

# Middlebury Friends Meeting



May  
2012

# MAY 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 <sup>○</sup>
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. May 3 7:00 PM Women's Group at CSAC, hosted by Cheryl Mithell
- Fri. May 4 3:00 PM Pastoral Care Committee at Priscilla Baker's
- Sun. May 6 8:30 AM Friendly Forum: Meeting for Worship – What Are We Here For?
- Mon. May 7 7:30 PM Men's group at David Andrew's
- Fri. May 11 6:00 PM potluck hosted by Middlebury College worship group
- Sun. May 13 10:00 AM Celebration of Life at Quaker Acres. Intergenerational worship and famously delicious pot luck  
Rain location: Havurah House
- Sun. May 20 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sat/Sun June 2/3 Northwest Quarterly Meeting
- July 1-7 Friends General Conference, Kingston, RI

“So long as we claim no  
authority beyond our own  
experience, what we speak  
has the ring of truth.”

— JOANNA MACY

## Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

15 April, 2012

Clerks: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were David Andrews, Laura Asermily, Ann Barker, Tom Baskett, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Wendy Goodwin, Lucy McKeon, Tom Nicholson, Don Peabody, and Chris Stackhouse.

12.4.01 Minutes for 18 March 2012: Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

12.4.02 Treasurer’s Report (Laura Asermily and David Andrews): “During the month of March 2012 the Meeting had donations of \$1045. The member income for the comparable period last year was \$240.

Expenditures during January totaled \$354. The Meeting paid out \$44 for our listing in the Friends Journal, and \$310 in childcare expenses. This included Meeting for

*cont.*

Worship childcare (\$150) and First Day Curriculum Coordination (\$160).

The bank balance at the end of March was \$5,826.41. Of this, \$3,726.41 is for Meeting and the balance of \$2,100 will be carried over each month until a new financial agent is found for the Farm Worker Coalition.”<sup>1</sup>

Co-treasurers expressed appreciation for all Friends who have contributed so far this year. The Finance Committee will prepare a draft of a 6 month budget to present at next monthly meeting. This will cover the transition period before beginning our new calendar fiscal year in January 2013.

#### **12.4.03 Worship and Study Committee (W & S) (reported by Tom Baskett)**

1. Friendly Forum in May will be on Meeting for Worship: What are We Here For?
2. Celebration of Life will take place on Sunday, May 13, at Quaker Acres. Plans are under way.

**12.4.04 Nominating Committee** (reported by Don Peabody): Appointments for the coming year, July '12 through June '13 are well under way. A full report will be given at May monthly meeting.

#### **12.4.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA) (reported by Lucy McKeon):**

1. FCNL priorities survey: Several Friends completed the survey which has been tallied and will be sent to FCNL.
2. War Tax Resistance: A MFM Friend has put together a packet of materials regarding war tax resistance. It is available for anyone seeking more information.

**12.4.06 Fellowship Committee:** It was suggested that we explore a summer picnic with the Ticonderoga Worship Group and S. Starksboro Meeting. Fellowship Committee will look into this.

**12.4.07 Safety Measures:** Chris Stackhouse has offered to do a brief walk through the building to orient adults to emergency exits, fire extinguishers, etc.

**12.4.08 New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM)** is seeking applicants for their field secretary to replace retiring Jonathan Vogel-Bourne. Co-clerk Cheryl Mitchell has details about the position and encourages Friends to think about anyone who might be interested. The job description has been sent to the Listserv.



## Wendy Goodwin

Wendy Goodwin has led a life of seeking, and also of daring learning, experimentation, and adventure. Though her father, a design engineer from the Jersey shore, taught her that “Curiosity killed the cat”, and an Admissions officer once said, “This one’s going to be a dabbler,” Wendy went her own way. A quiet girl, (“This one’s going to be a perpetual student,” she was told.) after two years at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania she moved to California, took various jobs and decided to major in Special Education at San

Diego State. Her first professional job was in the desert, teaching Educable Mentally Retarded adolescents under an impossible principal, to whom she finally announced, “I’m not going to be a part of this!” (Almost a guiding principle for her by now. Even as a little girl, she had given serious consideration to running away.)

There followed years of subbing, working with severely handicapped children, in San Diego and Berkeley (They taught me a lot!) and exploring alternative healing methods, transforming discoveries such as Milton Trager’s new, healing-physical-modalities, and Dolman Delicato (a therapy that helps to re-pattern the brain). At all turns. Wendy resisted rigid methods like Skinner and other orthodoxies of the times, and decided “to make things up “for her children” like teaching Yoga to ninety 2nd and 3rd graders. Other teachers were constantly exclaiming, “WENDY!”, to which she answered “Well, what do the suits suggest!” But her aide told her “I love that you don’t follow the rules!”

