



Middlebury Friends Meeting

July
2018

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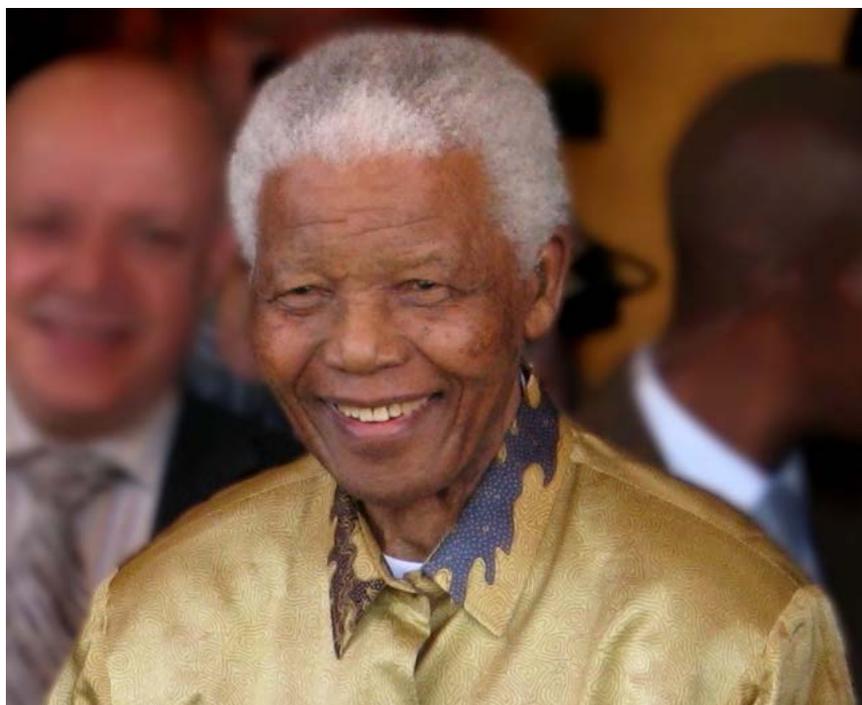
Calendar of Events

*Profiles of Spirit
Carrie Wiebe*

*Profiles of Spirit
Molly Anderson*

*News of Quakerly
Interest*

Minutes of June 24



“Our human compassion binds us the one to the other — not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.”

— NELSON MANDELA

JULY 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., July 2 7:00 PM Read Aloud group, location TBA
- Sat. July 7 10:30 AM ICAN Climate Vigil at Cross Street Bridge
- Mon., July 9 4:30 PM Experiment with Light at Cheryl Mitchell's
- Aug. 4-9 NEYM sessions at Castleton
- Sun., Aug. 12 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business (summer meeting that covers July and August)
- Mon., Aug. 13 4:30 PM Experiment with Light at Cheryl Mitchell's
- Sun., Aug. 26 3:00 PM MFM visioning follow-up to George Lakey talks, followed by picnic at 5:30 at the Mitchell's Trelevan Farm
- Fri.-Sun. Sept 7-9 NWQM at Bethany Birches
- Sun. Sept. 9 9:00 AM Earthcare Committee
- Sun., Sept. 16 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sat., Sept. 15 10-4 PM Visioning Summit for Vermont, Bread Loaf, Ripton, VT
- Sun., Sept. 30 12 NOON Annual CROP Hunger Walk

PROFILES OF SPIRIT
CARRIE WIEBE



Carrie's first memory is touching the marble robe of the statute of Mary in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, and feeling wonder that what looked so soft was so hard and cold. That was on the way to India, where she lived as a child with her family. Now she teaches Chinese language and literature at Middlebury College. She describes the material she teaches as involving "mostly stories of strange things, monsters, weird things that happened to people in ancient times, fairy tales, folk tales. I love almost all stories except for I don't like really scary stories."

