

Middlebury Friends Meeting

November
2015



NOVEMBER 2015

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

Wed, Nov. 4	12:30 PM	Pastoral Care at Grace's
Sun, Nov. 8	8:30 AM	Earthcare Committee at Havurah
Sun, Nov. 8	8:30 AM	Worship & Study at Havurah
Sun, Nov. 8	10:00 AM	Everybody Lesson at the beginning of worship
Tues, Nov. 10	4:00 PM	COSA at Dickinson's
Fri, Nov. 13	3:30 PM	Apple processing for HOPE at Hannaford Career Center. Until 5:30 PM.
Sun, Nov. 15	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting
Thurs, Nov. 19	8:00 AM	ICAN at Weybridge Congregational Church
Sun, Nov. 22	8:30 AM	Friendly Forum – Testimony on Community
Mon, Nov. 23	7:30 PM	Men's Group, TBA
Sat, Nov. 28	10:00 AM	Climate Change vigil on Triangle Park. Until 12 noon
Sat & Sun, Dec. 5 & 6		Quarterly Meeting, location TBA
Sun, Dec. 13	11:30 AM	Holiday Fair
Sun, Dec. 20	10:00 AM	Holiday Meeting at the Colwells

“May you grow up to be righteous, May you grow up to be true, May you always know the truth, And see the light surrounding you. May you always be courageous, Stand upright and be strong. And may you stay forever young.”

— BOB DYLAN

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

18 October, 2015

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Sas Carey, Tom Dickinson, Wendy Goodwin, Grace McGrath, Lucy McKeon, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Jean Rosenberg, Peter Schenck, and Lianna Tennal.

15.10.01 The meeting opened with a reading from Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *Beyond Consensus*

15.10.02 Sept. 20, 2015 minutes were accepted with the correction that Fran Putnam should be added to list of attendees.

15.10.03 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey). All statements in this report are as of September 30, 2015. During September, the Meeting had member donations of \$595. During September, Meeting expenditures totaled \$460. This includes \$160 for childcare coordination, \$75 to Claire Armstrong for childcare, \$25 for compost bins, and \$200 for Climate Revival children's activities. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$7246.51.

FOLLOW UP:

1. Addison County warming shelter at Charter House: Interest was expressed to add the winter shelter as a yearly benevolence, starting next fiscal year. For now, it was agreed to make an immediate \$900 donation to the Charter House Coalition, specifically in support of the warming shelter. Friends who wish to make an additional

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individual contribution may do so through an ear-marked donation to MFM.

2. Child Care reimbursement: The Child Care Committee proposes \$20/regular child care events (worship, monthly meeting, friendly forums). Other event, sometimes longer in length, will be negotiated by the Children's Program Coordinator or committee. Friends approved this rate of pay for our child care providers.
3. Stewart Kirkaldy memorial donations: It was agreed to continue to consider how best to use the donation from Stewart Kirkaldy's family of \$750, as well as \$200 in other contributions in his memory.
4. New Chairs Committee: A tally of Friends' preferences was presented. A provisional decision was made, to be confirmed at November monthly meeting, to buy 20 each of the two most preferred chairs, for which the total cost for 40 new chairs would be approximately \$1100. Havurah liaison, Laura Asermily, will ask Havurah about keeping a few Sanctuary chairs in the Fellowship Hall, storing our new chairs in the Fellowship Hall, and removing the current folding chairs into the basement.

15.10.04 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam):

1. Laura Asermily agreed to be the Earthcare Committee's representative on the Ad Hoc Committee on Welcoming Newcomers to the Meeting.
2. We noted the successful completion of the Interfaith Climate Revival on October 3, with around 100 participants. Several members of our Meeting participated in planning and carrying out this event. ICAN is grateful for the \$200 contribution from MFM for expenses of the event.
3. Apple Preparation Project for HOPE will take place on Friday November 14 from 3:30 to 5:30 at Hannaford Career Center. Laura will invite Havurah and the Unitarians, as well. The processed apples will be included in holiday food packages or put in storage for the food shelf.
4. Year of Earthcare Theme: With the help of the Worship and Study Committee, we reviewed the 13 returned online surveys. Responses were generally favorable, although not universally. The two main questions are: Did we like the idea of a year long theme, and did we like this theme in particular. Additionally the Earthcare committee is interested in learning to what extent the activities of the last year touched Friends on a deep level and how it may have changed their perceptions about the challenge of climate change.

