

Middlebury Friends Meeting

March
2018

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Calendar of Events

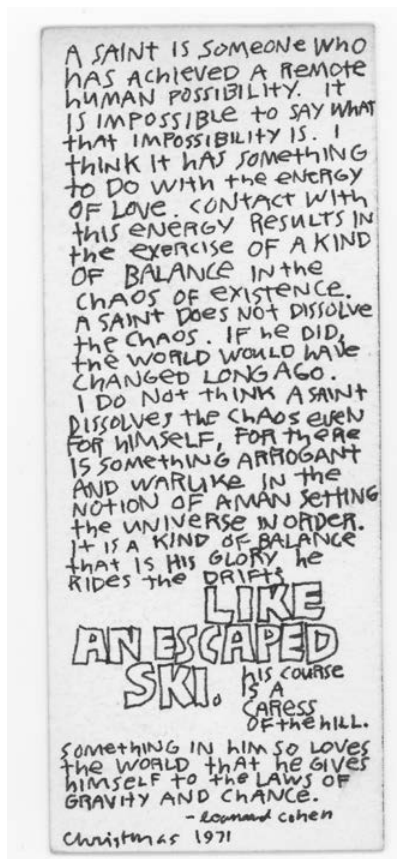
Minute re: Carbon Pricing

*News of Quakerly
Interest*

2017 State of the Meeting

Minutes of Feb. 18





MARCH 2018

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

- Mon. Mar. 5 7:00 pm Read Aloud Group at Cheryl Mitchell's
- Sun. Mar. 11 *Note: Daylight Savings Time begins*
- 8:30 am Earthcare committee at Havurah
- 10:00 am Intergenerational Meeting for Worship
- 11:15am W & S committee at Havurah
- Tues. Mar. 13 3:30 pm COSA at Faith Lowell's
- Wed. Mar. 14 7:00 pm George Lakey to speak at Dana Auditorium, Middlebury College. "Divided America, What We Can Learn from the Nordics"
- Thur. Mar. 15 5:00 pm Potluck with George Lakey and Quakers at Havurah
- 7:00 pm George Lakey talk at Middlebury UCC
- Sun. Mar. 18 8:30 am Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun. Mar. 25 11:30 am Friendly Forum: Exploration of Quaker worship
- Mon. Mar. 26 7:30 pm Men's Group at Chris Stackhouse
- Sat. April 21 1:00 pm Exploring Quaker forms of worship with Jonathan Vogel-Borne & Kristina Keefe-Perry. Location TBA.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING MINUTE IN SUPPORT OF CARBON PRICING IN VERMONT

As Friends, we carry a concern for the life of all species and for justice to the poor of the Earth in the face of the destructive effects of climate change. We are concerned to find ways that our society can act to mitigate the dangerous and unequal effects of climate change, through acting locally and globally.

A system of pricing fossil fuels through government action is one practical and effective way to accomplish the goal of reducing carbon emissions, and so we support the principle of carbon pricing in Vermont.

Specifically, we support the principles of carbon pricing as enunciated by the Energy Independent Vermont Coalition: a carbon charge program must reduce carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, strengthen the Vermont economy, and benefit lower and middle-income Vermonters.

Middlebury Friends Meeting supports the Energy Independent Vermont Coalition in its efforts to reduce the effects of climate change through putting a price on fossil fuel emissions in Vermont and we encourage other groups and individuals to do so.

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



SHULAMITH (BARBARA CLEARBRIDGE) writes: “Last spring I seriously began singing again (after a break of about 20 years), and joined Hospice’s choral group, Wellspring. We sing at senior residences and other happy occasions too, not just for the dying. A few months ago I joined the Congregational Church’s inter-faith Taize choir. That’s a kind of chant developed in France where the whole congregation sings a simple tune over and over (led by the choir), in 4 part harmony, sometimes with a soloist for part of it, sometimes with instruments. We do one afternoon service each month. These choirs rehearse only twice a month so I can manage the time. It has reminded me what a wonderful stress-reliever singing is, especially choral singing. And Taize chants are prayers, so even rehearsals are worship. Both these choirs are open to more singers, if anyone is interested.”