She learned to love winter through the special needs of her father's dog:

"My dad had this puppy named Jeeves, who's now an old dog, and he had to go to the bathroom with somebody else, he was such an idiot he wouldn't go out to use the bathroom by himself, ever, so you had to go out with him no matter what the weather or what time of night it was...."

When it's bright moonlight, there's sparkles on the snow and it looks like diamonds everywhere. You can actually see every single crystal of snow, and then the dog is playing around having fun. You can sit in the snow, and sit really close to it and look at each individual crystal—I can do that for a couple hours.

I have him to be grateful for, because that's how I learned this lesson about snowflakes. And that's when I started to really love living in Middlebury, too, because that's when I learned I loved the winter."

Carrie would name integrity as the most important Quaker value to her.

"I guess basically for me integrity means doing what you say you're going to do, acting the way you say you're going to act, being *whole* inside yourself, not being this way one place and another way in a different place, not saying one thing and acting another.... Having all the parts of yourself be whole, and really thinking it through. But all of those other [Quaker] values are parts of that, you can't separate those things...."

And one of the things about Quakers that I would like to help change, is such an emphasis on human beings, because I really believe that the other beings on Earth are just as important as human beings, everything, amoebas.... that's—stewardship of the Earth, all of that goes together...."

Profile written by Erin Ruble, based on an interview conducted by Cole, Eliza, and Alice Mae. Look for the full interview in our "book," coming soon.

PROFILES OF SPIRIT

MOLLY ANDERSON

Molly was born in Memphis, Tennessee, but the family had to leave the city after receiving death threats when her father, a Presbyterian minister, spoke out in support of Martin Luther King after the assassination. They moved to Texas, where she developed her interest in ecology. As she explained,



I think maybe there weren't many churches that were open, because the church we went to, it was in a part of Texas that had a lot of pollution. In fact . . . they went back-and-forth with one other city as being the most polluted place in the whole country. There are a lot of petrochemical oil plants all around, so the water was nasty and the air was nasty. . . . And there was a--like a lake, a long lake, between the dike and the water and the shore. So it should have been fresh water, and we took our canoe out, and we were canoeing and we thought, "Oh, this will be so much fun to have water we can canoe on, so close to our house, we could just lift up the canoe over our heads and walk right down to the water." But we fell out of the canoe, and we fell into the water and we were covered with this horrible rash when we got out of the water, because the water had so many chemicals in it. . . .

But maybe that's why I got really interested in ecology, and that's what I studied in school, how humans effect and interact with the environment around them. . . .

Molly moved to Middlebury to teach food studies at the college. She was drawn to Quakerism by its support of social justice, and was impressed by Yearly Meeting, especially the teenagers. Molly related, "[T]hey obviously had a lot of sense of community and love and support for each other, and I thought: 'This is amazing. If the Quakers can create teenagers like this, I want to raise my family to be Quaker. . . .'"

Of all the Quaker testimonies, Molly feels that integrity is the most important.

I have left jobs many times because I felt that the work I was being asked to do didn't really have integrity, or the people I was working with, there was a problem with integrity. And I even started my own company, called: "Food Systems Integrity," and worked as a consultant for several years working with other people about how to make their organizations have more integrity.

Profile written by Erin Ruble, based on an interview conducted by Willard and Alice Mae. Look for the full interview in our "book," coming soon.

cont.

Monthly Meeting for Business

24 June, 2018

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Jean Rosenberg, Peter Schenck, Annie Stratton, and Lianna Tennial.

18.06.01 Monthly meeting opened with a reading from Patricia Loring's *Listening Spirituality*

18.06.02 Previous minutes: Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

18.06.03 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey) All statements in this report are as of June 21, 2018.

