

# Middlebury Friends Meeting

November  
2010



# NOVEMBER 2010

| 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  |
| ○<br>21 | 22  | 23   | 24  | 25    | 26  | 27  |
| 28      | 29  | 30   |     |       |     |     |

## QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Mon. Nov. 1 7:00 pm Women's Group at Mimi Love-Nicholson, 388-6041
- Sun. Nov. 7 8:30 am Friendly Forum, "Experiment with Light" part 2 with Jean Rosenberg
- Wed. Nov. 10 7:00 pm Men's Group at Chris Stackhouse's, 388-9224
- Fri. Nov. 12 6:00 pm Potluck at the Rosenbergs's, 388-6453
- Sun. Nov. 14 8:30 am Worship & Study Committee at Havurah
- Mon. Nov. 15 7:00 pm COSA meeting at Dickinson's, 388-2594
- Sun. Nov. 21 11:30 am Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sat/Sun, Dec. 4/5 Northwest Quarterly Meeting hosted by Bennington and Middlebury meetings, in Middlebury
- Tues. Dec. 7 11:30 am Fellowship Committee at Carol's Hungry Mind

## Queries on Paying Attention

As each of us is a living witness as part of the Society of Friends, are we called to be especially genuine and caring in our dealings with each other here?

In our various and diverse groupings (First Day School, our Committees, Men's Group, Women's Group, Friendly 8's, Friendly Forum, Potlucks, Picnics, and even Hospitality) do we, before during and after meeting each other, speak to the Light in each person, call to the Light in them, and acknowledge each person as a bringer of Light to all of us?

Are we paying attention to this in our thoughts and words and deeds, especially when we are feeling angry, annoyed or misunderstood?

Is our Meeting our Training Ground where we try to learn to practice what we preach?

— SUBMITTED BY RUTH BARENBAUM

## Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

17 October, 2010

Clerk: Stewart Kirkaldy

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Laurel Coburn, Ted Colwell, Tom Dickinson, Faith Lowell, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Bill Schneider, Chris Stackhouse, and Jill Stackhouse.

10.10.01 Minutes for 9/19/10 were reviewed; it is noted that the date for the previous minutes is incorrect. Item 10.09.01 should read: "Minutes for 7/25/10 were reviewed..."

10.10.02 Treasurer's Report (from Jill Stackhouse & Laura Asermily) "During the month of September 2010 the Meeting had an income of \$780. The income for the comparable period last year was \$806. Total income for the fiscal year through

September is \$2,280. Expenditures during September totaled \$605: \$180 Childcare Aug/Sept, \$25 Clergy Dues, \$200 Clergy Rent Fund, (as requested to meet urgent early need from budgeted donation), \$200 to Shareheat (also requested to meet urgent early need from contingency fund). The bank balance at the end of September was \$5,550.17, which includes \$1,200.00 in the carry-over surplus fund.

“An email was sent out to the meeting to request additional donations so that we may pay out our budgeted contributions before the end of the year. The meeting has responded generously thus far in response to our donation request. Donations to date in October total \$1,060.

We still have \$402.80 which is income from 2009 that exceeded expenditures that has not been assigned a category in the budget.

FOLLOW UP: It was approved to move the \$402.80 surplus from 2009 into the general carry-over category. We are awaiting word from Havurah about a recent renewal of our offer to help pay acoustic improvements, which is the original designated use of our carry over fund.

**10.10.03 Committee on Outreach and Social Action - COSA** (from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

1. The Community Supper on Sept. 24 went well. About 200 meals were served, including 105 at the community hall and about 90 take-outs. We received a nice letter of thanks from Dottie Neuberger, along with \$33 from the contribution basket. Twenty dollars of this was returned to the Community Supper program and the rest will go into our treasury toward our expenses.
2. We are co-hosting (with Bennington Monthly Meeting) the next Northwest Quarterly Meeting on December 4 and 5. The theme for the Sunday morning program will be “Quakers and Simplicity,” a Quaker Quest style panel and discussion. Information has been drafted to be sent to the quarterly meeting newsletter, *The Nor'wester*, for the announcement and registration for the meeting.
3. The “threshing session” on FUM personnel and social policies is scheduled for Sunday, October 24 at 12:00, after our Intergenerational Meeting. We will be working toward unity in our Meeting on financial support and other aspects of our relationship with FUM.

FOLLOW UP: We reviewed committee responsibilities for quarterly meeting in December. COSA has general oversight including arranging for meeting space, communication with our co-hosts and preparing/sending information to *The Nor'wester*. Fellowship Committee will arrange food (simple supper for Saturday evening, continental breakfast for Sunday morning and lunch after worship on Sunday, as well as overnight accommodations for anyone who makes a request. Worship and Study Committee will prepare and present the program, Quakers and Simplicity, on Sunday morning. COSA and Fellowship Committee will coordinate their efforts to cover food provisions and a coordinator for receiving overnight requests.