TOM and MANYA DICKENSON’s daughter JENNIFER is in western Ukraine (Lviv and Kiev) for two months for the second half of her Fulbright Fellowship. She is working with Ukrainian Sign Language groups and with universities on teaching methods of university level students.

News from Crop Walk: For those of you who walked, donated or did both for Crop Walk, here are the amounts for the checks that went out to local agencies from our share of the fund raising:

Charter House Coalition: \$1,394.95
Vergennes Food Shelf: \$1,394.95
HOPE: \$1,394.95
Have a Heart, Bristol: \$1,046.20
MidSummer Lunch Program: \$697.47
John Graham Shelter: \$697.47
CVOEO: \$348.74

Thanks to all who donated! – Manya

—Lucy

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FOR 2017

Twenty-One Friends met on January 28, 2018, to reflect on the year 2017, guided by several queries for preparation. All Middlebury Friends were invited. The previous year's report was read at the rise of Meeting the week before. One query was sent out each day of the week prior to our gathering.

Query 1:

In what ways have you felt support (or not) from the Meeting; how would you most like to be supported?

Many expressed gratitude for the Meeting, including feeling supported by the Meeting through Friendly Forums, Experiment with Light, participating in First Day School, read aloud group, Faith and Play lessons, meal-trains and hospital visits. The clarity of our committee structure has been helpful for knowing where to go for help. It was noted that Friends have shown through example how individuals within the community give and receive support. We are reminded that sometimes support is needed over a long period of time and, on occasion, its absence has been felt. Some miss opportunities for spiritual companioning with others about our spiritual journeys.

Queries 2 & 5:

In what ways have you contributed to making the year what it has been? How do you feel you can contribute to the betterment of our Meeting? In what ways have you felt your strengths, skills and callings were needed and valued by the Meeting?

Rather than identify our own contributions, it was suggested we notice and express to each other how we experience and appreciate their contributions. Several Friends expressed specific ways others have contributed to the betterment of the Meeting. It was mentioned that the annual holiday alternative gift fair was not well attended and therefore a missed opportunity for sharing. Because we rent our meeting space, it takes the efforts of many to set up and put away each week, which highlights that our identity is not attached to a particular space, but to the people. Much appreciation was expressed for various people who serve the Meeting and we recognize a need to express it more often.

Query 3:

Have the activities and actions of the Meeting helped you to grow in the Spirit? (Friendly Forums, COSA, climate initiatives, fellowship opportunities, etc.) If so, how? If not, what might need to happen?

It was noted that various initiatives and activities have helped us to grow, e.g., Active Hope workshops, community suppers, discussions about how to utilize the Rachel

Carey-Harper gift, the library and guidance of the librarian, and Friendly Forums. There has been more active use of the email list to share issues important to us. As important as the activities themselves, has been the process of discussing, discerning and implementing these activities.

Query 4:

In what ways have you experienced the presence and transformation of Spirit?

Several spoke about experiencing spirituality in a way that helps them feel calmer and more compassionate, and spirituality experienced as endless companionship. Meeting for worship gives us time to allow our souls to catch up. Working on committees has afforded opportunities to deepen relationships and respond to the changing needs of our community, e.g., in response to political-social concerns that emerged at the beginning of the year, Friendly Forums shifted toward a spiritual approach to these concerns. First Day School started the year with a focus on historical Quaker figures and continues with hearing the personal stories of Middlebury Friends.

Query 6:

How has Spirit sustained and nurtured your individual and our collective actions in the larger community and world?

It was noted that our annual Celebration of Life radiates within and without us as we simply celebrate life. While we may wish we could do more, when we take a Quakerly pause, we see that we spend a lot of time in silence and working together. While we are a small group, we have a large impact in our community as we sow seeds and let them blossom elsewhere, e.g. migrant worker initiatives and Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN).

