

# Middlebury Friends Meeting



July  
2011

# JULY 2011

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

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Thur. July 7 7:00 PM Women's group at Karen Nawn-Fahey's, 989-3081
- Sun. July 10 8:30 AM Friendly Forum, Peace Testimony Part 2 at Havurah House
- Wed. July 13 7:00 PM Men's group at David Rosenberg's, 388-6453
- Sun. July 17 8:30 AM Worship & Study Committee at Havurah House
- Mon. July 25 4:30 PM COSA, location TBA
- Sun. July 31 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting: NOTE: change of usual time to before meeting for worship.
- Thur. Aug. 4 7:00 AM Women's Group at Sas Carey's, 388-1301
- Sun. Aug. 14 12 noon Summer picnic at Kingsland Bay State Park  
*Rain or shine!*
- Thur. Sept. 1 7:00 PM Women's Group at Sophia Hughes' 434-977-5123
- Sat/Sun, Sept. 10 & 11 Quarterly Meeting, Location TBA
- Fri, Sept. 30 Community Supper, Congregational Church, Middlebury

“Fear is a natural reaction to moving closer to the truth.”

— PEMA CHÖDRÖN

Middlebury Friends Meeting  
Monthly Meeting for Business

19 June, 2011

Co-Clerks: Jean Rosenberg  
Recording Clerk: Tom Dickinson

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Baskett, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Don Peabody, Chris Stackhouse, Jill Stackhouse, and Lianna Tennial.

11.06.01 Minutes from 22 May 2011 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

11.06.02 Treasurer’s Report (Jill Stackhouse and Laura Asermily):

“During the month of May 2011 the Meeting had an income of \$2,345.00. The income for the comparable period last year was \$1090. Total income for the fiscal year 2011 through May is \$12,523.25, which is \$ 1749.25 ahead of this same period last year. Expenditures during May; Rent \$500, NYM \$499, Children’s Program \$169.63, Newsletter & Directory \$45, Worship & Study \$150, and \$100 to the Clergy rental fund. Total expenditures for the month of were May \$1,363.63. Current bank balance is \$6282.43 which includes Olivia Grugan’s fund of \$1840.

“As a result of the email to the list serve regarding donations, the meeting collected higher than “normal” donation amounts. Some new folks donated in addition to the monthly faithful donors.”

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-12 was discussed in preparation for approval. It was noted there are only two changes from last year: the addition of the Peace and Justice Center as a regular benevolence, \$200, and additional support for the Children’s Program, \$1,440. The budget was approved enthusiastically and with appreciation for all who helped to prepare it.

11.06.03 Worship and Study Committee (W & S) (Tom Baskett)

1. The Friendly Forum Review on the Peace Testimony was well attended. We note that the question “Is violence ever justified?” was never actually answered. We

suggest a follow-up Friendly Forum, again led by David Rosenberg and Tom Baskett, to continue to address the original question, “Is violence ever justified?”

We wonder if there are Friends who would like to lead a FF on a topic about which they feel passionate. Friends are encouraged to talk with a member of W & S.

2. We will schedule a Quiet Day for the committee, in July, hosted by Tom Baskett. A Quiet Day retreat will be planned for the Meeting community in September or October.
3. Children’s Program subcommittee report was presented by Lianna Tennial. This committee was formed as a result of the Friendly Forum held in the spring. They propose the following:
  - A. That this subcommittee will assume responsibility for both First Day School and child care, thereby replacing coordinators for these two functions.  
FOLLOW UP: MM agreed to this merge. The committee will report to MM, periodically. It has the blessing of MFM to make decisions about curriculum and other issues that arise. At this time the committee consists of Lianna Tennial, Fran Putnam, Sheila Andrus, and Win Colwell.
  - B. That MFM hire a coordinator to oversee the children’s program. This person will explore possible curricula, organize the implementation of the program and recruit teachers, but necessarily teach. FOLLOW UP: MFM approved the hiring of a coordinator and the added expense, as reflected and approved in the proposed budget.

**11.06.04 Fellowship Committee (FC)** (notes from Fran Putnam)

Plans are being made for a picnic at Kingsland State Park after Meeting on August 14.

