

# Middlebury Friends Meeting



October  
2011

# OCTOBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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23	24	25	26 <sup>●</sup>	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.
- Sun. 10/2 8:30 AM Friendly Forum on Prayer with Ted Colwell & Tom Baskett
- Sun. 10/2 12 NOON CROP walk; MFM organizers, Ted Colwell, 388-3632, & Becky Stratton, 388-2487
- Sun. 10/9 8:30 AM W & S Committee at Havurah House
- Mon. 10/10 4:00 PM COSA at Dickinson's, 388-2594
- Wed. 10/12 7:00 PM Women's Group at Jean Rosenberg's, 388-6453
- Wed. 10/12 7:30 PM Men's Group at Tom Baskett's. 758-2055. Note new time!
- Fri/Sat 10/14 & 15 Overnight accommodations provided to Middlebury College parents/families by area homes to benefit either Habitat for Humanity (David Andrews, 388-4894) or Hospice Volunteer Services (Wendy Goodwin, 385-1900). Contact Wendy or David if you can offer housing.
- Sun. 10/16 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business at Havurah House. Note that are again meeting before Worship.

*cont.*

“Probably the single most important realization that would lead to peace in the world would be this one — the recognition that we are all afraid of ceasing to be what we imagine we are.”

— NORMAN FISCHER

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|------------|---------|--|
| Fri. 10/28 | 6:00 PM | Potluck at Faith Lowell's, 388-3056; Olivia Grugan will talk about her summer gleaning project.              |
| Sat. 11/5  |         | Mexican Consulate will be in Addison Co. to talk about immigration issues; contact Cheryl Mitchell, 545-2278 |
| Sun. 11/6  | 8:30 AM | Friendly Forum on Restorative Justice, with Jean Rosenberg   |

### THINKING OF PREPAREDNESS

Anyone who is interested in reviewing the emergency plan for Havurah House should contact Cheryl Mitchell or Fran Putnam. On finalizing this document we will make it available to all users of the building. All persons helping with First Day School upstairs are encouraged to take note so they are prepared in case an emergency exit is ever required.

# Middlebury Friends Meeting

## Monthly Meeting for Business

18 September, 2011

Co-Clerks: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were David Andrews, Tom Baskett, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Grace McGrath, Cheryl Mitchell, Fran Putnam, and Spence Putnam.

11.09.01 **Minutes from 31 July 2011:** Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

11.09.02 **Nominating Committee** presented David Andrews as the new co-treasurer, which was readily approved.

11.09.03 **Treasurer's Report** (David Andrews and Laura Asermily):

"During the month of August 2011 the Meeting had an income of \$815. The income for the comparable period last year was \$450, \$365 less than this year. Expenditures during August: Children's Program \$90, plus \$459.94 withdrawn from Olivia Grugan's fund. Total meeting expenditures for the month were \$90. Current bank balance is \$6,068.27, which includes Olivia's remaining fund balance of \$1,229.76.

"Questions were raised at the last Meeting for Business about whether MFM would make a one-time gift to Farm and Wilderness Camps for repairs needed because of Irene-related flooding, and also whether the Meeting wished to provide its members a means to contribute toward broader post-Irene relief efforts."

**FOLLOW UP:** (1) Last month MFM Friends, Chris Stackhouse and Tom Nicholson, helped Havurah members put into place acoustical panels around the top of the walls in the Fellowship Hall where we meet. (It is noted that this has resulted in improvement in quality of sound.) Havurah has indicated that they do not need the \$1600 we had set aside to help with sound abatement. It was decided to apply these funds to tropical storm Irene recovery in Vermont. \$800 will be sent to Farm and Wilderness Foundation and \$800 to the United Way Vermont Disaster Relief Fund.

Friends are encouraged to make additional ear-marked contributions before next Monthly Meeting so we can increase our financial support for post storm recovery. It should be indicated whether an individual's contribution is for F & W or general relief (through United Way) or split between both efforts.

(2) Co-clerk Jean Rosenberg reminded us that it is time for Friends who wish to do so, to renew their desire to withhold that portion of financial support to NEYM that represents support of FUM. "If your concern over Friends United Meeting's (FUM) discriminatory personnel policy against gay and lesbian people means that you wish

for no portion of your financial contribution to Middlebury meeting (MFM) to be forwarded through NEYM to FUM, you may so notify the MFM treasurers. The MFM contribution to NEYM then will be reduced by a portion for each person who makes this request, with notification to NEYM of why and how much has been withheld.

“In MFM, we have recognized and minuted our unity in strong objection to the discriminatory FUM policy and all it implies in oppression and suffering for gay and lesbian people. We recognize that some of us feel conscientiously bound to withhold, while others choose to support NEYM’s continued membership in FUM for reasons that include engaging with FUM to change this policy.”

It was agreed that we will inform NEYM of the total amount withheld, but that it is unnecessary to indicate the number of MFM Friends who wish to withhold.

