14.03.05 The 2013 State of the Meeting report was accepted with revisions. It will be sent to quarterly and yearly meetings.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

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
388-9478

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

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

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to
win@wcolwell.com