Looking toward the Future:

Noting that our Meeting population is getting older, Friends agreed we need to address our sustainability. More than 80 percent of our members are over age 65, though the age of attenders is more varied. Are we doing too much? Do we need to consider cutting back on our activities?

Newcomers may need more support in learning Quaker protocols and ways of doing things.

There have been fewer Middlebury College students in the past year. How can we reach out to them?

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

18 February, 2018

Clerk: Norm Tjossem

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Tom Dickinson, Brud Leedom, Grace McGrath, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, and Peter Schenck.

18.02.01 Monthly meeting opened with a reading from “A Perilous Neglect” by Alastair McIntosh, in the February 2018 *Friends Journal*, concerning our identity as the Religious Society of Friends

18.02.02 January 21, 2017 minutes: Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

18.02.03 Treasurer’s Report In lieu of a treasurer’s report, and on behalf of the Finance Committee, Spence Putnam submitted the following report:

I have examined the financial statements of the Middlebury Friends Meeting for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 and made random checks on disbursements and receipts. I was given complete access to the online and paper bank records of the Meeting by Karen Nawn-Fabey, Meeting Treasurer. It is my opinion based on this partial review that the financial books of the Meeting are in good order and that the record-keeping is thorough and accurate.

18.02.04 Worship and Study (Peter Schenck) The State of the Meeting report prepared by W & S, following the Jan. 28 worship gathering to reflect on 2017, was read. There followed discussion about the extent to which a SOM report reflects MFM. A suggestion was made to shape the preparation queries so that any response is acceptable, including anything critical because Friends sometimes are hesitant to express a critical view. Friends wondered, “How can we make all views heard and accepted? How can we solicit critical comment as well as positive?” It was noted there is a need to present preparation queries that cover not only individual spiritual health but the spiritual health of the Meeting as a whole.

It was agreed that this report reflects the Jan. 25 gathering. After a few edits the report will be published in the next newsletter for all Friends to read. It will be presented for final approval at next monthly meeting.

18.02.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action – COSA (Tom Dickinson)

No meeting since last month, but work continues on FCNL list of priorities. Via the listserv Friends have been invited to name issues they feel FCNL should focus on during the 116th Congressional session. Tom Dickinson will create a list of items for Friends to prioritize from which he will create input from MFM.

cont.

18.02.06 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam)

1. Suggestion for Personal Earthcare Profiles: The committee will begin a series of profiles of participants in our Meeting that detail how their lives and work are informed by a concern for the Earth and the changing climate. These could be published monthly in the Newsletter and collected in printed form at the end of the year.
2. Actions for the Earth Bowl to be Retired: The committee has decided that the Actions for the Earth bowl has accomplished its purpose of highlighting the importance of taking actions of whatever size to care for the Earth. We will collate the actions that have been contributed over the last year and make them available to the Meeting in some form.
3. George Lakey Visit: Earthcare members reviewed plans for George Lakey's visit to Middlebury on March 14-15. On Thursday, March 15, our Meeting will be in charge of arrangements for a potluck supper at Havurah at 5:00 and his talk at 7:00. Lakey is a prominent Quaker writer, speaker, educator, and activist on the topics of climate justice and income inequality. We encourage Friends to read his book, *Viking Economics*, before this visit.
4. ICAN report: Forty people participated in the second annual Active Hope workshop in January. There will be a follow-up to the workshop in April, date TBA.

FOLLOWUP: Friends will be needed to help with the potluck on March 15 as well as help with set up at Middlebury Congregational Church. Sign up sheets will be circulated. Fellowship Committee will organize the pre-talk potluck for MFM Friends and George Lakey. Earthcare is helping to organize the public talk.

18.02.07 Pastoral Care (Grace McGrath) The latest MFM Directory is about to be published.

18.02.08 Fellowship Committee (Spence Putnam) Fellowship Committee will organize the March 14 potluck for Quakers with George Lakey.

Meeting closed with a 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

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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