



Middlebury Friends Meeting

November
2017

Inside:

Calendar of Events

*News of Quakerly
Interest*


*Notes from the Oct. 22
Friendly Forum*

Minutes of Oct. 15

“Let us no longer be blinded by the dim theology
 that only in the far seeing vision discovers a
 millennium, when violence shall no more be heard
 in the land wasting nor destruction in her borders;
 but let us behold it now, nigh at the door lending
 faith and confidence to our hopes, assuring us
 that even we ourselves shall be instrumental in
 proclaiming liberty to the captive.”

— LUCRETIA MOTT

NOVEMBER 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

Thu. Oct. 26	7:15 PM	Experiment with Light, shulamith's house: 278 Washington Street Extension
Wed. Nov. 1	7:15 PM	Leadings group at Cheryl Mitchell's
Sat. Nov. 4	10:30 AM	Monthly Climate Vigil at Triangle Park
Sun. Nov. 5	9:00 AM	Earthcare Committee
Mon. Nov. 6	7:00 PM	Read Aloud Group at Cheryl Mitchell's
Sun. Nov. 12	8:30 AM	Worship and Study Committee
Mon. Nov. 13	4:30 PM	Experiment with Light, Location TBA
Thurs. Nov. 16	12:00	Pastoral Care Committee
Sun. Nov. 19	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun. Nov. 26	11:30 AM	Friendly Forum
Dec. 2 & 3		QM at Burlington Monthly Meeting
Dec. 10	8:30 AM	Worship and Study Committee
	9:00 AM	Earthcare Committee
	11:30 AM	Alternative Gift Fair at Havurah
Sun. Dec. 17	10:00 AM	Holiday Meeting at Havurah

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



News from MARY KAY GLAZER — “MARK and I are getting settled in our new home in Greenville, NC. We’ve been here about two months and love being just a few hours away from where our daughter and her husband live. We also love being 90 miles from the ocean. Except when there is a hurricane coming. Other news: MARTIN and his fiancé are getting married in August! Just a few months after they both graduate in the spring.”

The Middlebury College Community Chorus will present their Thanksgiving concert on Saturday Nov. 18 at 7 PM and Sunday Nov. 19 at 3 PM at the Concert Hall in the Center for the Arts. Singers from MFM include WENDY GOODWIN, SUSAN SMILEY, NORM TJOSSSEM, SARAH ASHE and MIMI LOVE-NICHOLSON. The program includes music both sacred and contemporary.

—Lucy

MFM FRIENDLY FORUM, OCT. 22, 2017

QUAKERS ENGAGING WITH WHITE SUPREMACY

What follows is a copy of the handouts from the Oct. 22 Friendly Forum concerning White Supremacy. This forum was very well attended, and the Worship and Study committee is planning further opportunities for us to discuss and grow into understanding on these issues.

BACKGROUND

At NEYM sessions in 2016, the YM adopted a minute on white supremacy, declaring that “We are complicit in white supremacy. We at NEYM have been “colonized” by our white supremacist culture and fall short of our full potential as a gathered body of Quaker meetings because of this colonization. We commit to engaging in interrupting white supremacy in ourselves...” The use of the term white supremacy was controversial, but it was used in its currently evolved meaning of the entire American racist system of institutions, practices, law, habits, culture, and ideology that privilege white people and oppress and brutalize people of color. It refers not only to the extreme ideology and most violent practices, but to the continuum of the entire system and the ways it is maintained.

In April 2017, the meetings of NEYM were asked to respond about how we were engaging with the minute. MFM set up these FFs. At YM 2017 this work was recognized as a continuing priority, to learn about how the racist system works, recognize its breadth and depth, see how new forms evolve as old forms are challenged, and work to identify, dismantle, and liberate ourselves and others from it.

Let us note that racism keeps adapting its institutions of white supremacy to the changing situation. From slavery to debt sharecropping and Jim Crow laws, to redlining and housing segregation and ghettos, to segregation in schools maintained by housing discrimination, new forms of voting suppression, the new Jim Crow of prisons and police violence. We get rid of one form and another is developed.

QUERIES

How is it that many of us as white people are complicit in the American racist system?

What would it look like to not be complicit?

What does our Quaker heritage have to say about this? What does your experience of the guidance of the Spirit say?

