

Middlebury Friends Meeting



February
2009

FEBRUARY 2009

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

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Fri. Jan. 30 3 PM Pastoral Care Committee at Priscilla Baker's
- Tues. Feb. 3 7 PM Outreach Committee Meeting at Karen Nawy-Fahey's, 989-3081
- Wed. Feb. 4 7 PM Women's Group at Faith Lowell's, 388-3056
- Fri. Feb. 6 6:30 PM Radical Simplicity presentation by author Jim Merkel, at Ilsley Library
- Wed. Feb. 11 7 PM Men's Group at Greg Dennis', 388-0391
- Fri. Feb. 13 6 PM Potluck at Benjie Putnam & Erin Ruble's (453-5824) followed by their presentation on their work with the UN War Crimes Tribunal for the Rwanda genocide in 2003, and their subsequent trip to other parts of Africa and in Asia
- Sun. Feb. 15 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun. Feb. 15 4 PM Annual Meeting of Spirit in Nature and presentation of the Eco-Spirit Award to Laura Asermily, at the Mitchell Green Lounge, McCullough Student Center

cont.

on the cover: Middlebury River. photo by Winslow Colwell

*“Our job is to love others
without stopping to inquire
whether or not they are worthy.*

*That is not our business and,
in fact, it is nobody’s business.*

*What we are asked to do is to love,
and this love itself will render both ourselves
and our neighbors worthy if anything can.”*

—THOMAS MERTON

Sat. Mar. 7	6 PM	Quarterly Meeting simple supper and committee meetings at Havurah House
Sun. Mar. 8	9 AM	Quarterly Meeting program, worship and Meeting for Business at Havurah House
Sun. Mar. 15	11:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun. Mar. 22	2 PM	Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Olive Colwell at Havurah House
Sun. Mar. 29	10 AM	Intergenerational Meeting at Havurah House

UPCOMING QUARTERLY MEETING IN MARCH

Friends are encouraged to take note that Middlebury Friends Meeting will be hosting Quarterly Meeting during the first weekend of March. There are many ways that you can help with this event, from hosting visitors to Middlebury to helping to prepare soups and other meals. If you would like to volunteer please speak with any member of the Fellowship or Outreach and Social Action Committees.

Thank you!

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

18 January, 2009

Clerk: Carrie Reed

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present: David Andrews, Laura Asermily, Sas Carey, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, and Becky Stratton.

09.01.01 Minutes from 16 November 2008 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

09.01.02 Meeting noted, with sadness, the death of Olive Colwell. Olive died, at home, on 6 January 2009. There will be a memorial service to celebrate her life on Sunday, 22 March 2009, at Havurah House.

Committee Reports

Following each committee's monthly report, below, is their assessment of how the committee is doing at this one year anniversary of the new committee structure.

09.01.03 Treasurer's Report (from Spence Putnam & Laura Asermily):

"During the month of November, we had income of \$940.00 and expenses totaling \$210.00 (\$18.00 for Newsletter, \$42.00 for postage, and \$150.00 for children's program). During the month of December, we had income of \$2,460.00 and expenses totaling \$211.20 (\$21.20 for Newsletter, \$100 for Nomadicare, and \$90.00 for children's program). The checking account balance at the end of December was \$6,338.06, which includes \$700.00 in the carry-over contingency fund.

"At the end of December, the halfway point in our fiscal year, we had collected approximately 55% of our budgeted donations for the year. It is important to remember that December is traditionally the month of our highest receipts.

"Through the 17th of January we have had income of \$185 and expenditures of \$3,791 (which includes \$3,150 in benevolences) for the month, leaving us with a bank balance as of this date of \$2,732.06."

The treasurer's report was accepted.

ASSESSMENT: The co-treasurers report that they are working smoothly as a team, each with identified tasks. They noted that they have not met with their committee since last year. Unless a need arises, the committee usually meets only in the spring to prepare the next fiscal year budget. It was suggested that the committee might also meet after the first 6 months of each fiscal year.

