

# Middlebury Friends Meeting

February/  
March  
2013



# FEBRUARY 2013

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 <sup>○</sup>	26	27	28		

# MARCH 2013

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						

“Usually we think that brave people have no fear.  
The truth is that they are intimate with fear.”

— PEMA CHÖDRÖN

## QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

---

Every Saturday	10:30 AM	Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
Tue. Feb 5	7:00 PM	<i>Tipping Point: The Age of the Oil Sands</i> , Ilsley Library. This documentary takes viewers behind the scenes of the extraction of oil from Canada’s tar sands. The screening will be followed by discussion of the pipeline that will pass through the Northeast Kingdom and town meeting resolutions calling for bans on tar sands oil.
Fri. Feb. 8	3:15 PM	Pastoral Care Committee, at Priscilla Baker’s
Sun. Feb. 10	8:30 AM	Worship & Study committee at Havurah House
Tue. Feb. 12	4:00 PM	COSA at Dickinson’s
Sun. Feb. 17	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business at Havurah House
Sun. Feb. 24	10:00 AM	Intergenerational Meeting at Havurah House
Sat. Mar. 2	4-6 PM	Women’s group at Ann Barker’s home in Ripton. Call 388-7329 for directions.
Sun. Mar. 10	8:30 AM	Worship & Study Committee at Havurah House
Sun. Mar. 10	1:30:00 PM	Dessert potluck at Dickinson’s to learn about Vermont HomeShare
Tue. Mar. 12	4:00 PM	COSA at Dickinson’s
Fri. Mar. 15	3:15 PM	Pastoral Care Committee at Priscilla Baker’s
Sun. Mar. 17	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business at Havurah House
Mon. Mar. 18	7:30 PM	Men’s Group at Tom Baskett’s home in Bridport. Call 758-2055 for directions.
Sun. Apr. 21	12-3 PM	Annual Earth Day Fair at Middlebury Natural Food Coop
Fri. Apr. 26	2-7:00 PM	Community Supper hosted by MFM

# Middlebury Friends Meeting

## Monthly Meeting for Business

20 January, 2013

Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were David Andrews, Laura Asermily, Ted Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Brud Leedham, Stewart Kirkaldy, Faith Lowell, Grace McGrath, Don Peabody, Spence Putnam, Lianna Tennel, Peter Schenck, and Chris Stackhouse.

**13.01.01 Minutes for 18 November 2012:** Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

**13.01.02 Treasurer's Report** (David Andrews & Laura Asermily): During the months of November and December, the Meeting had member donations of \$3,522. The member income for the comparable period last year was \$4,200. A gift of \$20 received in July was discovered to be intended for the Farm Worker Coalition, bringing its total fund balance to \$2,120.

Expenditures during November and December totaled \$4,563. We paid \$255 for childcare expense and \$320 for First Day School coordination. We also paid \$3,925 for annual benevolence commitments, and \$63 from the contingency line item for new blackjack chairs..

The bank balance at the end of December was \$5,946.30. Of this, \$3,726.30 is for Meeting expenses and the balance of \$2,120 will be carried over each month until a new financial agent is found for the Farm Worker Coalition. [Since the end of December, \$700 has been paid from the fund, bringing its balance down to \$1420].

**FOLLOWUP:** Now that we are in our new fiscal year that coincides with the calendar year, it was decided that the Finance Committee will meet in October to prepare a proposed next-year budget to be presented at November monthly meeting and final approval the following January.

The co-treasurers will begin to prepare quarterly reports.

It was approved to provide \$125 for a Quaker conference in Pennsylvania to be attended by a Friend in February.

**13.01.03 Worship and Study Committee (W & S)** (Chris Stackhouse): The committee has focused on the upcoming State of the Meeting meeting to be held at 3:00 January 27th at Laura Asermily's home with potluck to follow. Various logistics are under consideration.

**FOLLOWUP:** It was clarified that the Greeter sign-up sheet should indicate hospitality on every Sunday. Those Sundays that show "query" will be changed to "hospitality." Friends are reminded that they can sign up for only hospitality.

*cont.*

### 13.01.04 Fellowship Committee (Manya Dickinson)

1. The three February graduating Middlebury students plan to attend the potluck held after the State of the Meeting meeting, providing us an opportunity to bid them farewell and good luck.
2. Friendly 8's: Last year 36 people were placed into 5 dinner groups. This year 21 people signed up, 2 moved away, 2 had to withdraw, and 6 could not be placed due to scheduling conflicts. This has left one group of 7 and another with only 4 members. 24 of last year's participants did not sign up this year. Is it time to lay down Friendly 8's for a year?

