

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING



OCTOBER 2001

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	OCTOBER		

- Monday, October 1 7 PM Men's Group Meeting
At the home of Jerry McBride. (388-0339)
- Friday, October 5 6 PM Potluck at the home of Cheryl and Don Mitchell
(545-2278). Anais will share with us her experiences from her recent trip to Cuba with Young Friends.
- Saturday, October 6 10 PM Overnight Vigil for Peace begins at McCullough.
Join for as long as you are able until Sunday morning. Sponsored by Middlebury College. Info contact Allison at 443-6183 or Ashley 443-6799.
- Sunday, October 7 8:30 AM Ministry and Council Meeting
- Sunday, October 7 12:30 PM CROP Walk Registration begins. Walk starts at 1. Everyone is encouraged to join this fundraiser or to donate to a walker and help end hunger throughout the world! The 6-mile walk begins at the Congregational Church, downtown Middlebury. You can also donate by earmarking a check sent to MFM at the address on the back of the newsletter.

“To work for peace is to uproot war from ourselves and from the hearts of men and women. To prepare for war, to give millions of men and women the opportunity to practice killing day and night in their hearts, is to plant millions of seeds of violence, anger, frustration, and fear that will be passed on for generations to come.”

- Thich Nhat Hahn, Living Buddah Living Christ

- Wednesday, October 10 7 PM Presentation and Open Discussion entitled “People and Perspectives in the Middle East.” Ilsley Library Meeting Room. Organized by Ann Taylor, Mouawia Bouzo and Deborah Felmeth.
- Sunday, October 21 6-8 PM “Faith, Stone Soup, and Global Warming, Part II” How Can Faith Groups Respond to Worldwide Global Warming? At the Congregational Church, Middlebury. Please bring a vegetable to add to the stone soup pot!
- Sunday, October 21 11:20 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sunday, October 28 9 AM Adult Discussion on “Ministering to Each Other.” We’ll discuss the query:
Do I make time to connect with and minister to others within the Meeting?
Am I aware of and responsive to what others may need?
How can I participate in ministering to others within the Meeting?
What are my special ways or gifts of ministering and helping to care for others in my spiritual community?
- Sunday, November 11 8:30 AM Ministry and Council Meeting
- Sunday, November 25 9 AM Adult Discussion on topic to be chosen 10/28.
- Saturday, December 1 Middlebury and Bennington Meetings co-host Quarterly Meeting, to be held in Middlebury.

MINUTES, MEETING FOR BUSINESS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2001

Co-clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Laura Asermily

The meeting began at 11:45 AM with silence, out of which the Clerk quoted Thich Nhat Hahn on peace. Present were: Jean Rosenberg (Clerk), Faith Lowell, Priscilla Baker, Ted and Olive Colwell, Joanna and Win Colwell, Jerry McBride, Cheryl Mitchell, Grace McGrath, Donna Belcher, Ruth Barenbaum, Fran and Spence Putnam, Jann Grace Seale, and Laura Asermily (Recording Clerk).

1. Minutes of the July 29, 2001 Meeting for Business were approved.
2. Ministry & Counsel: Donna Belcher reported on the September 9, 2001 meeting. All items were addressed in Meeting for Business. In addition, it was reported that Jean Burfoot appreciated greatly the Meeting for Worship held at her house. Priscilla Baker will follow up for the future.
3. Treasurer's Report: Olive Colwell distributed a financial statement and reported: For the two months of our fiscal year, July and August, we received \$545 from contributions, and our expenditures were \$1,258.75. Our cash balance as of August 31, 2001 was \$1,158.23. Our current cash balance is \$1,504.23. Our October quarterly payments will draw on this heavily. Thus contributions will be most appreciated to replenish our funds.
4. Passage With Care Committee: Priscilla Baker distributed a revised form (much like the old one). MFB attendees were invited to fill it out and give feedback on what works and doesn't work about the draft form. A report will be given after feedback is evaluated. The meeting thanked Priscilla for her work and Win Colwell for his offer to make the final version a beautiful document.
5. First Day School Committee: First Day School begins September 30, 2001 with Joanna Colwell as the first teacher. All are invited to a meeting to be held that same day at the rise of meeting to discuss First Day School. Laura Asermily will thank Heather Jenkins on behalf of our meeting for providing steady child care throughout the summer.
6. Adult Discussions: This month's discussion will focus on the Earth Charter. Thereafter, discussions will focus on ministering to other and will be guided by queries drafted earlier in the year. The meeting thanked Mimi Love-Nicholson for crafting the poster with the queries (posted in this month's newsletter).
7. Volunteers for Peace: Ruth Barenbaum reported that Unitarian Universalists joined Friends for the August 26 potluck in honor of Volunteers for Peace. It was recommended that more meaningful work should be found for future groups. The Meeting thanked Ruth for hosting the second Volunteers for Peace potluck.