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09.01.04 Worship and Study Committee (report from Tom Baskett, edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

- 1) Two members have stepped down from the committee, leaving 4 regular members, one of whom is away for 4 months/year; in addition the First Day School coordinator and Librarian often attend meetings. Their participation is greatly appreciated. MM will be asked to have Nominating Committee name another member.
- 2) First Day School might consider offering a two tier program and perhaps invite young children from outside the meeting to join in, giving their parents a chance to sample meeting for worship. This will be further explored.
- 3) Friendly Forums: Gary has offered a follow up to his earlier sharing diverse traditions forum.
- 4) Singing before meeting for worship is off to a good start.
- 5) Next Intergenerational Meeting should be in March. MM will set a date.
- 6) Pursuant of the spiritual survey, the committee may develop some queries to be shared at pot lucks and Friendly Eights and women's/men's groups.

ASSESSMENT: The committee is working well. There are some difficult issues such as developing a First Day School curriculum that fits all ages, which need to be addressed regardless of committee structure. The committee is still finding its footing as far as adult education is concerned. At least one additional member, as well as regular attendance by all members, will help the committee to best do its work.

09.01.05 Pastoral Care Committee (notes from John Beattie; oral report from Sas Carey)

In addition to considering ways to support individual Friends, the committee recently discussed the following:

- 1) Anyone wishing to have a name included in the Healing Circle can make a request of any member of the Pastoral Care Committee.
- 2) Work on the directory will resume in a couple months.
- 3) A Memorial Service was held for Jackie Ziegler on December 12, 2008.
- 4) Sas Carey and Priscilla Baker will continue to serve as Quaker contacts for the Porter Hospital chaplain.

ASSESSMENT: After a long period of working toward coming together as a cohesive committee, it has achieved this, and continues to work on defining responsibilities. Changing its meeting time and venue has helped in creating stability. The committee seeks to clarify how committees can work together on tasks.

09.01.06 Fellowship Committee: (from Fran Putnam) proposes the following dates for potlucks: January 25, 2009, 3 PM, State of the Meeting discussion, Manya and Tom

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Dickenson's home, 5 PM potluck; February 13, 6 PM, potluck at Benjie Putnam and Erin Ruble's home, program by Benjie and Erin on their 2004 trip to Africa and Asia; March to be announced, possible topic, Addison County Migrant Worker Coalition. We reviewed the Friendly 8s and discussed further the idea of a book discussion group.

MM discussed the greeter duties and query reading on the third Sunday of each month. Because it is challenging for one person to set up the room and greet people as they arrive, it is suggested that people sign up in pairs. It was noted that the new system of query readers signing up on the Greeter Roster does not seem to be working. Co-clerk, Carrie Reed, will ask the Worship & Study Committee to revisit how best to assure a query is read each month.

ASSESSMENT: The committee feels the need for a full compliment of at least 4 members and, therefore, requests the the Nominating Committee identify one more Friend to serve on this committee. They note that their quarterly meetings suffice.

09.01.07 Outreach and Social Action Committee (from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by recording clerk; action taken by MM is indicated in italics)

1) Community Lunch Program: It is estimated that the cost of one day's meal is around \$15. The number of guests attending has been between 10-15 per meal. Efforts are underway to increase publicity using colorful flyers and bulletin board notices. The Community Lunch group is also putting together an emergency sub list. The committee asks MM to consider a number of options to support this project:

- a lump sum per year, like \$100/yr, to be paid in quarterly installments

MM approved an immediate contribution of \$50 from contingency funds and requests the Finance Committee consider adding a line item of \$200 for next fiscal year.

- a small group could commit to hosting/providing a meal once/month

MM decided that we are not able to commit to monthly involvement but suggests that individual Friends volunteer to be on the emergency substitute list.