From May 20 through June 21, 2018, the Meeting had member donations of \$1500.45 including a generous donation of \$445.45 to help offset the expenses of the Worship and Study workshop. From May 20 through June 21, 2018, Meeting expenditures totaled \$1271.42 including \$160 for children's program coordination, \$50 for workshop rental, \$108 for PO Box rental (annual), \$400 to NEYM for Summer Sessions, \$100 to Midd Summer Lunch Program, \$333.42 for Community Supper reimbursement, and \$120 for childcare. When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$6913.94.

Finance Committee recommends the following allocation of expenses for Worship and Study Workshop: \$517.89 to Worship and Study/Pastoral Care budget line (currently budgeted for \$400), \$97.50 to Child Care. The \$517.89 includes \$300 speaker fees, \$50 Havurah rental, and \$167.89 for food.

FOLLOW UP: An ear-marked and anonymous donation was made for \$445.45 to help cover expenses for the April workshop on Experiments in Expanding Worship. Business meeting approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the allocation of costs for the workshop and asked the treasurer to add an asterisked note to the bottom of the budget statement in future reports noting that a dedicated contribution to the meeting of \$445.45 was made to cover expenses of the April Workshop on extending Quaker worship.

18.06.04 Clerks Report (Tom Baskett and Jean Rosenberg) A clearness committee met with Perrine Terry concerning her letter for membership. MFM approved their recommendation for membership. Several Friends will serve as a welcoming committee: Lianna Tennial, Peter, Schenck, Jean Rosenberg and Tom Baskett.

18.06.05 Worship and Study (Lianna Tennial)

1. Old and new members met in June for a crossover meeting. New members were welcomed and there was discussion about what the committee has covered in the

past, what it needs to cover, and what tasks might be released.

2. The newly configured committee will consider how to follow up on Experiments on Expanding Worship workshop.
3. The success of the April Friendly Forum on aging was noted and it was agreed to dedicate the June FF to a continuation of this topic.
4. The committee notes a recurring desire among MFM Friends for more sharing of our spiritual journeys. The committee will consider ways to address this.

18.06.06 Committee on Outreach and Social Action – COSA Tom Baskett, delivered a report prepared by the co-clerks, concerning the future of COSA:

Following on Nominating Committee's report at May's Meeting for Business (MFB), the clerks talked about how COSA and the responsibilities assigned it might be reorganized.

1. Lay down COSA as presently organized. Social action activities heretofore undertaken or supported by COSA would now be undertaken by Meeting participants as individuals or ad hoc groups who feel led to undertake a particular work. It will not be the responsibility of any committee to create social action activities for MFM.
2. Replace COSA with 1 or 2 people as Social Action Network Mappers. Their responsibility would be to maintain a MFM network map of the social action activities of MFM participants. The purpose of this would be for MFM's information, inspiration, and support. The Mapper(s) would report updates to MFB. The map would include all the social justice activities of MFM participants, if they wish to be included.
3. Individuals, groups, and other committees (such as Earthcare) that are led to undertake social action activities in the name of or with the participation of MFM should bring their proposal to MFB for approval.
4. The Mapper(s) could also organize, or encourage others to organize, events like periodic Social Justice Fairs where meeting participants share more information about their activities, and listening and sharing discussions for information and support.

FOLLOW UP: It was suggested that if a situation arises for which any MFM Friends feel led to pursue, and there needs immediate response, they can approach the clerks who might consider a Called Meeting.

It was noted that planning for NWQM, formerly a responsibility of COSA, when it meets in Middlebury, will need to be initiated by the co-clerks who will appoint a planning ad hoc committee. The next date for MFM to host is December 2019, with South Starksboro.

Friends approved the clerks' report and expressed gratitude for their excellent reshaping of how MFM can proceed to support social action concerns without a specific committee.

The Nominating Committee will be asked to find one or two Social Action Network Mapper(s).

