

Middlebury Friends Meeting

December/
January
2011/12



DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10 ^o
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 [●]
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 ^o	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 [●]	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Thank you, Mimi!

For many years and countless hours of worship, Middlebury Friends have found the Light manifested in the center of our Meeting circle by way of the flowers and arrangements brought by Mimi Love-Nicholson. It has been a ministry of beauty and generosity. Thank you, Friend!

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

- JESUS OF NAZARETH (Matthew 5.43-45)

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Saturday	10:30 AM	Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
Sun. 12/4	8:30 AM	Friendly Forum on Restorative Justice with Jean Rosenberg. (See story on page 6.)
Mon. 12/5	7:30 PM	Men’s Group at Bob Clagett’s (462-3610)
Sun. 12/11	8:30 AM	W & S Committee at Havurah House
Sun. 12/18	10:00 AM	Holiday Meeting at The Colwell’s followed by potluck (388-1961)
Wed. 12/21	7:00 PM	Women’s Group at Sas Carey’s (388-1301)
Sun. 1/8	8:30 AM	W & S Committee at Havurah house
Mon. 1/9	4:00 PM	COSA at Dickinson’s (388-2594)
Sun. 1/15	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun. 1/22	3-5 PM	State of the Meeting meeting at Laura Asermily’s (388-9478). Potluck to follow until 7 PM.

NOTE: NO MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS IN DECEMBER.

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

November 20, 2011

Co-Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, David Andrews, Tom Baskett, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Wendy Goodwin, and Grace McGrath.

11.11.01 Minutes from 16 October 2011: Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

11.11.02 Treasurer’s Report (David Andrews and Laura Asermily): During the

month of October 2011 the Meeting had income of \$850, which included member contributions of \$653, \$12 in donations received at the Community Supper, and an overpayment of \$185 returned from Olivia's Fund. The income for the comparable period last year was \$2,698.

Expenditures during October totaled \$852.60, and included: Northwest Quarterly Meeting, \$125, Children's Program \$210, Rent \$500, and postage \$17.60. In addition, all remaining funds were withdrawn from Olivia Grugan's fund, and \$1550 was paid out to Farm and Wilderness Camps and the Vermont Hurricane Relief Fund for Tropical Storm Irene relief.

The reconciled bank balance for the end of October was \$3,326.91, and the balance as of this date is \$3,476.91. We have just sent out a "shake the tree" email soliciting contributions to help us cover our end-of-year benevolences.

FOLLOW UP: MFM has been asked to be the interim container for Addison Farm Workers Coalition funds while they await finalization of their nonprofit status. This was approved for up to 6 months. The funds will be transferred to MFM account after 1/1/12.

11.11.03 Worship and Study Committee (W&S) (notes by Tom Baskett; edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. Friendly Forums: November's Forum on Eldering led to a suggestion to create a table display about eldering to help dispel the negative associations have about eldering (which is not "scolding"). Since eldering is a function of the Worship and Study Committee, we note that eldering is more a function than a role, a "doing" in various contexts by various people. We will create material to bring eldering into focus, for the display, for the newsletter, and in other ways.

The next Friendly Forum, on Restorative Justice, will be led by Jean who will write a brief article about it for the newsletter.

2. Welcoming and Mentoring Newcomers to Meeting: We will establish a "newcomers box" on the book table to be put out by greeters on Sunday mornings. In it will be copies of relevant pamphlets and books, and information about Friendly Forums and Q101. We discussed having MFM Friends act as mentors to newcomers. If an attendee asks for information they can be directed to the clerks or members of Pastoral Care who might then suggest an appropriate mentor for the newcomer (based on age, religious focus, parenthood etc.)
3. Quakerism 101 or Bible Study: We discussed initiating some kind of Bible study - perhaps offer one session as a Friendly Forum and then let those who attend decide if they would like to continue meeting as a group.
4. Flowers: The group deeply appreciates Mimi's flower ministry over the years and will thank her with a card and gift certificate.

cont.

FOLLOW UP: It was agreed to purchase a gift certificate from W&S funds. Friends are encouraged to bring in simple, natural objects, such as flowers, for the center of our circle. If a Friend feels led to coordinate/organize this effort they should speak to anyone on W&S.

5. Greeter duties: Because not all greeters are familiar with the various duties of the Sunday morning greeter, we will create a more user-friendly greeter instruction sheet. It will be laminated and several copies made available in several places for Greeters to use.
6. Children's Program: Win Colwell announced that the children's program sub-committee has hired Lianna Tennel as Children's Program coordinator, beginning January 1, 2012. This appointment was enthusiastically approved.

Fellowship Committee (FC) (Wendy Goodwin)

1. Potlucks: FC is looking into a possible potluck that will feature Quaker Earthcare Witness. There will be a winter potluck and intergenerational Valentine making gathering in mid-February. It is hoped to have our annual winter play day, but the timing will be spontaneous since this particular gathering is weather dependent.

FOLLOW UP: FC will look into a suggestion to hold an interfaith community potluck, perhaps with Havurah and/or UUs.