8. Wake Robin Meeting: The Wake Robin Meeting for Worship on Sundays at 5 PM in their dining room needs and appreciates our attendance. Responsibility for nourishing this meeting is shared between Burlington and Middlebury on alternate months. October is our month.
9. Crop Walk: Win Colwell reported that greater support from faith groups is sought. We agreed to walk together as a multigenerational group to the extent that this was possible to enhance our visibility as a Meeting and our peace message in response to terrorist attacks. We agreed to solicit for one fund rather than as individuals and to carry a sign reading Middlebury Friends Meeting. Friends collecting for Crop Walk were encouraged to write "Please Support Middlebury Friends (Quakers) in Crop Walk" on their forms. The walk will be October 7 with registration from 12-1 PM.
10. Terrorist Attack Response: The Meeting authorized the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to plan a response for the meeting. This could include vigils and a statement for the press. Friends discussed showing support of our Muslim community, and will explore whether attending Muslim prayer service on a Friday afternoon at Middlebury College would be welcome. Women should have their heads covered. Friends are also urged to write as soon as possible to their elected representatives and to newspapers.
11. Quarterly Meeting Plans: Priscilla Baker reminded us that we are responsible for hosting the December 1 Quarterly Meeting with Bennington. A committee was formed to plan this consisting of the Clerks, Olive Colwell, and Fran Putnam.
12. Committee on Special Funds: Jerry McBride presented the draft minute on "Practices for Funding Personal Leadings and Projects" and "Procedure for Approving Released Friends." The "Practices for Funding Personal Leadings and Projects" were approved (see page 6) after lengthy discussion on point 4 of procedures regarding whether or not the individual should be present. The discussion inspired us to remember to speak our truth PLAINLY and with courage when we are in conflict with one another. We noted that this oversight committee's function is more for careful and wise discernment than support of the individual, and it needs to be carefully selected by the clerks. We agreed to defer the "Procedure for Approving Released Friends" to the next meeting. The Meeting thanked all those who worked on special funds committee for their caring work, especially Jerry McBride for much thoughtful research and synthesis.
- Special Announcement: Win and Joanna Colwell announced that they are expecting their first child. The Meeting congratulates them on this most joyful news.

The meeting ended at 1:15 PM with moment of silence after dates were set.

PRACTICES FOR FUNDING PERSONAL LEADINGS AND PROJECTS MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

When Friends feel led by the Spirit to engage in work relating to an issue of concern to them for which they require personal financial assistance, financial support may be available from the Meeting. The Meeting must be in unity that the proposal is accomplishing the work of the Meeting or other Quaker organizations, or that the work exemplifies the principles of Quakerism. If the Meeting determines that the necessary funds are beyond the means or outside the scope of the Meeting's regular budget, the following procedure is recommended.

PROCEDURE

- 1) An initial request to establish a special fund for an individual project is made to Meeting for Business.
- 2) In the event that Business Meeting determines that the project is beyond the means or outside the scope of the regular Meeting budget, an Oversight Committee is appointed by the Clerk of the Meeting to assist the individual(s) in preparing a written request.
- 3) A written proposal is prepared under the guidance of the Oversight Committee and submitted to Meeting for Business outlining the nature and scope of the work, an estimated budget, and the time frame in which it will be accomplished.
- 4) When the proposal is submitted to Meeting for Business, the individual(s) will make the presentation and answer any questions of the Meeting.
- 5) In cases where the Meeting approves the project, a formal minute will be prepared stating the decision of the Meeting.
- 6) All special funds will be fully reported by the Treasurer and reflected in the monthly financial reports. The Special Funds will be held in a Meeting bank account, but segregated on the books of account so that it is clear that the funds are separate from the Meeting's normal operating budget.
- 7) If the proposal is approved, the Oversight Committee will continue to offer support and guidance to the individual(s) through the completion of the work. If it is not approved, the Committee will meet with the individual(s) if requested to seek further clarity on how and whether to proceed.
- 8) A written report with a financial accounting of how the funds were used will be prepared under the guidance of the Oversight Committee and will be submitted to Meeting for Business at the completion of the work, or, in the case of longer projects, at regular intervals as determined by the Oversight Committee.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The horrific morning of September 11, on which over 6,000 lives were lost in New York City and Washington, has weighed heavily on the hearts of people all over the world. That day, and those in its aftermath, have seen millions gather to grieve and to begin to rekindle the inner light.

