



Middlebury Friends Meeting

June
2017

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“We were talking about the space between us all
 And the people who hide themselves behind a wall of illusion
 Never glimpse the truth
 Then it’s far too late when they pass away.

We were talking about the love we all could share when we find it
 To try our best to hold it there, with our love, with our love
 We could save the world, if they only knew.

Try to realize it’s all within yourself,
 no-one else can make you change.
 And to see you’re really only very small
 And life flows on within you and without you.

We were talking about the love that’s gone so cold
 And the people who gain the world and lose their soul
 They don’t know, they can’t see.
 Are you one of them?

When you’ve seen beyond yourself then you may find
 peace of mind is waiting there.
 And the time will come when you see we’re all one
 And life flows on within you and without you.”

— GEORGE HARRISON

JUNE 2017

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

Sat. May 27	8 AM-3 PM	SpIN open house, including a walk along the Quaker Path
Sun. May 28	8:30 AM	Friendly Forum: Living in God's Circle (Humility & Equality)
Sat. June 3	10:30 AM	Standing for the Earth vigil, Triangle Park smaller vigils all other Saturday mornings
Sun. June 4	8:30 AM	NWQM at Middlebury, co-hosted with South Starksboro Meeting, Counseling Service Community Room, Catamount Place, Middlebury
Mon. June 5	7:00 PM	Read Aloud group at Cheryl Mitchell's
Wed. June 7	7:15 PM	Leadings group at Craig Goddard's
Sun. June 11	8:30 AM	Worship and Study Committee at Havurah
Sun. June 11	9:00 AM	Earthcare Committee at Havurah
Mon. June 12	4:30 PM	Experiment With Light at Jean Roseberg's
Wed. June 14		Pastoral Care committee
Thurs. June 15	8:30 AM	ICAN at Weybridge Church
Tues. June 20	4:00 PM	COSA meeting, location TBA
Sun. June 25	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business (note the change in usual date for MM, from third to fourth Sunday in June, to avoid conflict with Fathers Day)
Aug. 5-10		NEYM, Castleton University, https://neym.org/ Summer monthly meeting TBA

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

The formal name for the monthly meeting for business is “meeting for worship with a concern for business”— and for good reason. From the beginning, Quakers saw no difference between their daily lives of work, play and relationships and their spiritual lives. The guidance of the Spirit directly informed their daily actions. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the meeting for worship with a concern for business. Quakers were convinced that God was alive and present in everyone and that when the community listened together in the quiet of their own minds and hearts as they deliberated on matters of business, free of their own need to be right or arrive at a particular decision, they would be able to discern God’s will in the matter before them which would bring them into unity. Quaker process, as this has come to be called, is often considered more important than the decision itself. When this unity is experienced, the community truly comes together in Spirit, purpose and love. It is quite an extraordinary experience! Please join us every third Sunday (or as announced) at 8:30 AM at Havurah House.

— Tom Baskett, *Co-Clerk*

SUMMARY OF MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING STATISTICAL SURVEY FOR 2016

There were 31 members on 01/01/16. Member, Janet Roberts, died on 01/30/16. There were no other losses of members and there were no gains, and the year ended with a membership of 30. As of 12/31/16 the membership consisted of 9 males and 21 females. Of the 30 members, 22 of them are 65 years of age or greater. Twenty eight of the members are considered ‘resident’ because they are within a reasonable traveling distance of MFM. Attendance at First Day Meeting for Worship averaged 29, which includes both members and attendees. Attendance at Meeting for Business averaged 12, which also includes both members and attendees. Attendance at First Day School classes for ages birth through 18 years averaged 3. The average number of active attendees (non-members) in MFM was estimated at 45.

— Brud Leedom, *Recorder*

REPORT FROM MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RECOGNIZING MINISTRY

APRIL 27, 2017

The ad hoc committee (Tom Baskett, Grace McGrath, Jean Rosenberg, Lucy McKeon, and Norm Tjossem) was created to report to Middlebury Friends Meeting to clarify possible practice on recording gifts in the ministry, and on other forms of minuting appropriate endorsement that Friends may need in their work or service, and to make any recommendations about these that seem needed.

The committee met on April 27, 2017 and clarified that in New England Yearly Meeting, the following practices are accepted.

1. Recording of a gift in the ministry among Friends is typically reserved for gifts of vocal ministry. It is quite rare among unprogrammed Friends and in New England Yearly Meeting. If it were done, it would originate from the meeting and not by request from an individual. It would need approval from both the monthly meeting and the quarterly meeting.
2. A minute of Denominational Endorsement can be given to a Friend as part of their seeking professional accreditation for a specific calling or service. For example, serving as a hospital chaplain or a pastoral counselor may require both formal affiliation with Friends as well as professional training and certification. A minute of Denominational Endorsement could provide that formal affiliation; it would require a statement that the Friend is a member in good standing, and an expression of the meeting's endorsement of the individual's ministry. It would need to be approved by both the monthly meeting and the quarterly meeting.

A Friend seeking such endorsement can request it, and the clerks or a Ministry committee will appoint a clearness committee to meet with the Friend and report back to the committee or to meeting for business on whether the request fits the practice above and whether the meeting is ready for such endorsement. An oversight committee may be appointed to support the Friend in discernment around their work.

The committee regarded the above practices as suitable if Middlebury Meeting wished to make such a recognition.

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

21 May, 2017

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Tom Baskett, Sas Carey, Joe Garen, Brud Leedom, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Peter Schenck, and Lianna Tennal.

17.05.01 **Monthly meeting opened** with a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice, the words of William Caton, 1689

17.05.02 **April 21, 2017 minutes accepted as printed** in the last newsletter.