How should we engage with this work? What is our task?

This summer, many of us have read *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

What struck you most about what he wrote?

What did you learn from reading the book?

How was this a useful way to engage with our task?

Here are some quotes from Coates' book that might be helpful for our learning.

p. 8 ...there exists, all around us, an apparatus urging us to accept American innocence at face value and not to inquire too much.

p. 14 And I am afraid... When I was your age the only people I knew were black, and all of them were powerfully, adamantly, dangerously afraid. I had seen this fear all my young life... It was always right in front of me...

p. 17 ...the law has become an excuse for stopping and frisking you, which is to say, for furthering the assault on your body. But a society that protects some people through a safety net of schools, government-backed home loans, and ancestral wealth but can only protect you with the club of criminal justice has either failed at enforcing its good intentions or has succeeded at something much darker.

p. 36-7 "If you're black, you were born in jail," Malcolm said. And I felt the truth of this in the blocks I had to avoid, in the times of day when I must not be caught walking home from school, in my lack of control over my body.

p. 43 Everyone of any import, from Jesus to George Washington, was white... Serious history was the West, and the West was white... And this view of things was connected to the fear that passed through the generations, to the sense of dispossession. We were black, beyond the visible spectrum, beyond civilization. Our history was inferior, because we were inferior...

p. 70 ...enslavement is not a parable. It is damnation. It is the never-ending night. And the length of that night is most of our history. Never forget that we were enslaved in this country longer than we have been free. Never forget that for 250 years black people were born into chains – whole generations, followed by more generations who knew nothing but chains.

p. 78-9 I knew that Prince was not killed by a single officer so much as he was murdered by his country and all the fears that have marked it from birth... The truth is that the police reflect America in all of its will and fear, and whatever we might make of the country's criminal justice policy, it cannot be said that it was imposed by a repressive minority. The abuses that have followed from these policies... are the product of democratic will.

p. 90-91 ...I would come out of the house, turn onto Flatbush Avenue, and my face would tighten like a Mexican wrestler's mask, my eyes would dart from corner to

cont.

corner, my arms loose, limber, and ready. This need to be always on guard was an unmeasured expenditure of energy, the slow siphoning of the essence. It contributed to the fast breakdown of our bodies. So I feared not just the violence of this world but the rules designed to protect you from it, the rules that would have you contort your body to address the block, and contort again to be taken seriously by colleagues, and contort again so as not to give the police a reason... This is how we lose our softness. This is how they steal our right to smile...

p. 98 This is the foundation of the Dream – its adherents must not just believe in it but believe that it is just, believe that their possession of the Dream is the natural result of grit, honor, and good works... The mettle that it takes to look away from the horror of our prison system, from police forces transformed into armies, from the long war against the black body, is not forged overnight... To acknowledge these horrors means turning away from the brightly rendered version of your country as it has always declared itself and turning toward something murkier and unknown. It is still too difficult for most Americans to do this.

p. 106 ...there is the extra burden of your country telling you the Dream is just, noble, and real, and you are crazy for seeing the corruptions and smelling the sulfur. For their innocence, they nullify your anger, your fear, until you are coming and going, and you find yourself inveighing against yourself... really inveighing against your own humanity and raging against the crime in your ghetto, because you are powerless before the great crime of history that brought the ghettos to be.

p. 106 It is truly horrible to understand yourself as the essential below of your country... The struggle to understand is our only advantage over this madness.

p. 107 The fact is that despite their dreams, their lives are also not inviolable. When their own vulnerability becomes real... they are shocked in a way that those of us who were born and bred to understand cause and effect can never be. And I would not have you live like them. You have been cast into a race in which the wind is always in your face and the hounds are always at your heels. And to varying degrees this is true of all life. The difference is that you do not have the privilege of living in ignorance of this essential fact.

p. 110-111 A legacy of plunder, a network of laws and traditions, a heritage, a Dream, murdered Prince Jones as sure as it murders black people in North Lawndale [Chicago black ghetto] with frightening regularity. “Black-on-black crime” is jargon, violence to language, which vanishes the men who engineered the covenants, who fixed the loans, who planned the projects, who built the streets and sold red ink [for red-lining] by the barrel.