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

1. We discussed organizing a silent meeting on September 11, 2011 to emphasize peaceful alternatives to the hostilities that have followed the 9/11 attacks.

FOLLOW UP: It is noted that other faith groups are planning special services to mark the 10 anniversary of 9/11/01. COSA will consider how to hold a public day long silent meeting on this day.

2. There has been a request to take up the discussion of FUM personnel policies, again, partly motivated by the fact that our minute on the subject was not accepted by Quarterly Meeting to be forwarded to Yearly Meeting and on to FUM. We will work with the Worship and Study committee on this. One suggestion is to form a working group of those who feel most strongly about the matter to determine a path forward.

FOLLOW UP: Several suggestions were made about how to proceed. These will be considered by COSA as they continue their consideration of this issue.

3. Members of the committee plan to prepare summaries of activities in the wider Quaker community and provide these through the listserv and at Meeting to broaden our awareness.
4. We would like to invite a representative of Quaker Earthcare Witness to a forum or potluck so we can learn more about their activities.

**11.06.06 Nominating Committee** (Don Peabody): The committee prepared a roster of Friends to serve for the coming year. A few positions are yet to be confirmed. The final roster will be published in the newsletter.

**11.06.07 Transfer of Membership:** Seth Raphael requests that his membership be transferred to Palo Alto Friends Meeting. The co-clerks will send a letter to his new meeting.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.

## MFM NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 16, 2011

(NEWLY NOMINATED IN *ITALICS*)

**Co-clerks:** Jean Rosenberg & *Cheryl Mitchell*

- Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker
- Recorder of Membership & Statistical Data: Brud Leedom
- Archivist: Stewart Kirkaldy
- Nominating Committee: (appointed & joined by the Co-Clerks)  
Becky Stratton, John Beattie, Don Peabody

**Worship and Study Committee:** Tom Baskett, Marg Collins, Win Colwell, Becky Holmes, Chris Stackhouse, Jean Rosenberg, & *Ann Barker*

- Ticonderoga Worship Group: Mary Kay Glazer and Mark Moss
- Children's Programming Committee: *Fran Putnam, Lianna Tennial, Sheila Andrus, & Win Colwell* (When Available: *Heather Potter & Laurel Coburn*)
- Young Friends:
- Young Adult Friends: Carson
- Library: Becky Holmes
- Ministry of Music: Priscilla Baker, Karen Nawn-Fahey, David Rosenberg

*cont.*

**Pastoral Care Committee:** Sas Carey, Carrie Reed, Grace McGrath, Priscilla Baker,  
& Brud Leedom

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**Fellowship Committee:** Fran Putnam, Wendy Goodwin, Faith Lowell

- ♦ Havurah House Contact Person: Glenn Goodwin
  - ♦ Website Coordinator(s): Win Colwell
  - ♦ Meeting Listserv: Aaron Coburn
  - ♦ Newsletter Editor: Win Colwell
  - ♦ Biographies: *Ruth Barenbaum; Laura Asermily; Bill Schneider*
  - ♦ Newsletter Production & Mailing: Ruth Barenbaum & Ted Colwell
  - ♦ Name Tags: Win Colwell
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**Outreach and Social Action Committee:** Tom Dickinson, Ted Colwell, Lucy McKeon, Spence Putnam, Stewart Kirkaldy, & *Don Peabody*

- ♦ Addison County Clergy Group: Ted Colwell
  - ♦ Middlebury Area Clergy Assoc: Sas Carey
  - ♦ Spirit in Nature: David Tier
  - ♦ Quaker organizations:
    - FCNL: Don Peabody
    - NEYM: MFM Co-clerks
    - NWQM: Ted Colwell
  - ♦ Local Peace and Social Justice Organizations and Actions:
    - Habitat for Humanity: Glenn Goodwin
    - ACORN: Laura Asermily
    - CROP Walk: Becky Stratton
    - Community Dinners: Karen Nawn-Fahey
    - Summer Lunch Programs: Tom Dickinson
    - Civil Rights Commission: Cheryl Mitchell
    - Middlebury Energy: Laura Asermily
    - Addison County Farm Workers: Susannah McCandless & Cheryl Mitchell
    - Food to Food Shelf: Laura Asermily
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**Finance and Budget Committee:** Co-Treasurers Laura Asermily & Jill Stackhouse,  
David Andrews, Jean Rosenberg, & *Spence Putnam*