17.05.03 **Clerk's Report about recording Gifts of Ministry and Denominational Endorsement.** An ad hoc committee, consisting of the co-clerks, Lucy McKeon, Grace McGrath, and Norm Tjossem considered these two categories and concluded that it is not within the realm of the monthly meeting to certify the qualifications of a member Friend. It was noted that the co-clerks did much research on this topic in order to inform the committee for their work. MFM approved the recommendations of the committee. It was agreed to attach the report to these minutes, to include in the Clerk's Manual, and publish in the Newsletter.

17.05.04 **Requests from 2 MFM Friends for endorsements** from MFM of proposals for YM afternoon workshops during 2017 Sessions at Castleton University:

1. Experiment with Light, to be led by shulamith eagle, with the help of Jean Rosenberg.
2. Leadings, to be led by Sas Carey.

These endorsements were approved.

17.05.05 **The 2016 Statistical Report** was submitted by Brud Leedom. It was agreed to publish a summary of his report in the Newsletter.

FOLLOW UP: It was noted that Norm Tjossem, whose membership was recently transferred, in 2017, has been officially welcomed by his committee.

17.05.06 **2016 NEYM Minute on White Supremacy** has been sent to all meetings for consideration and with encouragement to take local actions. Jean will report to YM on MFM involvement with local actions, including participation in 2 community groups, Migrant Justice and Showing Up for Racial Justice, as well as the Journey of Healing Workshop in April 2016.

17.05.07 **Treasurer's Report** (Karen Nawn-Fahey) All statements in this report, as of May 20, 2017.

From April 16 through May 20 the Meeting had member donations of \$2350.

From April 16 through May 20, Meeting expenditures totaled \$370. This includes \$140 for childcare, \$160 for Children's Program Coordination and \$70 for Friends Journal meeting listing. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$7193.78

FOLLOW UP: After the 2016 presidential election a NEYM Friend made \$2,000 donations to all NEYM monthly meetings "to enliven Quakerism in New England." It was agreed to publish the letter from this Friend, and to hold a called meeting for MFM Friends to sit in worshipful consideration of the use of our \$2,000 donation. W and S will set a date, send out the letter with an explanation of the donation, and facilitate the called meeting.

We are now receiving a great deal of information from Heifer International, since our donation to them. These materials will be passed on to Rebecca Holmes and anyone else who is interested.

17.05.08 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam)

1. *Actions for the Earth:* The "Actions for the Earth" jar has many good actions listed on slips of paper. Fran will type up several of the slips to be published in the newsletter. We plan to make smaller sized copies of the Actions for the Earth poster to give to Friends to post in their homes as a reminder of this practice.
2. *Personal Carbon Tax:* The committee is proposing to host a Friendly Forum on the topic of a personal carbon tax. David Andrews is carrying out this project on his own and has agreed to facilitate a Friendly Forum, along with Fran Putnam, possibly in September. We then will circulate ideas that come out of the FF in the newsletter for people who are not able to attend.
3. *Report from ICAN:* Andy Nagy-Benson and Emily Joselson have been holding a series of very successful panel discussions called Community Conversations on a variety of topics. They have agreed to allow ICAN to have a community conversation on the topic of climate justice, date to be announced for some time in September.
4. *People's Climate Marches:* Several members attended marches in Montpelier and Washington.

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

Cheryl Mitchell is the new clerk of COSA, which, going forward, hopes to meet as needed, rather than monthly. The last meeting focused on debriefing the April Community Supper, and preparing for June Quarterly Meeting to be held in Middlebury.

17.05.10 Worship and Study Committee (Peter Schenck)

Celebration of Life: Discussion about logistics for our gathering at Leigh Harder's

cont.

in E. Middlebury, rain location- Havurah. The theme this year, borrowed from the year-long First Day School program, will be “That of God in Everyone.”

Children’s Program: Lianna stated they would welcome more volunteers.

Friendly Forums: Possible topics for May 28, 2017, were explored, settling on exploring the idea of people doing ordinary things with extraordinary results, incorporating an Al Anon reading (Courage to Change) on living in a circle versus on a ladder.

Quarterly Meeting: Lianna and Priscilla are working on this planning committee.

FOLLOW UP: Due to rain, the Celebration of Life was held at Havurah. Despite the weather, change in venue, and disappointment to not be outside at the Harder’s, it was a fine gathering, well attended, including worship, singing, games, fellowship, and a delicious potluck.

17.05.11 Fellowship Committee: (Spence Putnam) No report

17.05.12 Pastoral Care Committee (Grace McGrath) Friends are reminded to fill out Emergency Contact Information forms. Completed forms can be given to an Pastoral Care Committee member.

17.05.13 Nominating Committee (Sas Carey, Lucy McKeon, Don Peabody & Sophia Hughes) Sas and Don presented the initial report. A few new appointees were noted and several corrections made. This draft will be published in the next newsletter, for final consideration, and approval at June monthly meeting. We are reminded that Nominating Committee considers and discerns when it is time for Friends to step aside, as well as who has a gift for serving in a specific capacity and to encourage them to do so.

We were reminded that we should actively talk about committees, especially among new people to Meeting, and encourage all Friends to participate in monthly meeting for business.

Meeting closed after a brief moment of silence.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Tom Baskett 989-7034
Jean Rosenberg 388-6453

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker
388-8024

Treasurer

Karen Nawn-Fahey
PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753

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 (558-1005)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

We welcome your submissions! — winslow.colwell@gmail.com

News of Quakerly Interest — lucym@shoreham.net

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
winslow.colwell@gmail.com