FOLLOWUP: It was decided to discuss the future of Friendly 8's when we meet for the State of the Meeting,

3. In March we plan to have an afternoon-dessert potluck featuring HomeShare Vermont. Three MFM Friends are volunteers for this organization and there are currently 3 people from MFM who are in HomeShare matches. This non-profit matches home providers (usually elderly) with home seekers who provide either rent and/or services.
4. In April we plan to work with COSA to plan an evening potluck with Chris McCandless, from Burlington Monthly Meeting.

### 13.01.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA) (Tom Dickinson)

1. The Quarterly Meeting we co-hosted in December went well. A lot of planning and work went into that effort and we would like to capture in our institutional memory what we learned since we can expect to host again in a year and a half.
2. Chris McCandless from Burlington Meeting is eager to come to Middlebury and talk to us about what goes on in Yearly Meeting and beyond. He is very active in NEYM and had heard that we are interested in "widening our horizons." A potluck supper in April is a possibility.
3. COSA had a vigorous discussion on recent gun violence, notably at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in CT, and how we can respond in a constructive way. We all feel strongly that we should speak out but we would also like to explore policy actions that could make a real difference. Our discussion centered on treating gun violence as a public health problem. This approach brings to bear medical and social science and has been used over the last several decades with respect to automobile and tobacco deaths and injuries. This was successful in reversing a rising trend despite strong pushback by commercial interests that felt threatened.

[Update] In Meeting for Business, it was agreed that MFM should speak out in a letter to the editors of local papers. The consensus is that this should be soon, while the issue is still fresh in the public mind, and should not wait for another Monthly Meeting. An ad hoc committee was formed to work on the letter, starting with an

excellent draft by Stewart Kirkaldy. The result will be circulated on our listserv and, if there is consensus, will be submitted for publication.

4. We have been made aware of an app for iPhones (and maybe other mobile devices) that provides information on what is happening in Middlebury. Apparently churches can get a free listing in this. We will try to find a Friend who is mobile-savvy who can see if this would be suitable outreach.
5. We are reminded that in a couple of months we need to start planning for the spring Community Supper in late April.
6. We agreed to move the day of COSA meetings to Tuesday to resolve some conflicting commitments. The next meeting will be Tuesday February 12 at 4:00 pm at the Dickinsons.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

---

## Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

17 February, 2013

Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were David Andrews, Laura Asermily, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Leigh Harder, Grace McGrath, and Carrie Reed.

13.02.01 **Minutes for 20 January:** Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

13.02.02 **Treasurer's Report** (David Andrews & Laura Asermily): During the month of January, the Meeting had member donations of \$1,235. The member income for the comparable period last year was \$990.

Meeting expenditures during January totaled \$1,657. We paid \$262.50 for childcare expense and \$160 for First Day School coordination. We also spent \$35.50 on library resources, paid dues of \$25 to the Middlebury Area Clergy Association, \$550 to Havurah for rent, \$499 to New England Yearly Meeting, and \$125 to the Northwest Quarterly Meeting. In addition, \$700 was paid out from the Farm Worker Coalition funds, leaving a balance of \$1,420.

The bank balance at the end of January was \$4,824.30. Of this, \$3,404.30 is for Meeting expenses and the balance of \$1,420 belongs to the Farm Worker Coalition.

13.02.03 **Worship and Study Committee** (W & S) (notes prepared by Becky Holmes; edited for MM minutes by the recording clerk)

cont.

1. The MFM handbook, which is under revision, eventually will be available in several forms: as a hard copy; as committee member folders; and on the website. The workings of each committee, including size and membership make-up is under consideration.
  2. Afterwords: We suggest Greeters remind Friends about “Afterwords” at the beginning of announcements at the rise of Meeting in the following form: “If you have thoughts or images that did not rise to the level of being a message, you are invited to share these during announcements.”
  3. Intergenerational Meeting: There will be an unthemed, intergenerational Meeting on February 24th.
  4. State of the Meeting Report: Becky prepared a draft of the report, further edited by W & S, to present at monthly meeting. The document will be finalized at the March Business Meeting
  5. Other topics discussed: a request for a Traveling Minute, Friendly Forums, the offer to provide a newcomers class. Also, Greeters need to be reminded there is no healing circle on monthly meeting Sundays when a query is read.
- 13.02.04 Fellowship Committee** (prepared by Many Dickinson)
1. Upcoming potlucks: Sunday, March 10, 1-3pm dessert potluck at the Dickinson’s, presentation and discussion about VT HomeShare, an organization in which several Friends are involved.
  2. Ongoing discussion about the future of Friendly 8’s. Two new ones are under way. It is suggested the committee keep a rolling list of interested Friends until there are enough people to start another group.
- 13.02.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA)** (Tom Dickinson): Monthly Meeting reviewed the outcome of the February 11 Called Meeting on Gun Violence, prompted by COSA’s initial preparation of a letter to be published in local papers. It was noted that our Listserv provided an excellent forum for sharing ideas, thoughts and opinions. The Called Meeting provided the opportunity to sit in worshipful silence and feel the leadings of Spirit as we continue to seek guidance about this issue. A letter emerged from the Called Meeting and has been published in two local papers.
- 13.02.06 The 2012 State of the Meeting report** was read and accepted, with a few edits, as an accurate report of the meeting and discussion on January 27. There emerged a few suggestions for future Friendly Forums which Cheryl will pass along to Worship and Study.
- Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

