



# Middlebury Friends Meeting

May  
2019

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*—Molly Anderson*

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“According to my definition of God, I’m not an atheist. Because I think God is everything. Whenever I open my eyes, I’m looking at God. Whenever I’m listening to something, I’m listening to God.”

— PETE SEEGER

## MAY 2019

| 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

- Every first Saturday 10:30-11:00 AM ICAN Climate Vigil. New location on Cross Street Bridge
- [TLC Carbon Counting Program has been postponed until fall.]
- Sun, May 5 9:00 AM Earthcare meeting
- Thurs, May 9 4:15 PM Vision for Vermont Celebration and Potluck, Coltrane Lounge, Middlebury Campus. Until 8 PM.
- Fri, May 10 9:00 AM Coffee and conversation with George Lakey, Weybridge Cong. Church
- Sat, May 11 2- 5:30 PM “How We Can Win” workshop with George Lakey, Burlington UU. Limited registration at [PJCVT.org/events](http://PJCVT.org/events).
- Sun, May 12 10 AM Celebration of Life. Intergenerational worship will be followed by a potluck (no nuts ,pork or shellfish) games, music, singing and sharing. Bring games, musical instruments and yourself!
- Thurs, May 16 8:30 AM ICAN meeting, Weybridge Cong. Church
- Sun, May 19 8:30 AM Meeting for Business
- Sun, May 26 8:30 AM Friendly Forum on “Experiment with Light”
- Mon, June 3 6:00 PM Potluck with Marcelle Martin, Jean Rosenberg’s 232 Washington St Extension. Marcelle is the author of *Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey*
- Sat, June 1 Quarterly Meeting in Hanover, NH. There will be a panel discussion on racism and race. Program 9:30-12:30, Meeting for Worship 1-2, Meeting for Business 2-4.
- Sun, June 9 8:30 AM Friendly Forum “Telling our Healing Stories”
- Sun, June 23 8:30 AM Meeting for Business
- Sun, July 21 8:30 AM Meeting for Business

## EARTH PROFILE

### MOLLY ANDERSON

*When did you first become aware of the need to take special care of the Earth?*

That's hard to pinpoint! I'd say it has been a long journey that continues to today. As I've been reading *The Uninhabitable Earth* by David Wallace-Wells recently, I have become increasingly concerned about the fragility of earth ecosystems. This might have first entered my consciousness around 1990, as I learned about ways that food systems are degrading the earth.

*What are some of the first actions that you took to care for the Earth?*

Early actions included recycling and bicycling everywhere instead of driving. But the latter was as much to minimize costs as to take care of the Earth. Later, I worked for the Forest Service and planted trees—but that's mainly because I was told to do so and not through any initiative on my part. I refused to apply Round-up to roadside weeds when I was working for the Forest Service and tried to educate co-workers about its health effects (rather unsuccessfully).

*What are some of the people or events or other sources that have influenced your attitude toward caring for the Earth?*

Donella Meadows. Vandana Shiva (although she's less influential for me now). Serving on NEYM's Earthcare Committee. Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Reports from the IPCC (which have been far too conservative).

*What actions do you take in your daily life that demonstrate caring for the earth?*

We burn wood rather than oil as much as possible to heat our house. I plant trees, especially native species. I try not to use plastic. I recycle whatever I can (although I know that China won't take our recyclables any more). I buy paper and other products made with post-consumer waste. I hardly ever buy new clothes—I go to thrift shops instead. I support organizations financially that are demonstrating earth-care. I read and inform myself more about indigenous earthcare practices.

*What actions do you take in your working life that demonstrate caring for the Earth, past or present?*

I rant about sustainability in my classes and try to normalize actions that demonstrate radical earthcare (like shopping at thrift shops instead of stores and minimizing consumption generally). I teach about agroecology and try to support farmers in this



area who are using regenerative agricultural practices. I serve on the Middlebury Coop Board. I write articles about responsible interactions with our natural world. I participate in conferences and networks or organizations that promote responsible action.