p. 141 [Some of] the Howard students... were the children of the Jackie Robinson elite, whose parents rose up out of the ghettos, and the share-cropping fields, went out into the suburbs, only to find that they carried the mark with them and could not

escape. Even when they succeeded... they were singled out, made examples of, trans-figured into parables of diversity. They were symbols and markers, never children or young adults.

p.145 (Mabel Jones, mother of Prince Jones, alluding to Solomon Northrup in *12 Years a Slave*, said): He had means. He had a family. He was living like a human being. And one racist act took him back. And the same is true of me. I spent years developing a career, acquiring assets, engaging responsibilities. And one racist act. It's all it takes.

p.151 I do not believe that we can stop them, Samori, because they must ultimately stop themselves. And still I urge you to struggle... But do not struggle for the Dreamers. Hope for them. Pray for them, if you are so moved. But do not pin your struggle on their conversion. The Dreamers will have to learn to struggle themselves, to understand that the field for their Dream, the stage where they have painted themselves white, is the deathbed of us all. The Dream is the same habit that endangers the planet, the same habit that sees our bodies stowed away in prisons and ghettos.

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

15 October, 2017

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Tom Baskett, Many, Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Brud Leedom, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Peter Schenck, and Lianna Tennial.

17.10.01 **Monthly meeting opened** with a reading from Brian Drayton's *On Living with a Concern for Gospel Ministry*.

17.10.02 **September 17, 2017 minutes** Accepted by co-clerks.

17.10.03 **Ad Hoc committee report** concerning the \$2,000 gift from Rachel Harper-Carey (Tom Baskett, Tom Dickinson, Joe Garren, Fran Putnam, and Jean Rosenberg):

From Rachel's letter concerning the gift: "...I am gifting every NEYM Friends Monthly Meeting \$2,000 and every Preparative Meeting \$1,000... My priorities do not have to be yours! I leave it totally up to you to decide how to use these funds to create the world to which God calls us at this tumultuous moment."

The ad hoc committee on utilization of Rachel Harper-Carey's gift met on October 5, 2017. Following on the work of our earlier called meeting on August 20, we came up with three criteria for possible uses and five specific possibilities for action.

cont.

The three criteria for use of the gift are:

1. Local programs in Addison County or statewide that support projects congruent with our Quaker values that are focused on issues raised in these times. Racism, income inequality and climate change are examples.
2. Activities that increase opportunities for greater communication, understanding, and collaboration among all elements of the Addison County community, and enhance our own participation in this collaboration.
3. Quaker programs at the national level that address the prominent challenges of our time. AFSC, [and] FCNL, and NEYM are examples.

The five specific activities we talked about are:

1. Collaborate to invite Quaker writer and thinker, George Lakey, to Middlebury to address the college (Molly Anderson's initiative) and the community in a variety of settings including college lecture, community presentation with Q and A, and potluck dinner. Lakey is the author of Viking Economics.
2. Contribute to and participate in the migrant community's initiative to sponsor cooking and learning events on 5th Sundays at the Middlebury Methodist Church.
3. Work with the Marquis Theatre or other venues to sponsor a day of showing a selected documentary on sustainability. Charge a modest admission price with proceeds to be donated to an appropriate related program or organization.
4. Use some of the funds to provide a venue for occasional silent worship opportunities open to the whole community
5. Challenge ourselves by establishing an ongoing fund (perhaps called the Rachel Harper-Carey Fund) to support specific activities that directly address the issues of "these turbulent times" and support Quaker values.

FOLLOWUP: Interest was expressed in each suggestion. Friends agreed we should consider engaging in more than one idea. Perhaps interested Friends would form ad hoc committees for each activity. It was noted we already have involvement within meeting touching on 4 of these suggestions: #1 Molly Anderson, #2 Cheryl Mitchell, #3 Earthcare Committee, and #4 W & exploring possibilities Friends interested in helping out with any of these activities should contact the pertinent person or committee. For the moment, it was approved that up to \$150 be used for #2, the initiative to encourage cooking and learning events with the local immigrant community.

17.10.03 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey) All statements in this report are as of October 14, 2017.

From September 15 through October 14, the Meeting had member donations of \$534.

From September 15 through October 14, Meeting expenditures totaled \$1819

cont.

including \$320 for children's program coordination, \$650 for Havurah, \$724 for NEYM, \$125 for NWQM. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$6084.60.