**10.10.04 Fellowship Committee** (from Faith Lowell & Wendy Goodwin, edited for

these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

1. Plans for Quarterly Meeting: We will provide a simple Sunday lunch since the space we will use has no kitchen. A sign up sheet will be passed around in November to include cold cuts, cheese, lettuce, egg salad, potato salad, cole slaw, carrot and celery sticks, nuts, bread, condiments, desserts and drinks
2. New Friendly 8 Groups: Friends can sign up after Meeting, indicating preferred nights, or respond via email. People will be encouraged to sign up for different nights than they usually do in order to get a better mix New groups will be created in December so they can start in January. Groups will meet for 4 months and facilitation recommendations will be proposed for each group to use: the facilitator (not the host) will keep the conversation moving, encourage 45 minutes of open ended conversation and then focus on a topic for the last 45 minutes with each person having about 5 minutes to talk with the facilitator keeping time. None of this needs to be rigid but having a container could help to give everyone a chance to speak. Groups could elect to continue after 4 months if they desire.
3. Connecting with the Havurah community: As mentioned at the State of the Meeting discussion last January, we will pursue ways to interact with Havurah. This year is their 30th anniversary and there was a celebratory Shabbat on Oct. 17 that we are invited to. They have a Friday Shabbat about once a month that we can attend and they have a Saturday morning Torah service once or twice a month that we can attend. We will explore how we can share our calendar with them and visa-versa. There are currently about 75 families, 35 of whom are active with 42 students in the Hebrew school. Shall we plan something for them to attend to get to know each other better?

**10.10.05 Worship and Study Committee** (prepared by Jean Rosenberg; edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

1. Friendly Forums: November 7, Jean Rosenberg will lead an Experiment with Light meditation, as a follow-up to the October FF presentation on the Experiment with Light. December: Tom Baskett on Mysticism. Shulamith's session on healing will be reschedule for May, 2011. A sign-up sheet will be passed around after meeting asking for people who are interested in leading a FF, suggesting that they consider leading one on some aspect of their own spiritual experience, such as the metaphors and images that they find helpful, their own spiritual journey, a favorite book or poem and what it means to them, or a spritual discipline that they use - or other topics that people would like.
2. Grace McGrath will facilitate the Oct. 24 follow up discussion about Friend United Meeting's policy to excludes non-heterosexual employees and volunteers from service.
3. Oct 24 intergenerational meeting will be introduced by Becky Holmes. A reminder will be sent out on the listserv, also requesting that people bring finger food and stay for the FUM discussion afterward.

cont.

4. Quarterly Meeting program on Dec. 5 will be on Quakers and Simplicity, with a Quaker-Quest style panel of 3 Friends each speaking briefly from their own experience.

10.10.06 Middlebury College Student Quakers (report prepared by Laurel Coburn and edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

On October 1, 14 college students, a staff member and 2 Middlebury Friends went on an overnight retreat in the Adirondacks. Preceding their departure, the students met with Win Colwell and Priscilla Baker to begin their process of thinking about Quakerism. "The students organized everything beautifully! There were great meals, yoga on the dock in the early morning, canoeing, a picnic on an island, and time to talk. We discussed our spiritual backgrounds and paths to being a Quaker and hopes for the next steps for the student organization."

Students hold Meeting for Worship on campus each week on Sunday afternoons. The students have registered as an official campus organization and are now listed on College materials and the website. The student group is composed of a few students who are birthright Quakers. Some students are not from Quaker homes but attended Quaker schools. For many this is their first encounter with Quakerism. A number of students are deeply interested in the testimonies. They find them very relevant and important. This was discussed at the opening session with Win and Priscilla and was brought up repeatedly over the weekend.

Laurel offers the following suggestions as ways MFM Friends might support the college group:

1. Since the students are not very clear on when vocal ministry is appropriate, we might give them a copy of the article handed around a few years ago about when vocal ministry is appropriate (with a handy flow-chart).
2. The students do not have a copy of *Faith and Practice*. We might give them a copy.
3. When asked for suggestions about ways we could better support the students, it was suggested that there be a consistent greeter for the students. When a student comes the first time, they are warmly welcomed as a newcomer. However, they may continue to be greeted as a newcomer multiple times. It would be nice to be recognized better somehow.

FOLLOW UP: It was suggested that printed name tags be prepared for students as soon as possible, as a signal of previous attendance at meeting. We will give a copy of *New England Faith and Practice* to the student group. Ted Colwell will look for the article about vocal ministry.

Monthly meeting closed with a moment of silence.

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## FRIENDLY BOOKS OF INTEREST



### *Holding One Another in the Light*

Marcelle Martin

Pendle Hill Pamphlet 382, 2006

One of the great mysteries of the spiritual life is the effectiveness of intercessory prayer – our prayers made to help others in times of great need or sorrow. Our Meeting for Worship has for many years incorporated in our time of worship a Healing Circle, in which those present can say the name of people that they wish to have held in The Light. This form of prayer comes to most of us almost involuntarily whenever we hear of the suffering of people known and dear to us. Yet, how such prayer requests are dealt with by The Almighty or such other higher power that we have belief in is a cloudy matter since it seems to go beyond the well-known causes of healing that we are aware of, and to go against our modern rational mind. Yet, I doubt that there are many of us who do not use this kind of prayers, some occasionally and some constantly.

Marcelle Martin is a Quaker with a long background of study of spiritual nurture and as a teacher at Pendle Hill. This pamphlet I found to be a very helpful guide into a deeper and broader use of intercessory prayers. She has practiced these prayers for many years and has found that she has found a high incidence of positive impact on those for whom she prayed. She also experiences a strengthening of her sense of unity with the person, herself, and her religious community. She writes about her experiences in detail and is open about the ups and downs over the years, which makes the piece have a more visceral impact.

She shares her definitions of this prayer and why she believes it is a valid practice, as well as some ideas of how it can be both an individual matter or one that a group of people can unite and share. She believes that intercessory prayers can be used for the benefit of individuals, wider groups, even for the entire world.

As a Friend that tries to practice this form of prayer on a daily basis, I found this small pamphlet most encouraging and practical. There are copies in our Meeting Library. I recommend it highly.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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388-9478

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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)

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MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

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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)