



Middlebury Friends Meeting

November
2018

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“A good book is more intelligent than its author.”

— UNBERTO ECO

NOVEMBER 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	

SHAKING THE TREE

Middlebury Friends Meeting pays most of its obligations and benevolences during these last two months of the year. Please consider accelerating your giving, or making an extra donation to help us meet our budget.

Checks can be sent to Karen Nawn-Fahey, MFM Treasurer, 71 North Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT 05753.

Thank you!



QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 11	11:15 AM	Worship & Study Meeting
	9:00 AM	Earthcare meeting
Nov. 16	6:30 PM	“White Fragility” workshop. CVUU .
Nov. 18	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business
Nov. 26	7:30 PM	Men’s Group at Peter Schenks’ house, Middlebury.
Dec. 2	1:30 PM	White Privilege Workshop with Debby Irving, author of <i>Waking up White</i> . Part 1, “I’m a good person, isn’t that enough?” Congregational Church, Middlebury http://www.debbyirving.com/
Dec. 2		NWQM at Mt. Monadnock Meeting.
Dec. 9	11:20 AM	MFM Alternative Gift Fair
Dec. 16	11:15 AM	Worship & Study Meeting
Dec. 23	10:00 AM	MFM Holiday Meeting
Dec. 25	4:00 PM	Meeting for Worship, S. Starksboro Meeting
Jan. 13	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business
Jan. 20	3:00 PM	State of the Meeting. Location TBD.
Jan. 27	3:53 PM	White Privilege workshop, Part 2, “Leveling the playing field.” Congregational Church, Middlebury

PROFILES OF SPIRIT

TOM NICHOLSON

Tom Nicholson was born in Nashville, Tennessee, but he doesn’t remember ever being there, as he left when he was just an infant. He was the middle child, with one sister a year older, and one sister a year younger. They grew up in Richmond, Indiana. Tom went to a Quaker boarding school, Westtown School in Pennsylvania. Later he returned to Richmond to attend Earlham College, a Quaker college. He also lived in Springfield, Missouri for 16 months, in a Federal prison. Asked how that came about, Tom said:



Well, I was brought up as a Quaker, and I was taught that whatever your

belief is, you should live that way regardless of what the government tells you to do. If it's important enough to your values to not obey a federal law, then you should not obey it. So, there was a war going on when I was 18 years old, the Vietnam war, which went on for a really long time. And so the Federal government set up a draft law and they were ordering 18 year old boys to serve in the armed forces and fight in the war. Being a pacifist, I wasn't about to do that, and I didn't want to just go along with the system and say: "Well, I'm a Quaker pacifist, and so don't send me off to war, because I don't believe in it." I didn't wanna take that route, I wanted to just be against the whole draft law, the whole system. I just wanted to just live my life exactly the way I wanted. To do the jobs that I wanted, regardless of the order I got up from the government. So that's what I did. I told them that I was just going to live my life, and if they wanted to come arrest me, they could. So, one day, they came and arrested me because I was supposed to report to the army. So, I went to jail.

In prison, all the draft resisters worked prison jobs. Tom was a groundskeeper who mowed lawns, etc. He thought at first he would like to be a medical assistant in the prison hospital, but found quickly he didn't do well around a lot of blood.

Tom moved to Middlebury with his best friend from Richmond, Chris Stackhouse. They, along with Tom's girlfriend and Chris's wife at the time, had a plan to buy a duplex together, but though that didn't work out, Tom and Chris both ended up staying. Tom says: "...and I married Mimi Love. And that's how I ended up living here most of my life. Half my life, I've lived here."

About Quakerism, he says:

Well, I've always been a Quaker. So for me it's part of my identity, it's the way I look at myself, that I'm very liberal, Quakers tend to be, not always but they tend to be, liberal and believe in equality and peace, most of them are pacifist, and don't believe in killing people, and believe in a simple life.

About sitting in Meeting, he says:

Well, to tell you the truth, mostly I just daydream, and I think about whatever thoughts come into my head and I just enjoy the relaxation and being unhurried, and there's nothing I have to do, I can be completely relaxed, I feel no nervousness or anxiety, I can just be. Just be calm. Yeah.

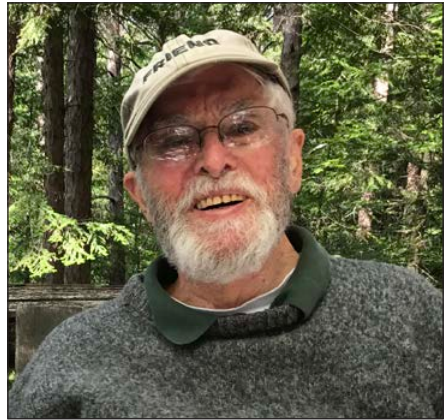
Profile written by Lianna Tennal. Based on an interview conducted by Cole and Eliza.



The Earthcare Committee is inaugurating a new initiative to highlight some of the ways individuals in our Meeting have nurtured the Earth in their everyday or professional lives. This entirely voluntary program is meant to share ideas among us, provide inspiration, and give us new insights into how we can protect our environment.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
TED COLWELL

Ted first became aware of the need to take special care of the earth at a young age. His great grandfather bought land in the Adirondack Mountains that has passed down through the generations. The beauty and wildness of the forest, rivers, and lakes made a deep impression on young Ted and have been a guiding motivation his entire life. Some of the first actions that he took to care for the earth came in his early years. As a Boy Scout he learned about good practices in nature. In the early '70s Ted drove a VW Beetle and was a volunteer at an early town recycling center. In later years he has taken workshops about lowering his carbon footprint and has insulated his home and tightened it up to save energy. Ted wore a leaf pin on his three-piece suit to display his solidarity with environmental causes! He also rode mass transit (the subway) every day.