2013 MIDDLEBURY STATE OF THE MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 27, 2013

*“Our Meeting is like a house; we go back and forth between seeing its beauty and comfort, and seeing what needs to be done.”*

Over thirty Middlebury Friends gathered to address the state of the Meeting over the past year and offer some thoughts on the coming one. Virtually all present contributed, speaking out of the silence:

**Newcomers:** While some appreciated our warmth, spontaneity and flexibility, others felt that a curriculum should be offered to assist new folks in understanding Quakerism, perhaps on a regular basis as Friendly Forums. It could include Quaker history, our Meeting history, and Quaker principles. There is a curriculum available. A designated go-to person was suggested. Cards, e-mails, the newcomers’ box, and newsletters are helpful, as is listserv if newcomers wish to be included. Perhaps there are other activities we could invite them to, keeping childcare in mind.

**Reciprocal Care and Asking for Help:** Participants felt we should be more diligent about mutual support and follow-up. More than one person underlined the importance of meeting members caring for and feeling cared for by each other. It was suggested that we create a system, (in addition to the Pastoral Care Committee that attends to many of these needs and is so careful to respect privacy and confidentiality), so that Friends could more proactively support one another. Perhaps an area of our web site about services we would like to offer one another (transportation, help with shopping, friendly visiting...) and help that we would like to receive (child care, a ride to the hospital, accommodations for visiting relatives...)

**The New First Day School Program:** The hiring of a coordinator has created a valuable consistency although numbers are still small. The coordinator is working on this. The program integrates the children with the Meeting. The information that the coordinator shares with the Meeting is much appreciated.

**Potlucks** have been a strength in building our community and sense of intimacy, and the recent use of the Ilsley Community Room- which holds all of us comfortably- is a plus. However, there seems to be a lull in Meeting wide potluck suppers except when there is a specific program. Taken with the apparent lower numbers in the Friendly Eights potlucks, some wondered if the Meeting is in a transition period of some kind.

**Friendly 8’s** has been difficult to schedule this year. Should we lay them down for a year, and perhaps invite friends individually to homes, including newcomers? The scheduling of various activities is a problem for some members; perhaps we should offer programs at various times?

**Friendly Forums** have been interesting and well attended, and childcare is appreciated. Some Friends have difficulty with the early morning meeting time for FF's as well as for Meeting for business. Could we have some early meetings and some in the evening or after meeting for worship? Someone requested a FF on Meeting's benevolences.

**Healing Circle**, though powerful, may go too fast and contain too many unknown and non-member names. Should some action be taken? Is there a way to address this? Using only first names does protect privacy. Some attested to the power of the healing circle for those whose names they had mentioned.

**Business Meeting is doing well:** More people are attending: potlucks and childcare are strengths.

**Listserv, the Website, and the newsletter** are valuable contributions to our sense of community; as is the directory. We are fortunate to have Friends who do them so well. Perhaps in the future we could explore some other, non-commercial social media to share pictures etc. It was suggested that we reinstitute the tradition of having a "News of Quakerly Interest" column in the newsletter.

**Outreach:** The Community suppers have been well organized and are an effective way to show how Quakers operate in the wider community.

**Committees:** Overall the committee system is working well, although concern was raised about whether folks are doing what they're doing out of choice or a sense of obligation. Some people find a role and fit it well, but should we be more rigorous about staggering terms of service? Pastoral Care Committee would like to know what members want from them; the Fellowship Committee is in need of re-visioning its role and finding more members; Worship and Study Committee is working on a descriptive notebook. Committee work is credited as a way to know people deeply.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.