FOLLOWUP: Evaluators of the Year of Concern for Earthcare are encouraged to continue to solicit feedback from Friends, notably by announcing at the close of worship a desire to hear from others, and by speaking to individual Friends. Appreciation was expressed for the time and effort put into creating and implementing this first-ever year long theme.

15.10.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action - COSA (Don Peabody)

1. Community Supper—Tom reported on the recent Community Supper: 242 total meals were served; the music and décor were exceptional; appreciation was expressed for the “quality of the room” which was characterized as “relaxed” and “attentive.”
2. Letters-to-Congress people—Friends have suggested the FCNL letter-writing program be brought into the Meeting-room. COSA plans to test that idea, selecting a time-after-meeting clear of other activities, setting up in a corner, providing copies of FCNL’s writing-kit, plus paper, pen, stamps, and envelopes, and inviting Friends to read FCNL materials, discuss the issue at hand, and, if so led, write letters to Congress people.
3. Ad Hoc Welcoming Committee—Susan Smiley will be COSA’s representative.
4. Journey of Healing Workshop—It appears the best possible date is April 30, 2016.
5. US bombing of a hospital in Afghanistan—Don distributed copies of a Washington Post article on the bombing of a hospital in Afghanistan and wondered “how much more, of this type of atrocity, we—as citizens and Quakers—would take from our government and what we might do in response.” To be continued.

15.10.06 Worship and Study Committee (Leigh Harder)

1. Friendly Forums – Peter will host the next Friendly Forum on the Peace Testimony. We agreed the first testimony-based Friendly Forum was well attended and the conversation rich.
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Welcoming – Priscilla will represent W & S.
3. Everybody Lessons and First Day School - This year’s First Day School focus will be on peace and conflict resolution. The next Intergenerational Sunday will be Oct. 11 with Lianna doing a Faith and Play lesson. Lianna, Peter and Leigh will meet to further discuss Faith and Play and perhaps other options, e.g., a creative task for the 4th Sunday in November. It is hoped the 4th Sunday of each month will be an active lesson or play group experience.

Religious Education Schedule: Oct. – Faith and Play, Nov. – story, Dec. – Holiday meeting, Jan. – Faith and Play, Feb. – story, March – Faith and Play, April – story, May – Faith and Play, June – story.

4. The Children’s Program Committee met on September 9, 2015. It is noted that FDS space, upstairs at Havurah, is no longer shared, giving us access to all the upstairs rooms. We decided it would be good to have separate rooms for curriculum and for play. We should strive to have 2 grownups upstairs at all times. This may sometimes be challenging, but important for the safety of all.

Teacher Schedule: September/October – Lianna, November – Erin, December – Fran, January - Win

5. A year of concern for Earthcare: Peter Schenck sent out a survey via MFM listserv regarding participation in and thoughts about the past year. The results were mixed. While many expressed appreciation for the theme and the year long opportunity to focus in depth on this issue, a few people were not in favor of a theme for the year. Some Friends wondered about the relationship between a tone of activism and having a more spiritual emphasis. On Oct. 11, W & S joined Earthcare Committee in a discussion about the evaluations and to reflect on the past year.
6. Friendly Forums: Oct. 25 - Testimony on Peace; Nov. 22 - Testimony on Community.
7. Wilderness Meeting has raised a concern that the proposed Queries for the revised Faith and Practice do not include Friends Testimonies. What action does MFM wish to take on this concern?

FOLLOWUP: W & S is asked to read and discuss the proposed queries for revision of New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, with an eye for the inclusion of Friends Testimonies.

15.10.07 **Fellowship Committee:** They are sending out a monthly calendar of events via listserv which Friends commented is helpful.

15.10.08 **Pastoral Care Committee:** No report this month

15.10.09 **Ad Hoc Welcoming Committee** will be convened by Wendy Goodwin.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

A CLIMATE REVIVAL

BY GEORGE KLOHCK (SUGGESTED BY FRAN PUTNAM)

On Saturday, October 3 an event took place that everyone should know about. People gathered at noon on the Green in the heart of Middlebury. The stage for worship was set with a shared accompaniment by music and drumming. Our informal fellowship and relationship-building was encouraged by our time out-of-doors together, all blessed by beautiful weather.