“I kept choosing ways that made things hard, and knew it would have been much easier to be like the rest of my family, “Wendy says, “but I just couldn’t do that”. And along the way, Wendy had to deal with physical accidents to her knees and back, but this didn’t slow her down.

She tried, at age 34, to learn Respiratory Therapy which turned out to be all about drugs and machinery. She won a contest for the American Respiratory Therapy Assn sponsored by Squibb Labs with a paper on (Get this!) “Non-Pharmaceutical Treatments for Asthma.”

Over the course of five years, along with teaching full time for kids in wheelchairs, Wendy was studying acupuncture, with different teachers, and falling in love with Glenn, whom she met in 1982 when he was dating a good friend. Among other things, Glenn was into Jazz and a R&B band, and touring Europe. When they met a year and a half later (after my friend stopped seeing him - friends don’t steal friend’s beaux!), Wendy invited Glenn for a massage in exchange for a a song. “I really trusted that

*cont.*

we could have a real conversation.” After years of multiple jobs, Acupuncture School at night and on week-ends, and spiritual workshops, Wendy, with Glenn decided to take a trip around the world. “We had the sense we were getting too comfortable and needed a little shake-up,” Wendy says. They contacted Friends of Tibet and arranged that Glenn would teach musical notation to students at the Tibetan Institute for Performing Arts for 3 months in Dharamsala, India, while Wendy taught English to Tibetan nuns, as well as card games!

They spent seven months in Southeast Asia (Thailand, Laos, Viet Nam, Bali) and six weeks in New Zealand, “I think I feel better travelling.” Upon their return while house sitting in San Diego and trying to decide where they would live a call came from her sister in New Jersey that her dad had Parkinson’s. They came to New Jersey to help out and since it was winter decided to find out whether they could really handle Vermont winters. They arrived to a sub-zero night. “I just loved the cold,” she says, “I felt jump-started!” The next day, they went about house-hunting. Wendy decided to embed herself in the community so that people could get to know her, rather than putting out her Acupuncture shingle, to say “Here I am! Come see me!” So as well as Fellowship Committee of MFM, she is active in Meals on Wheels, Community Chorus, a Spanish conversation group, and on the Hospice Board. “I needed to contribute to this Community before they contributed to me.”

– RB for WG

---

A STATEMENT FROM  
SHULAMITH EAGLE / BARBARA CLEARBRIDGE  
CONCERNING CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION  
TO PAYING FOR WAR

I grew up in a constant shadow of wars, from bomb shelters when I was a child through Vietnam, the “cold war,” and ceaseless hot ones since then. When I discovered in my 30’s that besides what we directly participated in, our government was also fomenting wars all over the world and supplying the arms for them, sometimes TO BOTH SIDES, I vowed myself to peace. That meant I would not help war efforts in any way, including paying for them or for weapons, buying products from companies who also profited from war, and every other way that came to my attention. The only way I felt comfortable resisting taxes (after the phone tax resistance during Vietnam) was to keep my income under the taxable level, and that I did for many, many years.

In the past few years I’ve let my income rise so to meet additional needs with my increasing age. This meant I began owing money to the IRS. Each year I wrote the

check I felt worse. This year I knew I absolutely could not pay the military portion of my taxes. The idea of it made me feel physically ill. Then I thought about what the current government would do with the money I did send them. Their values are so different from my own. I explained it to a friend by saying that with my income level, I couldn't afford to meddle in other countries' business. I couldn't afford to reduce health care benefits, or heating benefits, or social security retirement benefits, or any other social services. The government's priorities for my money are unacceptable. There are other adjectives I could use instead of "unacceptable," but in order to promote dialogue, I'll leave it at that one.

So I find I can't pay any taxes. I will "redirect" the withheld money so as not to be simply a tax evader. I will redirect as much as I am able to one of the several New England "Peace Tax" funds. They fund various peace and social service projects around the country. I will also contribute to the War Tax Resisters Penalty Fund, upon which resisters can draw if they need help to pay penalties and fines.

It turns out that It is very rare that tax resisters are jailed, lose their homes, or the like. I have little to lose. If things get bad, one can always simply pay up, or let the IRS levy the money owed from a bank account. At least I won't be voluntarily supporting murder and corruption. I can't tell you how much better I feel now. I feel innocent again, and strong. I feel fearless. I feel simple and unconflicted, quiet on the inside. I am trying to honestly live our Quaker testimonies. The Clearness Committee was a great help to me; I'm grateful to them and to my MFM family.

– shulamith eagle / Barbara Clearbridge

**MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING**

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Winslow Colwell

Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

**Co-Clerks**

Cheryl Mitchell (345-2278)  
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)

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)