

# MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING



APRIL 2003

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27	28	29	30	APRIL 2003		

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Silent Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, Downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Every Wednesday (Note new day!) 6:15 PM Shared Meditation in the Quaker Style. Until 6:45. Havurah House, 56 N. Pleasant Street, Middlebury.
- Sunday, April 6 8:30 AM Ministry & Counsel
- Monday, April 7 7:00 PM Men's Group at Spence Putnam's (388-1644)
- Friday, April 11 6:00 PM Potluck at Sas Carey's followed by Discussion on NEYM Faith & Practice
- Sunday, April 13 10:00 AM SPECIAL LOCATION FOR MEETING! We will meet at Havurah House, 56 N. Pleasant St. Middlebury.  
11:20 AM Monthly Meeting for Business (at Havurah)
- Sunday, April 27 1:4:00 PM Earth Day Fair, Middlebury Town Green (if rain: Congregational & St. Stephen's churches)
- Sunday, May 4 8:30 AM Ministry & Counsel
- Sunday, May 11 10:00 AM Celebration of Life at Burt Knopp's
- Sunday, May 18 11:20 AM Monthly Meeting for Business

*“Wash my eyes that I may see  
Yellow return to the willow tree  
Open my ears that I may hear  
The river running swift and clear  
And please... Wash my eyes  
And please... Open my ears*

*Wash this world that is one place  
And wears a mad and fearful face  
Let the cruel raging cease  
Let these children sleep in peace  
And please... Wash this world  
And please... Let these children  
Sleep in peace”*

— GREG BROWN

SPECIAL MEETING FOR WORSHIP LOCATION  
SUNDAY, APRIL 13

On that morning we will be meeting at Havurah House, 56 North Pleasant St (Rt 7) in Middlebury. This is our opportunity to see what it is like to worship in this space we are considering as our new home. Please note: there are only 6 parking places at Havurah for people who absolutely need to be close to the building. Otherwise, please look for parking on Seymour, Seminary, or High Street.



## Middlebury Monthly Meeting 2002 STATE OF THE MEETING

Middlebury Monthly Meeting committed much energy this year toward addressing the threat of war and fostering peace. This impacted most of our activities, which included ongoing peace vigils every Saturday morning on the Middlebury Town Green. The peace vigils have been sustained since 9/11 and led to the formation of the Addison County Peace Coalition. They offer an anchor for other peace work coordinated by the Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The Meeting and Coalition sponsored a host of peace awareness and conscientious objection activities including sign making, the "United We Question" ad campaign and rally, many speakers and workshops in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalists, a Peace Potluck with Louise Diamond, and the assembly and delivery of Iraq Family Hygiene Kits through AFSC. The Meeting also participated in Addison County's first Earth Day Environmental Fair by focusing on the need for clean water in our world and Iraq and inviting children to draw pictures of clean water.

The Coalition linked us to the wider community and included a growing number of individuals from Middlebury College, many faiths, and many ages and backgrounds. Our peace activities, particularly the Peace Vigils, brought many more newcomers of many ages to our Meeting. Others sought us as they relocated to Addison County. Our Meeting enjoyed increased participation, and attenders come to us from a wider geographic range than before. We celebrated the life of a new baby for the first time in a while and look forward to celebrating the life of two more babies this upcoming year. A space committee guides us in our growth.

Our first day school continued with a small group of children and a system in which one adult leader works with the children for a three month period. The children were more visible in meeting for worship by remaining for the opening healing circle and coming in at the end during announcements to share what they did.





Our Meeting continued with its strong traditions of celebrations, birthday salutes, refreshments after meeting, regular potlucks, Friends Forum adult discussions, the women's Christmas meeting, and a monthly Men's group. Support for Friends in need was freely given and much appreciated. Our internal communications included a well-tended web page, beautiful newsletter, greeter, phone tree, and vigilant email updates. The Meeting planted its first memorial tree in a "Quaker Grove" established last year. We published our practices for the benefit of newcomers, clarified procedures concerning requests for funding, and published "Passage With Care" folders to assist members in the development of living wills. Members have supported Spirit in Nature, Alternatives to Violence, Habitat for Humanity, the CROP Walk, the Wake Robin Worship Group, town meeting resolutions on the Earth Charter, and other worthy projects. Young friends continued to appreciate their Quaker summer camp experiences. Our Meeting's international outreach included contacts with Iraq, Japan, Mongolia, Egypt, and India. The Meeting continued its presence at Quarterly Meetings and Yearly Meeting, where young adult members provided Spanish translations. Our finances and library are healthy and well handled. Our business meeting attendance remains constant.