The event concluded with an interfaith service in St Stephen's Church. Speakers from many faith traditions, including Christian, Jewish, and Unitarian clergy, and a student member of the Middlebury College Sunday Night Group and wonderful musicians lifted their voices in concern for the care of the earth. Attendees were challenged to commit ourselves to action.

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The greatest challenge was given by the Rev. Dr. James Antal who came from Boston to speak. He thanked those who organized this event and said that, when an interfaith group like this goes to work together as we are here, it is a real miracle.

Jim Antal is one of the greatest preachers in America today. He knows the facts. He lives what he says. And, he is clear to call anyone who will listen to respond to the moral imperative of our time. He referred to Our Children's Trust (Google it) as a model for the kind of organizing and action that needs to happen. One way he spells out the moral imperative is to ask, "What would you do if someone was building a business and making loads of money on something that would result in the burning down of your home?" That is what the fossil fuel industry is doing in our world, and we must stop it. The text for his message was from the concluding verses of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:14-27). Jesus spoke about a wise man who build his house on rock and a foolish man who built his house on sand. Of the foolish man he said, "The winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – and great was its fall." This is not what anyone should want for the world that is our home, but already we are seeing signs of its happening.

Antal also said that fracking is as morally repugnant now as slavery was in the 1850's. And the nation's attitude about slavery was changed; the use of fossil fuels can be changed in our time.

Dr. Antal has been in jail several times for civil disobedience at the Whitehouse with Bill McKibben, James Hansen, and others. The challenge he is giving now calls for two actions: **civil disobedience and divestment**. He believes that every religious institution should be calling people to do this. If religion is about morality, morality is about money and how it is used. Money was one of the main themes that Jesus spoke about; following Jesus calls people to build a moral economy that will not allow profiting from actions or investments that are harmful to our earth/home. This may be a Christian principle, but it is also embraced by other religions as well.

Jim Antal counseled us to remember to start each day by giving thanks. If we do that, we are more likely to live in hope and care for others along life's way. We'll keep on caring for the world and building the community of love that Jesus envisioned.

The interfaith service closed with a prayer from *Laudato Si* by Pope Francis:

"At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God, and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which will share, along with us, in unending plenitude.

"In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God. Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope."

This event confirms my growing belief that religion has an essential part to play in saving the world for future generations. Religion has been a powerful force for change in many times in history. And now, I pray that churches, temples, mosques, all religious groups will wake up and move out in action and that people who have left churches or have never participated in any religious activity will join the cause. There is much for us to do. Now is the time! Let's go!

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
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FRAN and SPENCE PUTNAM led a workshop in Montpelier at the recent annual conference of Vermont Power and Light on the topic of "Faith Leaders as Climate Leaders." They focused on the work of the Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN), with special attention to the Climate Revival that the group ran in Middlebury on October 3. Also presenting with Fran and Spence was JOSEPH GAINZA, former Vermont Field Secretary for the American Friends Service Committee. Joseph spoke on the contributions of Pope Francis and other world leaders on the international climate scene.

BOB MCGRATH, GRACE MCGRATH's husband, recently received the Significant Lifetime Achievement Award at the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers International conference in Montreal, Canada. The award was for Bob's over 30 years of work preventing sexual abuse by assassinating, treating and conducting research on individuals who have committed sexual offenses. He has provided training and consulting services in over 40 states and throughout Canada, Europe and Asia.

BRUD LEEDOM won the "Tomato Division" of the *Addison Independent's* Garden Game with a Kellogg's Breakfast that had a circumference of 18 3/4 inches! He and BOB also flew to Boise, ID to attend the wedding of his niece TRACY to long time partner JACI. Brud writes that it was a great chance to see family that he hadn't seen in over 10 years and to spend time with sister DEBBIE, who lives in Tucson, AZ. The brown and sparse high desert was beautiful but "gave me a greater appreciation of the green mountains of Vermont."

Please send your news to me, Lucy McKeon, at lucym@shoreham.net

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

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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](mailto:lucym@shoreham.net)

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 1026
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Meeting for Worship 10 AM every First Day

Havarah House, 56 N. Pleasant St. (Rt.7), Middlebury

www.middleburyquakers.org