2. Friendly 8's: Friends will be asked if they wish to be part of a new Friendly 8's group in January.

11.11.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA) (notes from Tom Dickinson; edited for these minutes by the recording clerk):

1. FUM minute: We will arrange for one of the co-clerks to send this to FUM, rather than have it sent by the committee.
2. Quaker Earthcare Witness We will work with the Fellowship Committee to plan a potluck to which we will invite a QEW representative.
3. Hosting NEYM Permanent Board meeting: Burlington Monthly Meeting is delighted with our offer to co-host this day long meeting in May. We have yet to work out details.

11.11.06 Pastoral Care Committee recently met with Win Colwell to discuss and support him with several projects he coordinates or oversees, such as name tags, the directory and the newcomer card.

FOLLOW UP: It was agreed to spend up to \$150 on new name tags. We will switch to a new style of name tag, one that uses a magnet instead of a string.

11.11.07 Emergency Safety and Evacuation Committee is still in the process of gathering information.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND FRIENDS' TESTIMONIES

Restorative Justice (RJ) is an approach to harm-doing/crime and justice that embodies Friends' testimonies of peace and community. Hence I think Friends will be glad to know and support it. RJ is a new paradigm contrasting with retributive justice, a new vision and social movement, and an innovative program for addressing offenses constructively. RJ is at the same time an ancient approach to justice, common in many aboriginal cultures, based on a vision of the wholeness and interrelatedness of all things. Harmful actions are seen as symptoms of a loss of harmony, of brokenness in relationships, and the community's task is to restore the harmony by bringing about healing in relationships. In our modern societies, RJ dates only to the 1980s, and is still unknown by most people despite a proliferation of RJ programming around the world.

The retributive justice paradigm is familiar to us, with its insistence on establishing individual blame and guilt, an adversarial process, and infliction of punishment, i.e. pain and harm, as accountability and to deter. RJ is an alternative vision of justice as a process of healing, reconciliation, and restoring community, and of accountability as taking responsibility to listen, understand, apologize, repair, and learn. The focus is not on establishing individual guilt but on recognizing the harm done and problem-solving to repair it. The community facilitates the process, the needs of victims are at the center of concern, and the offenders participate by taking responsibility. This approach can recognize the complexity of situations, allow everyone affected to be heard, and still require accountability of the offenders.

The basic process of RJ consists of community representatives bringing together the affected persons in a situation of harm done (whether this was legally a crime or not) to address the needs of the victims, listen to each other and then to problem-solve together. The direct victims speak first, with plenty of support, to explain what happened to them and how it affected them. The indirect victims speak as well, including people speaking on how the community was affected. The offenders' families and friends speak on how they have been affected by the situation. Finally the offenders, having listened to all of this, speak and explain their understanding of the situation. The intent and design of all this allow for the offenders to drop their defensiveness and acknowledge and apologize to everyone. The group then turns to practical problem-solving, usually including restitution and apologies to the victims and community, and support for the offenders to learn, change, and reintegrate into the community in appropriate ways.

RJ can be adopted in varying degrees in court systems and their prisons and probation, as well as court diversion programs, school "discipline" systems, families, communities, and nationally and internationally. Tools of RJ in court systems include victim support programs, restitution, circle sentencing, victim-offender mediation, circles of sup-

port (to help offenders learn how not to reoffend), reparative probation, victim impact panels, community service requirements for offenders, halfway houses, treatment and education for offenders, community justice centers, and community conflict resolution programs. Some schools use circles of accountability to address school issues, gathering everyone affected by an offense to listen, acknowledge, and problem-solve. Families can use such circles. Truth and Reconciliation Commissions have been used at a national level for victims to be heard, for the community to recognize and acknowledge the nature of the harm done, and even for offenders to acknowledge and apologize.

The Restorative Justice movement is part of what I see as still the early days of a world-wide cultural shift against domination, violence, and war. We probably have centuries to go still in this process. But whatever the future, RJ as an alternative to the retributive justice system can build supportive community and undermine values of domination and violence. The vision of a practical justice of healing and reconciliation surely is one that Quakers will recognize and embrace.

See *Changing Paradigms: Punishment and Restorative Discipline*, by Paul Redekop, 2008, in the MFM library. Also, *Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice*, by Howard Zehr, 1990, the foundational book on restorative justice.

— Jean Rosenberg

REMINDER

If your concern over Friends United Meeting's (FUM) discriminatory personnel policy against gay and lesbian people means that you wish for no portion of your financial contribution to Middlebury meeting (MFM) to be forwarded through NEYM to FUM, you may so notify the MFM treasurers. The MFM contribution to NEYM then will be reduced by a portion for each person who makes this request, with notification to NEYM of why and how much has been withheld.

In MFM, we have recognized and minuted our unity in strong objection to the discriminatory FUM policy and all it implies in oppression and suffering for gay and lesbian people. We recognize that some of us feel conscientiously bound to withhold, while others choose to support NEYM's continued membership in FUM for reasons that include engaging with FUM to change this policy.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Winslow Colwell
Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

Co-Clerks

Cheryl Mitchell (545-2278)
Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

Treasurer

Laura Asermily
266 Washington St. Ext.
Middlebury, VT 05753
388-9478

Co-Treasurer

Jill Stackhouse
12 Seminary St
Middlebury, VT 05753
388-9224

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.

Priscilla Baker (388-8024)

Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)

Sas Carey (388-1301)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

We welcome your submissions! — win@wcolwell.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