*What ideas do you have for how you will carry on this work in the future?*

I am increasingly drawn to the concept of restoring degraded land through agroforestry or other agroecological practices. I'm not sure where this will go, but it seems essential to me that we heal the degradation that humans have caused so that our children have a chance of survival and a decent quality of life. I'm also drawn to alternative economies, trying to figure out what will succeed capitalism with its emphasis on growth and consumption.



## APPROVED STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FOR 2018

Middlebury Friends gathered for worship sharing on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to recall the events of 2018 and to reflect on the way the Spirit enlivens us as individuals and as a corporate body. The overwhelming sense was that we are deeply grateful for our Meeting. We are grateful for the spiritual sustenance and support we feel in worship together, and the strength this gives us in our lives. We are grateful for the sharing and learning together in our Friendly Forums, workshops and informal sharing. We are grateful for the gifts and ministry that Friends bring to us, in loving service to each other, in pastoral care, in service to our community, in our children's program, on committees and in appointed tasks, as well as in spontaneous forms of ministry. We are grateful for the ministry and service of Friends in the wider community, in earth-care and social justice and peace work, which educate, inspire, and connect us. We are grateful for the vibrancy of children in Meeting and the wisdom contained in our carefully selected library.

Many of the things we are grateful for are an outgrowth of our long history as a meeting, yet this was also seen as a year of innovation. Changes came to our children's program, our social justice work, the way we interact at the closing of worship, the structure of some of our committees. A sense of longing comes from tasting the blessings of interconnection and wishing that they could be even deeper and more widely shared. We recognize and celebrate our call to respect, engage with, learn from, and join in service with folk of other faiths, and we appreciate our members who are especially led to this engagement and service. We strive to include our children in more meaningful ways, to welcome newcomers with open hearts and helpful suggestions, to address

concerns of individual members and our wider community with more intentionality. Perhaps we could say that the over-riding themes of the past year are:

Worship is at the center of our lives, as individuals and as a group. We seek to deepen this connection and strive to come ever closer to being able to see that of God in each person.

We are deeply appreciative of the work of committees and individuals.

We long for even deeper bonding with persons of other faith traditions.

We certainly see and feel ways in which we fall short, and we name them. We have from time to time our own prickly situations. We worry that our meeting is aging and that we don't have many young people. We grieve and can get discouraged about the injustice, violence, and pain in the world. And yet, we also feel that the Spirit is sustaining us, and brings us to love each other and the world, and we find that our gratitude, wonder, and love keep rising up. We depend on this. We look forward to continuing to grow and thrive and trust that, with the help of the Spirit, this will be so.

*N.B. Extensive notes from the January 27 gathering are on file. From these Worship and Study will compile a suggested list of potential improvements that we can use to guide our work.*



## Monthly Meeting for Business

28 April, 2019

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Lucy McKeon

Present were Karen Nawn-Fahey, Chris Stackhouse, Lianna Tennel, Don Peabody, Joe Garren, Ruah Swennerfelt, and Louis Cox.

Jean opened the meeting with a passage from *Presence and Progress* by Daniel Coleman followed by a moment of silence.

Minutes from Business Meeting of March 17, 2019 were approved.

**19:04:01 Clerk's Report** This year's Nominating Committee consists of Tom Dickinson, Spence Putnam and Peter Schenk. They have met and are getting started with their work of setting up next year's committees.

*cont.*

The Social Action Map now has 13 responses. Friends are reminded to send their information about their social action activities to Margie Latham.

The letter from MFM concerning the attacks on the mosques in New Zealand was sent to the Addison Independent, Middlebury College Muslim chaplain Saifa Hussein and Farhad Kahn, a local Muslim leader. They were well received.

Concern was raised about how to handle the recurrence of hate violence directed towards places of worship. Jean will ask Tom to bring this up to the Middlebury Clergy Association.