- individual members could contribute money, time, or food

Individual Friends are encouraged to contribute time, money and food to this project. Friends can seek more information from Tom Dickinson or Karen Nawn-Fabey.

- MFM approved being named as a sponsor of Community Lunches.

2) Middlebury Friends Meeting is hosting, with support from Bennington Monthly Meeting, the March Northwest Quarterly Meeting. Other committees (e.g., Fellowship) will be asked to participate and support this event. Bennington will be asked to provide a person to assist with First Day Program, and some of the food for dinner Saturday and lunch Sunday. We have received permission from

Havurah to use the facility Saturday night. Sas Carey has agreed to provide the program for Sunday morning.

MM clarified several points.

- *Two QM committees, Peace and Social Concerns and Ministry & Counsel, will meet in Middlebury on Saturday evening, following a simple supper.*
 - *Spence Putnam will clerk the QM Peace and Social Concerns committee at that time.*
 - *Overnight accommodations will be needed for several people who come for Saturday evening committee meetings and need to stay overnight.*
 - *Fellowship Committee will solicit food from MFM Friends for Saturday evening meal and Sunday lunch.*
- 3) Stewart presented a recent practice, started in England, of Quaker Quest, which the committee feels might be a good way to connect with college students and others in the community who might be interested in learning more about Quakerism. Friends were reminded that Jean Rosenberg brought this before MM last spring and approval was given to explore further. It was pointed out that Worship and Study Committee is also considering Quaker Quest. All agreed that the time is right to move forward on this.

ASSESSMENT: The committee noted that there is vitality within the group, that the clerk does an excellent job helping them to stay on track, and that they have many tasks to address.

09.01.08 A Minute on Peace has been sent to all monthly meetings by New England Yearly Meeting with the request for meetings to consider adopting this minute, originally drafted by Wellesley Monthly Meeting and adopted by Salem Quarterly Meeting. The minute will be published in the newsletter (*please see below*). Friends are asked to read and reflect on it in preparation for discussion at next monthly meeting.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.

A MINUTE ON PEACE FROM WELLESLEY MONTHLY MEETING, JANUARY, 2009

We live in a nation which spends more than the rest of the world combined on armed forces and armaments and which is now engaged in wars in two separate countries. The application of violence in these wars has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths and injuries, incalculable material destruction, and a profound deterioration of

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the moral standing of our nation. As Friends and as human beings we are deeply ashamed of the immense harm that our nation has inflicted on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. We are disturbed that our national military and financial aid is so often employed abroad in support of powerful economic interests without regard for considerations of justice and self-determination for the people of other countries. In our own country, we witness daily the impoverishment of our social life – the deterioration of our infrastructure, the failures of our schools, and the inadequacy of our health care – resulting from the diversion of resources into armaments and warmaking.

When we confront the imperatives of the national security state, we recognize that fear, hatred, and insecurity of the citizens are exploited to generate consent for a so-called “war on terror” which has no defined goal and no foreseeable end. Neither a quest for revenge nor an unreasoning fear of the consequences of revenge against us, as embodied in the increasingly intrusive and repressive campaign for “homeland security,” is admissible from a spiritual perspective. With the Psalmist, we say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust. ‘Be still and know that I am God.’”

We reject all acts of terrorism, among which we include incursions and bombing by organized military forces that destroy homes and kill and maim innocents, however unintentionally. We do not support the “war on terror” and call for a reengagement in international governance and a major decrease of the military budget to generate a genuine peace dividend for desperately needed investments in infrastructure, education, health and human services, and steps toward conservation and renewable energy sources.

We are mindful that Friends’ testimony on peace calls us “to root out the causes of war from our own lives and from the political and social structure about us.” We are urged to “seek, through God’s power and grace, to overcome in our own hearts the emotions that lie at the root of violence.” We seek, always, to live lives that testify to the presence of the divine Light in ourselves and every human being. We strive to overcome our own fears so that we can be centers of peace, a calming influence in an increasingly anxious world. We will remember what Jesus said, “Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears.”