18.06.07 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam)

1. Personal Earthcare Profiles: The committee is continuing to interview Friends for 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. We encourage Friends who would like to participate to get in touch with the Earthcare Committee. Profiles will begin appearing in the Middlebury Friends Newsletter shortly.
2. Vision for Vermont Summit: As a follow-up to George Lakey's visit here, a group in Middlebury has formed to convene a Vision for Vermont Summit in September. Several members of our Meeting are on the planning committee.
3. Meeting for Worship at Spirit in Nature: Following the successful Active Hope gathering at Spirit and Nature Center in Ripton, the Earthcare Committee suggests that we hold Meeting for Worship at the SPiN some time during the summer. There is a central gathering place with a circle of benches where we could meet. After meeting we could walk the trails and possibly eat lunch together. We will suggest this to Meeting for Business to see if the Worship and Study Committee would like to set a date for this event and be a co-sponsor with Earthcare and Fellowship committees.

FOLLOW UP: After discussion, it was decided to ask Earthcare to plan an event at SPiN as they feel led. It should, however, not be scheduled during normal Sunday meeting for worship as this is a time for the MFM community to worship as a whole. It was noted that not everyone would want or be able to attend a meeting for worship at SPiN.

18.06.08 Pastoral Care no report

18.06.09 Fellowship Committee (Spence Putnam) no report

18.06.10 Nominating Committee (clerk) The final report was presented with the following changes: Tom Baskett will serve on Middlebury Area Clergy Association (MACA) and John Cook has been added to the Fellowship Committee.

Friends approved the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee, with the above adjustments and one spelling correction.

Manya Dickinson announced that she will step down from her position as representative to the Crop Walk board after the Sept. 30, 2018 Crop Walk. It is hoped a MFM Friend will feel led to volunteer for this position in 2019.

18.06.11 NEYM 2018 sessions: Representatives from MFM will be Peter Schenck, Jean Rosenberg and Lianna Tennial. It was suggested that Alice Mae and Willard be designated representatives if they wish to serve.

18.06.12 Follow up to George Lakey visit (Jean Rosenberg): As a Meeting follow-up event to George Lakey's visit, there will be a Meeting gathering on Aug. 26, 2018, 3:00 to 5:30 ,to explore "visioning", followed by potluck picnic to take place at Trelevan Farm.

As George Lakey says, it is time for people to work together to articulate and unite behind a common vision of justice, peace, equality, and care for the Earth, for our country and the world. Such a vision can expand our understanding, inspire collaboration and mutual support, and strengthen our collective voice. It can inspire others, create standards, and guide policy. The first steps are to dream the whole dream, and create the vision.

Inspired by George Lakey, Huddlebury, a Middlebury-area activist group, is planning a Vermont Vision Summit for September 15 2018, to draw together many activists and create such a vision statement for Vermont. As part of our MFM follow-up to Lakey's visit here last March, our meeting will hold our own vision-creating event, on August 26, which offers us an opportunity for our broad participation, including those of us who cannot attend the September Summit, to inspire others of us to be sure to attend the Summit, to create a contribution to bring to the Summit, and for Friends to name and express how we are led by the Spirit in our work for justice, peace, equality, and the Earth

This is an opportunity for us to explore and express our vision of the Beloved Community, in its broadest meaning, for our own meeting, our state, our country, and the world.

We will meet at 3:00 PM with a facilitated agenda, to collect our various awarenesses and ideas of what needs to be in the vision, both specific concrete ideas and broader statements. We will summarize it all. Those attending the Vermont Vision Summit from MFM can take our vision to the Summit. And we in MFM can hold our inspiration from our vision of the Beloved Community.

FOLLOW UP: Friends agreed to proceed with this suggestion.

18.06.13 MFM Signage: Tom Baskett asked about the possibility of a permanent sign to be hung somewhere on the Havurah building. Since there was no time to discuss at this time, this will be considered at a future monthly 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

Lucy McKeon
462-3039

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.

Meg Langworthy (877-3217)
Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Norm Tjossem (388-0338)
Brud Leedom (558-1005)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)
Faith Lowell (388-3056)

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