Middlebury Friends Meeting met for a special mid-week Meeting for Worship on Thursday, September 13, and later called for special meetings of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. That committee has organized a vigils to take place on Saturdays on the Middlebury Village Green, bearing witness to the great loss of life and encouraging world leaders to seek nonviolent solutions to the root problems that led to such terrorist acts.

The first vigil, held Saturday September 22, drew nearly 50 people on short notice. With the help of local papers, small posters, and continued word of mouth it's our hope that the vigils will continue to grow and to become a gathering of Addison County residents of many faiths who share in our hope for nonviolence.

On Wednesday night, October 10th, Mouawia Bouzo and Deborah Felmeth have organized an open discussion called "People and Perspectives in the Middle East." Mauawia and Deborah live half of each year in Damascus, Syria, as well as in Vermont, and have offered to share with the Middlebury community their understanding of the underlying issues involving the history, politics, and religions of that area. The event will be in the Ilsely Library Meeting Room starting at 7 pm.

TEXT OF THE LETTER DRAFTED BY MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

We of Middlebury Friends Meeting (Quakers) are deeply saddened by the tragic events of September 11th. We know that many others in Addison County are also struggling to find a response. We recognize our country's need to respond to this attack and to make those responsible accountable for their actions. But as we watch our country preparing to retaliate we are concerned about the consequences of a war which will kill more innocent people and perpetuate the cycle of violence and hatred.

We invite you to join with us in our effort to come to terms with the conflicting voices within our hearts and minds. We are planning to hold vigils and discussion groups, to provide counseling to conscientious objectors, and to reach out in support to our local Muslim community.

Since its beginnings in the 1650's the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has been led to stand against war and violence for any reason whatsoever. We believe that the challenge before us all is to do what we can to break the cycle of violence and retribution and bring about true justice.

EARTH CHARTER

“We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.”

-Earth Charter Preamble

Over the last several weeks Middlebury Friends Meeting and individual Friends have been part of many events serving to help promote the Earth Charter. For you who are not familiar with this wonderful document, it is an elegant and inspiring declaration that describes “Values and Principles for a Sustainable Future.” It has been drafted over the last several years by a worldwide commission whose members include former heads of state, academics, artists, and social activists. It will be presented at the Johannesburg Earth Summit to be held in September 2002, and from there it will go to the United Nations for ratification.

The Vermont kick-off event took place on Sunday, September 9th. 1,700 people gathered at Shelburne Farms to hear speeches and share in rituals that deepened our knowledge of the Charter and to celebrate it's vision of a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society. MFM had many representatives present.

Middlebury Friends then sponsored an Addison County gathering, held at Kirk Alumnae Center the following Sunday. This event brought together others who wanted to learn about the Charter and to see how we can encourage public debate on its principles. Many good ideas emerged from our brainstorming, including getting endorsement of the Charter on the agenda for local Town Meetings, working with schools to encourage student projects around the Charter, helping to organize endorsements from other local church groups, and many other innovative ideas.

The next Sunday the Earth Charter was the subject of an Adult Discussion before Meeting for Worship. The group talked about the Charter and how our meeting might support it. A proposal for Middlebury Friends Meeting to endorse the Earth Charter will be brought to the October business meeting.



EARTH CHARTER RESOURCES

- <http://www.earthcharter.org>
a comprehensive website with the full text of the charter and lots of other great information and links.
- <http://rutlandherald.nybor.com/Archive/Articles/Article/33341>
a wonderful article on the Shelburne Farms event by Vermont Life editor Tom Slayton.
- MiddleburyEarthCharter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
email sent to this address will subscribe you to a mailing list that shares news and information of Addison County EC events.
- 802/388-1961
feel welcome to call for information or to receive literature on the Earth Charter by mail.

VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE 2001

Once again, we have had the delight of meeting the Volunteers for Peace. For the July group, Fran Putnam organized a clean up day at the Evergreen Preschool in Vergennes, and Ann Taylor arranged transportation, tools and newspaper coverage for a hot day when they restored The Spirit in Nature path. They also visited a potluck at Sas's. On August 19, a second group arrived for a two week workcamp at ACCAG. MFM welcomed them in a huge, delicious potluck (53-58 people) in Simon and Ruth Barenbaum's back yard, also attended by many Unitarian Universalist families and children. During the following days many of us organized individual projects with this international group of young people. Priscilla Baker hosted and provided support for the group leader, Lara from Montreal. Faith Lowell and Sam Fogel took four volunteers kayaking at Button Bay. Jordon Young and Maggie Levine, Meg & Zack organized a pool party/cookout plus a trip to get Sunday evening Creemees. Ruth & Simon housed and fed some stragglers and Ann Taylor took someone to catch a plane in Burlington. David Tier again lent everybody bicycles for the full extent of their stay. One Unitarian family took four volunteers to Ben and Jerry's factory and for a boat ride on Lake Champlain. We (and ACCAG) are looking for more meaningful work for these good-hearted, young visitors to do next summer. Ruth Barenbaum will channel suggestions (rbarenba@middlebury.edu). For more information check out the VFP website (incoming@vfp.org) or write Kerry Jacobs (1034 Tiffany Rd., Belmont VT 05730).

-Ruth Barenbaum



Responding to the terrible tragedy of September 11, ALEX MAYER wrote a letter to *The Addison Independent* that described his impressions from close to the World Trade Towers. Alex is in New York City this semester studying journalism away from Earlham College in Indiana. In Brattleboro CHRIS PUTNAM and a friend organized a Rally and Demonstration for Peace. More than 150 people participated, and joined hands in a huge circle. From Cairo, Egypt comes word from ELIZABETH ROSENBERG that many Egyptians, both friends and strangers, have gone out of their way to express their concern for the people of America after the terrorist attack. Elizabeth is studying Arabic in Cairo. Her father, DAVID ROSENBERG, spoke to the Middlebury Rotarians last week about the crisis, and from several reports did a wonderful job of setting the events in proper perspective. JEAN BURFOOT and KRISTIN LORD have had letters about the need for patience and compassion in the papers. The various Meetings for Worship and vigils have enabled us to see a number of friends we

do not see as often as we would like. Among those are B. AMORE, BARBARA and DON CALHOUN from Rochester, SUSAN KENISTON from Santa Cruz, CA, MARJORIE RYERSON, CAROL and RICHARD MCKEEVER, and NANCY LOW. These times of crisis and concern bring us all together.

On a family note, JERRY McBRIDE is visiting his son, IAN, at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Parent's Weekend. Ian is a freshman at WPI. The *Independent* carried a long story about a fabulous house recently built in Lincoln under the supervision of CHRIS STACKHOUSE. The Men's Group was fortunate to have two visits to this interesting home/bed and breakfast with tremendous views of the Vermont mountains. An e-mail from JO GOINGS lets us know that from September through April of 2002 she will be Artist-In-Residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts in scenic Banff, Alberta. Jo knows how to pick lovely places to do her creative artistry. She writes "[the center] is a gracious and lively nexus of culture and intellect perched high in the Canadian Rockies. I have a HUGE studio, and am painting my heart out... truly, the paintings are just pouring out of me in response to the current sorrows, and they are birthing themselves with even more determination towards light and celebration..." Jo's address until April is Jo Going, Artist in Residence, Media and Visual Arts, The Banff Centre, 107 Tunnel Mt. Rd, Banff, AB, Canada T0L 0C0.

-Ted Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Priscilla Baker (388-8024)
Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)

Ministry and Counsel Committee

Donna Belcher
Meg Langworthy
Jerry McBride
Grace McGrath
Jann Grace Seale
David Tier

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MIDDLEBURY 
FRIENDS MEETING

278 Washington St.
Middlebury, VT 05753

Meeting for Worship

10:00 AM every First Day

Parent/Child Center, 11 Monroe Street, Middlebury

During October we also oversee Meeting for Worship at Wake Robin
Sundays 5-6 PM

www.middlebury.edu/~jmcbride/mfm.htm

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above
or to winslow@well.com

cover: From Marry Me Earth; environmental art by Kate Hodges