## Brud Leedom

Brud Leedom claims a deep Quaker heritage. He grew up in rural Bucks County Pennsylvania with committed Quaker parents who never moved and never missed Meeting. They sent him and his two older sisters to a Quaker preparatory school, George School, in Newtown. He also went to Quaker camps, but didn't enjoy the experience due to homesickness. He was happier being at home with his family on their small farm and helping at the family's lumber company.



Brud graduated in 1965 during the turbulent Vietnam War era which influenced his choice to attend Willington College, a small liberal arts Quaker college in Ohio. He registered with the draft as a Conscientious Objector. He had two hearings with the draft board before being granted conscientious objector status. "I had to convince them of my Quaker beliefs which forced me to think about them a lot more." He always found it attractive that Quakers gave you the freedom to believe what you wanted.

Homesick, he dropped out of Wilmington after two years and was then required to do his alternative service. He was placed at the Brandon Training School in Vermont. He was required to work there for two years to fulfill his alternative service obligation but stayed for 26 years, working in many different capacities. When the BTS closed he continued his employment in the Agency of Human Services in the Child Support division where he worked for the next 16 years for a total of 42 years with the agency. He retired in 2009: "I did it for lots of good reasons. I wanted to enjoy retirement." This left him free to focus on one of his lifelong passions—raising livestock.

Brud met Bob about 28 years ago. Bob was raising sheep in Sudbury, escaping a busy life in Connecticut along with his wife and two daughters. He did this while working part time at the Training School. In time, Bob and his wife divorced. Brud enjoys a very close, great relationship with Bob's now married daughters and their six children. Brud and Bob raise sheep, alpaca, cattle and laying hens. Brud rises by 5:30 AM to do livestock chores. He has had cattle almost continuously since coming to Vermont in '68. When young and living in Pennsylvania he rode horses and did some showing in hunter competition over fences. He joined a fox hunting club and rode to the hounds for several years prior to coming to Vermont.

Brud and Bob met Sheila Andrus, who owns Middlebury Boarding Kennel where they boarded their dogs during trips. They became good friends. Brud and Sheila attended

birthing class together and Brud was present at Annie's birth. Annie stays regularly with Brud and Bob. It works beautifully for all of them.

In '70, Tom, a man with Down's Syndrome, left the Brandon Training School and came to live with Brud. He lived with Brud until Tom's death in '98. Tom and Brud's friendship was one of the high points in Brud's life.

Brud credits David Rosenberg for getting him back into his Quaker faith which was not active during his Brandon days, except for visits home to Pennsylvania. "He was having a Peaceable Kingdom picture framed at Ben Franklin and we got into a conversation about it and he said I should come to Quaker Meeting and I did." He finds it a perfect fit and loves everyone in it. He enjoys the informal mixture of totally silent meetings with times of some vocal ministry. In Brud's youth the Quaker elders regularly spoke using "thee, thy, and thou". Brud's paternal grandparents were quite conservative Quakers in regards to music and alcohol. His parents respected these traditions, but were quite liberal themselves. It's no surprise to Brud that his parents accepted that he is gay. Their tolerance was manifested in their views of sexuality: "Sexuality was never discussed. It wasn't discussed with me and it wasn't with my sisters. We were equal in that regard. What they cared about was who you dated and if they liked the person or not, not your orientation. You could be who you wanted." Brud enjoys sharing his Quaker community with Bob, an active Episcopalian who never understood how Middlebury Friends don't talk more about God, but who adores Friendly 8 gatherings and Friends as much as Brud.

— Laura Asermily with BL

## MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Winslow Colwell

Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

### Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)

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](http://www.middleburyquakers.org)

Please send newsletter submissions to  
the address above or to [win@wcolwell.com](mailto:win@wcolwell.com)