Several people and sources have influenced Ted's attitude toward caring for the earth. Hazel Redpath was a neighbor of a family member, and she was dedicated to Nature causes. She deeply impressed Ted. He read *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, the book that jump-started the environmental movement. Ted is currently an avid reader of the work of Wendel Berry, as well as Gary Snyder, Bill McKibben, Masanobu Fukuoka, and David M. Masumoto among many others.

Currently, Ted's efforts in caring for the Earth center on giving money to many environmental organizations both regional, national, and global. When asked how he will carry on this work in the future, he says "I plan to keep on keeping on!"

Monthly Meeting for Business

21 October, 2018

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Lucy McKeon

Present were Priscilla Baker, Tom Dickinson, Debbie Ramsdell, Spence Putnam, John Cook, Don Peabody, Lianna Tennel, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Brud Leedum, Joe Garren, Karen Nawn-Fahey, and Fran Putnam.

Tom opened the meeting with a poem by Wendell Berry:

“The Peace of Wild Things”

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
Waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and I am free.

20.10.01 Treasurer’s Report, presented by Karen Nawn-Fahey

All statements in this report are as of October 19, 2018.

From September 17 through October 19, 2018, the Meeting had member donations of \$395.00. From September 17 through October 19, 2018, Meeting expenditures totaled \$1911.50 including \$160 for Children’s Program Coordination, \$662.50 to Havurah, \$125 to NWQM, \$724 to NEYM, \$100 to VT Interfaith Power and Light, \$80 for childcare at the Vision for Vermont event (from RCH fund) and \$60 for childcare. When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$4692.94.

The current balance of the Rachel Carey Harper fund is \$1270.

It was noted that the balance is currently lower than it usually is at this time of year. Friends agreed to “shake the tree”, pass the word and search under their own sofa cushions.

We generally give \$100 to Hospice Volunteer Services as part of our benevolences. It was suggested and approved to add another \$100 to our donation this year in honor of Priscilla Baker’s retirement as Director of Volunteer Services.

The Finance Committee will bring the proposed budget for next year to the next Meeting for Business. Adoption of the budget takes place in January.

cont.

20.10.02 Community Supper Report

“Best Stew Ever” was just one of the many accolades received for this 2018 Fall Community Supper. Thirty-eight Quakers plus community volunteers lent their talents to create 225 suppers. Beautiful floral centerpieces by Ruth Birenbaum and musical serenade by Robert Wyatt and John Beattie complemented the evening.

Appreciation for the work has been received from Dottie Neuberger.

20.10.03 Earthcare Committee Report, presented by Fran Putnam.

- Personal Earthcare Profiles: The committee is continuing to interview Friends for a series of profiles of participation in our Meeting that detail how their lives and work are informed by a concern for the Earth and the changing climate.
- Vision for Vermont Summit: Over 100 people attended and reviews were very positive. Although no children attended, the Summit organizers appreciated being able to offer childcare, donated by MFM. Follow-up meetings to the Summit are planned. George Lakey continues to be a mentor for the group.
- Interfaith Power and Light: Several people from Meeting and from ICAN attended. George Lakey was the keynote speaker.
- ICAN/ACORN Solar Array: Spence reported that the ACORN solar project in Shoreham has actually been oversubscribed. Unfortunately, the John Graham Shelter board turned down the offer of free solar panels due to concerns about liability. Another recipient for the donated panels is being approached.

The RCH committee met and agreed that the purchase of the ICAN/ACORN solar array panels for Havurah House by MFM fits the guidelines for the use of the RCH Fund. A contribution of \$500 was approved.

20.10.04 Fellowship Committee The committee has revised the greeter and hospitality lists. Holiday Alternative Gift Fair will be Dec. 9, details to follow. The committee plans to periodically remind Friends that small acts of fellowship among us such as meeting for coffee are appreciated and help to strengthen our bonds.

20.10.05 Worship and Study/Children’s Program Committees

- Cheryl will be leading a Friendly Forum “What Happens When We Die?” Oct 28.
- First Day School has chosen Race and Social Justice as the theme for this year.
- A series of “Community Conversations” has been taking place at the Congregational Church of Middlebury. They have asked us for our support with logistics and publicity for the following program:
- Debby Irving, author of *Waking up White* will present two workshops, in December and January, on “white privilege.” Instead of our usual adult forums, we will encourage people to attend these events in December and January. Meeting for Business approved the purchase of 6 copies of the book to circulate. Other opportunities to help will be forthcoming.

cont.

20.10.06 MACA Another opportunity that may interest Friends is a workshop in November (see calendar) at the CVUU based on the book “White Fragility”.

20.10.07 Pastoral Care Nothing to report.

20.10.08 New Business The idea of a permanent sign identifying MFM for the front of Havurah House met with support and interest. As MFM is in the process of giving 5 solar panels to Havurah with no strings attached, it was felt that asking Havurah if we could put a permanent MFM sign outside might appear to be using our gift of panels to pressure Havurah to approve our sign request. We will revisit the sign later.

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

Havurah 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