Several long illnesses and deaths challenged the Meeting. While Ministry and Counsel organized much help and offered greater attention and there appeared to be more sharing of responsibility for those in need, steadier and earlier support appears needed. Sources of spiritual help varied from home Meetings for Worship and healing circles to harp playing, visits, and care packages. Our vocal ministry may need attention to a good balance between silence and inspiring messages. It may be helpful to renew threshing sessions to air political concerns and perhaps education in Quaker basics. Our adult discussions were sustained. We seek to continue these and allow them to come out of our concerns, noting that a unifying theme can make them memorable. We are aware of internal unresolved strife in our Meeting and are committed to addressing these challenges through practices such as Clearness Committees, which will be clarified and emphasized. Finally, we are committed to supporting our newcomers more deeply as we enjoy our new growth.



# MINUTES, MEETING FOR BUSINESS

March 16, 2003

Co-Clerk: Spence Putnam

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Meeting began at 11:45 AM with a reading from *New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice* on Peace and Non-violence (page 182). Present were Spence Putnam, Priscilla Baker, Ted Colwell, Sas Carey, Mimi Love-Nicholson, Becky Stratton, Jean Rosenberg, Becky Holmes, and Jason Oleet.

03.03.01 **Minutes from 2/16/03** were accepted as written.

03.03.02 **Treasurer's Report:** Acting Treasurer Ted Colwell gave the following report:

"During February, 2003 contributions totaled \$525. Our expenditures were \$232.56. Included were \$32.56 for printing the newsletter and \$200 for Farm & Wilderness Foundation to assist a Palestinian boy living in Israel to attend camp this summer. For the first eight months of our fiscal year we received \$4,755 and our expenditures were \$5,663.29. (Both income and expenditures include \$310 relating to a Special Iraqi Kits Project). Our cash balance as of February 28, 2003 was \$1,397.89.

"So far in March 2003 we have received \$245 in contributions. We spent \$32.34 for the printing of the February newsletter, \$74 for postage, and \$25 to Spirit and Nature for the fee related to a booth at the Earth Day Fair. Our cash balance today is \$1,511.55."

It was approved to provide \$200 toward a Quaker camp scholarship.

03/03.03 **Ministry & Counsel (M & C) Report:** The following written report was submitted (no representative from M&C was present):

1. Members welcomed John Beattie and thanked him for his willingness to serve on Ministry & Counsel
2. Personal concerns were discussed.
3. There are five weeks following Easter when we need coverage for First Day School. Win Colwell, Grace McGrath, and John Beattie have volunteered to fill in.
4. Celebration of Life will be held at Burt Knopp's home on May 11. Traditionally, gifts are presented at this time to students. Students who will be entering 6<sup>th</sup>. Grade get a Bible, while students entering 8<sup>th</sup>. Grade get a copy of Faith and Practice. High School and college graduates get a card Grace has volunteered to get cards.
5. Jerry McBride will be asked to read the Query in April.
6. There will be a Friends Forum on Sunday, March 30 at 9:00 AM.
7. M & C will meet next on April 6, at 8:30 AM.

It was clarified that high school graduates receive not only a card, but also a gift certificate from the Vermont Book Shop.

03.03.04 **The 2002 State of the Meeting report** did not appear in the last Newsletter. Spence will send the completed report to Win for inclusion in the April Newsletter. Discussion and approval will occur at April monthly meeting.

03.03.05 **Nominating Committee** reported that Becky Stratton has agreed to assume the duties of Treasurer and John Beattie has agreed to serve on Ministry and Counsel. All approved, with gratitude, these nominations. Ted Colwell announced that he will be retiring from his service on the Nominating Committee. Appreciation for his participation on this committee was expressed. Co-clerks will appoint a new Nominating Committee.