NWQM proposed minute: NWQM has forwarded to us a proposed minute on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, that will be considered at the June QM. We are asked to review and respond to this in preparation for the June QM. Louis Cox will send the proposed minute out on our MFM listserv. MFM will consider this minute as our May meeting for business.

Review of our rental agreement with Havurah: Friends wish to review our rental agreement with Havurah, which was made years ago, to bring it up to date. During the review, we wish to request the use of the building on Sundays until 2 pm, revised from 12 pm, since we occasionally stay that late. To undertake this review and negotiation with Havurah, we appointed a committee of Chris Stackhouse and Karen Nawn Fahey, and we will ask Tom Baskett to join this committee.

**19:04:02 Treasurer's Report** All statements in this report are as of April 27, 2019. From March 17 through April 27, the Meeting had member donations of \$440.00. From March 17 through April 27, Meeting expenditures totaled \$1745.85, including \$133.33 for Children's Program Coordinator, \$125 to NWQM, \$800 to NEYM, \$662.50 to Havurah, and \$25.02 for library materials. When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$6150.96.

The current balance of the Rachel Carey Harper fund is \$1130.

**19:04:03 Worship and Study** The 2018 State of the Meeting report was read and approved by Business Meeting. Worship and Study will send the report to Quarterly and Yearly Meetings as well as to Win for the newsletter. Appreciation for the report was expressed. The full report is at the end of these minutes.

**Celebration of Life.** The annual Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, May 12 at Havurah House. We will gather at 10:00 AM for intergenerational worship. Worship will be followed by a potluck lunch, singing, games and fun. Please bring a potluck dish (no nuts, pork or shellfish please!) and your own place settings. Also, musical instruments and any games you would like to share.

**19:04:04 Earthcare**

- *TLC Carbon Reduction Workshop:* The workshop had to be rescheduled due to a conflict for the presenter. We decided to reschedule for the Fall. *cont.*

- *Next Steps Climate Walk*: Several members of our Meeting participated in some part of this event. It was by all accounts an impressive and moving experience and received a great deal of publicity.
- *Vision for Vermont Celebration and Potluck*: This event will be held on Thursday, May 9, from 4:15-8:00 PM at Coltrane Lounge, Middlebury College campus. Middlebury College students will present a podcast including interviews they have conducted with many Vermonters. There will be a potluck meal, discussion about the first draft of a Vision for Vermont statement and a talk by George Lakey. Friends are encouraged to attend. Register at: [franputnam24@gmail.com](mailto:franputnam24@gmail.com)
- *Coffee and conversation with George Lakey*: Friday, May 9, 9:00 AM, Weybridge Congregational Church. George will discuss his new book, *How We Win: A Guide to Non-Violent Direct-Action Campaigning*. Copies will be for sale.

**19:04:05 Pastoral Care** No report.

**19:04:06 Fellowship**: On March 31, 2019, a luncheon was held to raise funds for Heifer International. It was facilitated by Becky Holmes, The Children’s Program and the Fellowship Committee.

15-18 people showed up to support this organization. The total contribution to Heifer was \$520.00. \$260.00 was raised at the event and a matching fund had been set up.

The food was great and people reported an enjoyable gathering.

**19:04:07 New Business** We will be hosting Marcelle Martin, an inspiring Quaker teacher and author, in June. The tentative plan is a potluck at Jean Rosenberg’s on June 3.

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

## 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.

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Brud Leedom (558-1005)

Faith Lowell (388-3056)

Norm Tjossem (388-0338)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

We welcome your submissions! — [winslow.colwell@gmail.com](mailto:winslow.colwell@gmail.com)

News of Quakerly Interest — [lucym@shoreham.net](mailto: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](http://www.middleburyquakers.org)

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to  
[winslow.colwell@gmail.com](mailto:winslow.colwell@gmail.com)