## REPORT FROM FIRST DAY SCHOOL, JUNE THRU DECEMBER, 2012

As in the past, last Summer we had an informal First Day School lesson every week, led by a different adult volunteer each time, along with Paige, our faithful Childcare person. Attendance varied, but there were kids there every week, and many fun activities took place, including a puppet show about Australian animals with David Rosenburg and a story told with Harp music by Margie. Thanks to all the Meeting adults, including Laura, Priscilla, and Fran, who helped out over the summer!

In the Fall, we had an exciting addition: Claire Armstrong began doing Childcare for Friendly Forums and for Business Meeting every 1st and 3rd Sundays, respectively. Any parents who would like to join in these activities please feel welcome to do so! It's great to have Claire providing this service, and it's a joy to have her helping out and taking part in First Day School as well.

When we started up the school year in September, we also switched our First Day School schedule to 1st and 3rd Sundays (it used to be 2nd and 4th) to align with the Friendly Forum and Business Meeting Sundays. We continued with our Conflict Resolution Curriculum.

I (Lianna) taught the lessons in September and October. In September the topic was "Conflict and Feelings," and we talked about how our emotions, and also physical feelings like hunger or tiredness, can affect the way we act and can create conflict. We talked about ways to identify our own feelings. We used an "Anger Thermometer" to talk about different levels of anger, and how it can rise or fall. (The thermometer goes from "annoyed" at the bottom to "ENRAGED" at the top.) We made "feeling cards" to name different feelings, and used them during reading stories and telling our own stories to name how the characters were feeling as the story went along. We read *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, by Judith Viorst, and told stories of our own days when everything went wrong. We read *Ready for Anything*, by Keiko Kasza, about two animal friends whose different emotions and attitudes about the same situation end up helping each other out.

In October the topic was "Appreciating Diversity." One activity we did was to divide into pairs (each pair including someone who could write and someone who couldn't yet) and draw portraits of each other and think of and write down three differences and three similarities between the two people in each pair. And then we imagined scenarios in which those differences (and sometimes the similarities) might lead to conflicts, and how they might be resolved. We read parts of the photo-illustrated books *Mom Can't See Me* by Sally Hobart Alexander, about a nine year old girl whose mother is blind, and *Thinking Big*, by Susan Kuklin, about an eight year old girl who is a dwarf. We used a blindfold and tried to imagine what it might be like to not be able to see. We

cont.

also read *Best Friends for Frances*, by Russell Hoban, wherein Frances (a badger), her little sister, her best friend, and another neighborhood badger kid solve their problems of hurt feelings from being left out as “too little,” “a girl,” etc and learn to include each other and be good friends; and *Oliver Button is a Sissy*, by Tomie dePaola, about a little boy who struggles with being teased but continues with his tap dancing anyhow.

Fran taught in November, on the topic: “Caring, Respect, and Community.” She read *A Chair for my Mother* by Vera Williams, in which a girl and her mother and grandmother are helped by their neighbors after their house burns, and support each other by each contributing whatever money they can to a jar until they save enough money for a comfortable chair. Fran shared with the kids about her trip to Guatemala, and where the pennies for peace that the kids had collected had gone. She also read the book *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters*, about two sisters, one kind and considerate, and one selfish and bad tempered. This completed one run through the curriculum, but the Children’s Program Committee decided we should hang onto the curriculum for one more semester, and continue to reinforce these concepts, using the books we’ve read plus others suggested in the curriculum, through June.

In December Middlebury hosted Quarterly Meeting. On Sunday morning we had a lesson of cooperative and get-to-know you games, led by Tracy Truzansky from Burlington Monthly Meeting. (Thank you, Tracy!) Her two daughters, April and Faith joined us along with a high school age exchange student from Palestine named Omar, who is staying with Friends in Hanover Meeting. Together with Annie, Asher, Wren, Alice Mae, Willard, Claire, and I, it was quite a nice group. It was a lot of fun, and we hope to continue building connections between Middlebury families and other families in the Quarter.

Win taught a lesson in mid December, using the books *Amazing Grace*, and *Grace at Christmas*, both by Mary Hoffman.

And we ended the year on a lovely note, with the Christmas Gathering and Intergenerational Meeting at the Colwells.

Many families from our meeting attended the Christmas singing and candlelit Worship at South Starksboro Meeting house as well.

Respectfully,  
Lianna Tennial

## 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

PO Box 1026

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9478

### Co-Treasurer

David Andrews

388-4894

### 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)

Sas Carey (388-1301)

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

We welcome your submissions! — [win@wcolwell.com](mailto: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](http://www.middleburyquakers.org)

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to

[win@wcolwell.com](mailto:win@wcolwell.com)