**11.09.03 Worship and Study Committee (W & S)** (notes Tom Baskett; edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. *9/11 Silent commemoration:* It was noted that 16 Friends attended a meaningful time of remembering and holding in the Light all those affected by the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and all that has occurred since then. Many Friends then walked to the Middlebury Town Green and joined many other community members for a candle light service organized by the Middlebury Clergy Association.
2. *Friendly Forums:* Three Friendly Forums are planned for the Fall: October on Prayer, with Ted Colwell & Tom Baskett, November on Restorative Justice with Jean Rosenberg and, tentatively, December on eldering. Further discussion on how best to organize future FFs and possible topics and presenters.
3. *Intergenerational Meeting:* Our next Intergenerational Meeting will be September 25<sup>th</sup>. Win will introduce the session which will not have a theme this time.
4. *Children’s Program:* Win Colwell and Fran Putnam reported for the Children’s Program subcommittee: Materials on conflict resolution through children’s literature were shown. Several copies of a 2012 family calendar, with activities and useful information, will be given to MFM families. An appeal has been sent via Listserv for a children’s program coordinator, who will be paid a stipend. The subcommittee is working on a Mission Statement.

FOLLOW UP: W & S will explore a Quaker 101 program for newcomers, with child care provided. It was approved to order 10 more copies of NEYM Faith and Practice to be made available for inquirers and newcomers. We will continue to explore thoughtful follow up with visitors and newcomers, perhaps establishing a mentoring system.

**11.09.04 Fellowship Committee (FC)** (Fran Putnam) reported that it is setting up potlucks for this fall, the first one to take place on Friday, Oct. 28, 2011 and to feature a discussion with Olivia Grugan about her summer gleaning project.

cont.

11.09.05 **Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA)** (notes from Tom Dickinson; edited for these minutes by the recording clerk):

1. *9/11 commemoration service*: There were 16 members of the MFM community who attended a silent service for worship at Havurah House from 5 pm to 7 pm on Sunday September 11. Several then walked to and attended the candle light vigil on the Green, sponsored by the Middlebury Area Clergy Association. Both services were moving and meaningful for those who participated.
2. *The September 30 Community Supper* volunteer list is nearly complete. Also, there are many volunteers of supplies for the supper, but still more are needed.
3. *FUM personnel policies*: Many in MFM are uncomfortable with policies of Friends United Meeting (FUM) which exclude gay and lesbian Friends from employment or positions of leadership. MFM is associated with FUM through New England Yearly Meeting. There was a year-long process within MFM of discussion which resulted in the drafting and acceptance of a minute sent to Quarterly Meeting in March 2011. Unity was not reached at QM on transmitting this minute to NEYM and then to be forwarded to FUM. During this process we learned much about Quaker Process and also about the discussions and actions which have taken place over the last few years in other Meetings in our Quarter and at Yearly Meeting. With this experience, we plan to once again pick up the discussion and hope to initiate a dialog with FUM and influence a change in these policies.
4. *Quaker Earthcare Witness*: The goals and mission of this organization are shared by many in MFM and we would like to arrange a potluck or other event to learn more about their activities.
5. *New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM)* is considering an outreach program where some of their periodic sessions are hosted by Monthly Meetings. We will seek more information to bring to MFM.
6. *Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)* sends out many notices and announcements. COSA will consider these with a view toward selecting items to share with MFM via listserv.

11.09.06 **Pastoral Care Committee** has begun the process of reviewing the 2009 Meeting Directory in preparation for an updated edition to be published in early 2012.

11.09.07 **Emergency Safety and Evacuation plans**: An ad hoc committee consisting of Jean Rosenberg, Fran Putnam and Cheryl Mitchell will explore emergency planning. Anyone who wishes to join this committee or has ideas/concerns should contact Cheryl.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.

## ILLUMINATING LIVES

### REGARDING ILLUMINATING LIVES

This month, there won't be another Life because all of us are so busy, and because illuminating each life takes time and thought. We shouldn't be hurried. We shouldn't grind them out or slap them together. Lives are not last-minute snacks.

Laura and I would like to invite you to read the first 30 Lives in the Meeting Library, to notice and relish the variety of our lives as well as the diverse styles of presentation. We would also like to invite you to write your own Life, or maybe interview the next person who sits left of you in Meeting. One page will do it, and fit into the Newsletter.

Win needs to have the text after Business Meeting, third Sunday. I like to give my first draft to the person interviewed, so they can edit and shape it, add and subtract as they wish. It is their Life, after all. Then I send them the final draft, for a last adjustment, before I send it to Win. This takes time, but it deserves time.

Try it? You'll like it. We will, too.

— RSB

### MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Winslow Colwell

Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

#### Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)

Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)

#### Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

#### Treasurer

Laura Asermily

266 Washington St. Ext.

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9478

#### Co-Treasurer

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)

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)