

Middlebury Friends Meeting

March
2016



MARCH 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	31		

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun. Feb. 28 11:30 AM Friendly Forum on the Testimony of Equality facilitated by Erin Ruble.
- Fri. March 4 6:00 PM Potluck and discussion on Welcoming at Ilsley Library Community room.
- Sun. March 13 8:30 AM W & S Committee
- Sun. March 20 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business at Havurah.
 11:30 AM Friendly Forum on the Testimony on Simplicity facilitated by Norm Tjossem
- Tues. March 15 TBD COSA
- Wed. March 16 12:30 PM Pastoral Care Committee at Grace McGrath's
- Thur. March 17 8:30 AM ICAN at Weybridge Congregational Church
- Sun. April 10 8:30 AM Earthcare Committee at Havurah (tentative date)
 8:30 AM W & S Committee at Havurah
- Friday, April 22 afternoon Community Supper at Middlebury Congregational Church
- Sat. April 30 9:30 AM Journey of Healing with Native American facilitators at CSAC meeting room. Until 11:30.

“Chimps are very quick to have a sudden fight or aggressive episode, but they’re equally as good at reconciliation.”

— JANE GOODALL

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

21 February, 2016

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Dickinson, Teresa Hyndman, Grace McGrath, Lucy McKeon, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Peter Schenck, and Lianna Tennal.

16.02.01 Monthly meeting opened with a reading from Patricia Loring’s *Listening Spirituality, Vol II*.

16.02.02 January 17, 2016 minutes approved as printed in the newsletter.

16.02.03 Treasurer’s Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey): All statements in this report are as of January 31, 2016.

During January, the Meeting had member donations of \$675, including \$15 to Warming Shelter.

During January, Meeting expenditures totaled \$1444. This includes \$120 to Claire Armstrong for childcare, \$600 to Havurah, \$599 to NEYM, and \$125 to NWQM. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$5152.02

Donation receipts are ready and have been emailed or sent to those who have emailed me their preferences. Also, all tax documents pertaining to payment for child care and Childcare Coordinator have been sent to those individuals and to the IRS.

IN ADDITION: Finance Committee member, Spence Putnam, reported that he has reviewed the Meeting’s books and finds everything in order.

Karen Nawn-Fahey reminded us about donations made to MFM in memory of Stewart Kirkaldy. She will talk with the family about how to move forward.

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

1. We discussed the possible weatherization of the Havurah building. Chris Stackhouse is working on a comprehensive plan, which may include a grant possibility.

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2. We have asked Worship and Study Committee to follow up with Jean Rosenberg on her offer to lead discussions of Joanna Macy's book, *Active Hope*, to occur after she returns in May.
3. The film *Merchants of Doubt*, which our committee co-sponsored in January with Vermont Interfaith Power and Light, was very well attended. We may arrange showing the film *This Changes Everything* for our Meeting.
4. We will suggest to MFM we seek more information about the Energy Independent Vermont campaign to put a price on carbon, in preparation for making a decision on whether we want to endorse this campaign, along with other faith groups in Vermont.
5. Three successful sessions of carrot processing for HOPE have taken place. Several Meeting families participated.

FOLLOW UP: Friends agreed to invite a speaker from Energy Independent Vermont Campaign, perhaps in September.

16.02.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action - COSA (no report this month). However, MFM approved the request to change our Community Supper date from April 29 to 22. COSA will organize. And Tom Dickinson reported that FCNL has sent out their annual solicitation of priorities for lobbying in Washington. He will prepare to send out via Listserv.

16.02.06 Worship and Study Committee (Peter Schenck). A draft of the SOM report for 2015 was read, and several adjustments made. After being published in the next newsletter, the report will be presented at March monthly meeting for final approval.

16.02.07 Fellowship Committee: Next meeting in May, date TBA. It is noted that Chris Stackhouse is now the Havurah House liaison person from MFM.

16.02.08 Pastoral Care Committee (Grace McGrath) The 2016 MFM Directory is nearly finished and soon to be published and distributed.

16.02.09 Stewart Kirkaldy Memorial Minute: Win is in communication with Westport (MA) Meeting to learn if they wish to prepare their own memorial minute or consolidate into a single minute with MFM.

16.02.10 Concern about visibility and audibility during Meeting for Worship. Lucy McKeon observed that chairs have been moving further apart, making the circle larger, resulting in more difficulty hearing across the circle. She suggested bringing chairs into a tighter circle, perhaps adding a second row. We agreed to experiment with arranging chairs in a closer circle and adding a second row to assess if this helps audibility.

Meeting closed after a brief moment of silence.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING (MFM) 2015 STATE OF THE MEETING DRAFT REPORT

On January 31, 2016, 18 Friends met in worship sharing to reflect on the year, 2015. Our convener began by offering three queries from Thomas Gates' PHP, *Members One of Another*: Is our Meeting a place of acceptance? Is it a place of shared values? Is it a place that welcomes transformation?

One Friend characterized Middlebury Friends Meeting as "the little Meeting that could," noting that despite our size, we continue to provide pastoral care for members, undertake various projects within the Meeting and in the wider community, and stay connected to and supportive of one another.

Our meeting was likened to a vessel that holds the Spirit and is held by the Spirit, and the vessel is overflowing with the Spirit. We welcome people into the vessel by holding them in the Light. All the while, we are held by all those who came before us since the 1660's. A newer participant expressed that the silence keeps her coming, because she feels the Divine in the circle as well as moving through all the people in the circle. An interest in Friends' Testimonies prompted a series of Friendly Forums devoted to exploring these testimonies. This has provided a way for new and old Friends to learn more about Quakerism.

We noted that our meeting is approximately 45 years old, having started as a worship group on the Middlebury College campus during the Viet Nam War. We have reached a place of maturity as a meeting and are now at a time of fine-tuning. Through periods of growth and change MFM has maintained a commitment to not own property, thereby minimizing time and resources needed to maintain a building. However, we are aware this impacts such things as the children's program and our permanent visibility in the community. Over the years, we have seen cyclical patterns of concerns such as the children's program, housing for the meeting, and community outreach. We acknowledge we are an aging group, which raises a concern about who will carry the meeting forward in the years ahead. We mourn the death of two elders.

Our committees are actively engaged, often collaborating, as in our year of concern for earth care and several annual gatherings. The children's program has grown to include Everybody Lessons at the beginning of worship once/month. These have helped to deepen our worship. Despite the small number of children many Friends participate in providing care and attention to our much-valued younger participants. This past year saw an increase in our awareness of, and involvement in, wider Quaker activities including Northwest Quarterly Meeting (NWQM), New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and American Friends

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Service Committee (AFSC). Locally, we continue to participate in community projects, financially and with hands-on work, sometimes taking a lead role.

We are financially healthy with a reserve that enabled us to purchase 40 new sturdy folding chairs and make a substantial donation to our local warming shelter. Because we do not own property, nor employ permanent staff, we are able to maintain a small budget of around \$17,000.

Looking ahead:

How can we attract and welcome younger participants?

Do we want to increase the portion of our budget set aside for benevolences?

How else can we move forward with our concern and efforts to be a welcoming place for all who enter into worship and community with us?

Can we provide a more visible presence in the community, e.g., a permanent sign at Havurah House, update to a mobile-friendly website, an office with a phone number and office hours?

Do we want to further our work in the wider community by pursuing the use of electronic options for communication, social action, and visibility?

We remember that Quakerism started with a group of seekers... and we are still seeking. Just as early Quakers did, we sit in silence, waiting on the Spirit, serving one another, and answering that of God in all.



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)

Norm Tjossem (388-0338)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

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