We, as a Yearly Meeting, call upon all our meetings to consider this minute during the coming year and to identify how to take action on the concerns raised. We also call on New England Friends to gather as a called Meeting for Worship in early 2009 to address the concerns raised in this minute.

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

"If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own!" — Scoop Nisker

At a recent Meeting for Worship, FRAN PUTNAM reported that the Middlebury student for whom the Spencers were the host family, AMER SHURRAB, recently lost his two brothers in a tragic attack in Gaza. His father was also severely injured. This led to many messages about rededicating our efforts to create peace in ourselves and in our world. As a spiritual community, we are looking for ways to speak out effectively against Israel's brutality. SPENCE very helpfully reminded us to write our representative and senators, who all supported Israel in a recent resolution. I am including this contact info. here in News of Quakerly Interest, in the hopes that anyone who has not yet made these calls will do so. Telling a personal story, like that of Amer, can help change minds and hearts.

Senator Patrick Leahy

800-642-3193

senator_leahyleahy.senate.gov

Senator Bernie Sanders

800-339-9834

sanders.senate.gov/comments/

Representative Peter Welch

888-605-7270

www.house.gov/formwelch/issue_subscribe.htm

Middlebury College students are planning to raise money to help the Shurrab family, and other Gazan families hurt by the war in Gaza. Fran and Spence will have information on this effort as details emerge.

JEAN and DAVID ROSENBERG write that they rose at 3 AM in Australia to watch the Obama inauguration live. "We loved it all, and especially the Rev. Lowery's benediction. David has started a once-a-month Friday evening singalong at the Canberra Friends meeting house, and is helping to start a men's group in the meeting. Jean got put back on the Canberra meeting Ministry committee, and made committee co-clerk for 4 months! We attended the Australia Yearly Meeting in early January, where David was part of a wonderful chorus and led a lot of singing and Jean learned a lot of great new Quaker stuff coming out of Britain. So we see lots of interfertilization going on! It can remind us all of the value of intervisitation among Friends."

MARY KAY GLAZER writes that MARTIN was at Obama's inauguration!!! He went with a group of New York Yearly Meeting teens with a few supervising and driving adults. They left on Sunday afternoon after meeting for worship at Purchase, NY, meeting. They stayed overnight Sunday and Monday at Friends Meeting of

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Washington, sleeping on the floor. On Monday, they participated in a Youth Service Opportunity Project (YSOP). They served lunch at a soup kitchen and visited with those who came to eat. Martin was very moved by the conversation he had with one of the diners. For the inauguration, I hear that they also made it onto the mall, but of course not close enough to see Obama in person. They were, however, very close to a jumbotron screen! Martin had a great time and recognizes his good fortune in being able to attend this historic inauguration.

LAUREL COBURN and PRISCILLA BAKER were both part of the Middlebury Spiritual Chorus' wonderful Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Mead Chapel. The singing was amazing, and on the eve of Barack Obama's Inauguration, the event was charged with bright energy of hope and change.

Many Friends took part in the National Day of Service, that Barack and Michelle Obama encouraged us to join. River Barn residents were joined by GARY MARGOLIS, AARON and BJORN COBURN, and GLENN and WENDY GOODWIN, in making another 100 tins of Helping Hands Healing Hand Balm, which will yield another \$500 to the H.O.P.E. Food Shelf. Thanks everyone!

Joanna Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Becky Stratton (388-2487)
Carrie Reed (388 0436)

Treasurer

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

Co-Treasurer

Spence Putnam
575 Morgan Horse Farm Rd
Weybridge, VT 05753
388-1644

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

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.

Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)

Meg Langworthy (877-3217)

John Beattie (352-4416)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

Sas Carey (388-7684)

Newsletter Editor Winslow Colwell (388-1961, win@wcolwell.com)

Newsletter Mailing Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

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