Karen gave both a monthly and 3rd quarter report, noting that we are in need of an increase in contributions in order to meet our budget. Most of our benevolences are paid out in the 4th quarter. Karen wonders if we should decrease our expenses by lowering some of our benevolences, noting that our habit is to "shake the tree" which results in the same people increasing their donation.

It was suggested we provide an opportunity for deeper discussion about our budget and the role of money in Quaker beliefs and practices. Finance Committee will meet soon to discuss the 2018 budget and discuss how to widen the conversation about money. Spence Putnam will write a message for the newsletter and the listserv to encourage Friends to donate in the next few weeks. Donations can be sent to MFM, PO Box 1026, Middlebury, VT 05753 or left in the Donation Box on the Greeter Table Sunday mornings. Worship and Study will consider spiritual dimensions about money and how this interfaces with supporting the meeting financially.

17.10.04 Worship and Study (Liana)

1. The children's program committee met (Fran Putnam, Aaron Coburn, Tom Nicholson): *We've been learning about historical Quakers for the past year—and now we are going to focus on Quakers in our own Meeting! We will spend a couple lessons learning about conducting interviews, helping the kids prepare questions, practicing interviewing each other. Then we will invite different Friends within our meeting to come and be interviewed, sharing about their lives and what Quakerism means to them. We'll record interviews and create short articles about each person, which may appear in the newsletter and hopefully in a book form available to Meeting attenders, perhaps with portraits drawn by the First Day School participants. We'll continue to refer back to the lessons we learned about historical Quakers, and make comparisons—as well as reading profiles of some of our Meetings members that were written 20 years ago or so, and seeing what has changed! This is an ambitious project which should prove useful to the whole Meeting, and we are excited about it.*
2. The committee annual retreat, on Oct. 14, helped to deepen our work as a committee.
3. In an effort to explore other ways of worship, we are seeking the guidance of two NEYM Friends who are willing to come to Middlebury, in the spring, to share some ideas with us.
4. After discussing the challenge of finding homes that are large enough to host meeting gatherings we decided to shift our focus toward viewing Havurah as our "home" space for celebrations and special gatherings. We will happily accept any invitations to meet at a Friend's home, if that presents itself at any time in the future.

17.10.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action – COSA People who seek reimbursement for Community Supper should give receipts (if available) to Karen Nawn-Fahey.

CROP Hunger Walk report: 250 people walked in Middlebury and Bristol. Addison County raises the largest amount of money of all the New England regions. Of over \$23,000 donated by Addison County, \$700+ came from MFM.

17.10.06 Earthcare Committee (sent by Fran Putnam)

1. October 20 Potluck on Carbon Pricing: *Tom Hughes from the Energy Independent Vermont campaign will present the principles behind carbon pricing--it needs to change behavior, it needs to be fair (especially to low income people), and it needs to stimulate the Vermont economy. At the November Meeting for Business, the Earthcare Committee will ask our Meeting to endorse Energy Independent Vermont's campaign.*
2. Rachel Harper-Carey Grant: *Representing Earthcare, Fran attended a meeting to discuss possible uses of the \$2,000 grant made by Rachel Harper-Carey. Ideas included a showing of a documentary on sustainability, proceeds to be donated to an appropriate organization and collaborating with Molly Anderson and Middlebury College to invite George Lakey to the area to speak on his book Viking Economics.*
3. Community Conversations Panel on Climate Justice Sunday, October 15, 4:00-5:30 at the Middlebury Congregational Church: *ICAN is organizing this event; Fran and Spence Putnam will be the facilitators.*

17.10.07 Pastoral Care: No report

17.10.08 Fellowship Committee (Spence Putnam) The Fellowship Committee is handling the logistic arrangements for a forthcoming potluck sponsored by the Earthcare Committee, to be held at the Ilsley Library on Friday, October 20, beginning at 6:00 pm. As usual, Friends are asked to bring a dish to share and to provide their own eating utensils. A speaker from Energy Independent Vermont will provide information on the effort to implement a statewide tax on carbon.

FOLLOWUP: Fellowship Committee was asked to oversee the Dec. 10 holiday fair, at the rise of meeting.

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
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