03.30.06 **Space Committee** met with Karen Lefkoe from Havurah, toured the building, and presented a proposal for our use of the building. Their Steering Committee accepted our proposal with the following significant modifications:

(1) increase annual rent from \$1500 to \$1800, and (2) Library would not be shared by Quakers and Havurah and no permanent shelving would be available to MFM; however, Havurah has offered to provide adequate closet space if we wish to develop a library on wheels.

Other points presented: The Social Hall would be available to us for Meetings; however we would not have access to the Sanctuary. Upstairs classrooms would be available for First Day School including sufficient storage space in a closet. We are asked to follow Kosher practices in the kitchen which is also available to us for hospitality. There is additional storage space available to us in the basement. We would not be required to purchase our own insurance coverage. There would be a 6 month review after which there would be an annual review and lease.

All MFM Friends present agreed to accept Havurah's counterproposal and expressed strong support for this relocation of Middlebury Friends Meeting. It was believed that the increase in rent is reasonable given the increased space available to us. Several ideas were made for how to adapt a library using rolling bins, etc.

It was decided to make a presentation to the larger MFM community next First Day after Meeting for Worship. This specially called Business Meeting would be for the express purpose of providing a broader base of discussion and approval. Sas Carey and Jean Rosenberg will take digital photos of Havurah House and circulate these via E-mail, with an announcement of the Meeting to take place on 3/23.

In anticipation of our departure from the Parent Child Center, it was suggested that we continue to make a contribution to the PCC as one of our benevolences.

The anticipated date for this change would coincide with our new fiscal year, which begins 7/1/03.

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03.03.07 **Website:** Kurt Suchomel has offered to create a MFM web site with our own domain name, Middlebury Quakers.org. It was approved to accept Kurt's generous offer, move forward with this project and to set aside up to \$35 for the annual fee in next year's budget.

03.03.08 **Passage with Care** committee reported that there was a gathering of Middlebury Friends to discuss and fill out end-of-life and advance directive forms. A number of Friends participated in this activity and shared a delicious potluck afterward. A question was raised concerning anatomical (body) donations to the UVM College of Medicine. UVM is grateful for such donations. Information about this is available from the Passage with Care file or contact Priscilla Baker.

03.03.09 **New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice** is about to undergo a revision—the first since 1985. All Meetings within the Yearly Meeting are asked to discuss Faith & Practice and to make suggestions for improvement. It was decided to have a discussion and potluck on Friday, 4/11/03, 6:00 PM at Sas Carey's. Priscilla will contact Jan Hoffman to let her know of our plans. Priscilla, Jean Rosenberg and Mimi Love-Nicholson will meet to formulate questions to help MFM Friends prepare for this discussion.

03.03.10 **Support is sought** for a 21 year old Mongolian student, Amgah Munkhcur, who had been studying in Los Angeles but lost his sponsor there. He is now in Vermont and hoping to continue his education in the US. Any thoughts, questions, or suggestions can be directed to Sas Carey.

Business Meeting closed after a moment of silence at 1:10 PM.



   NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST   

The stork has been working overtime lately and the Meeting welcomes two new arrivals. First to make his appearance was NICHOLAS ANDREW SUCHOMEL, son of HEATHER POTTER and KURT SUCHOMEL. Nicholas was born on March 11<sup>th</sup> at home in Shoreham. His vital statistics were a weight of 7 lbs., 4 oz. and a length of 21 inches. Then on March 15<sup>th</sup> KAYLEE TERRA SCHOONOVER made her appearance at SHELLEY GUSTAFSON and BILL SCHOONOVER's home in New Haven. Kaylee weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long. Both babies and their parents are doing well. This is good news for WREN SABAEL COLWELL, now 11 months old, and eager for Quaker playmates. Two intrepid skiers, FRAN and



SPENCE PUTNAM, recently participated in the Ski-N-Ride For Your Community event, sponsored by the United Way of Addison County. Together Fran and Spence skied 33 trails at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl and raised over \$1,700, which was then matched by an anonymous donor for a total of \$3,400 plus. Their efforts helped to push the United Way Campaign over the top of its goal. PRISCILLA BAKER is beginning a nine-week course to qualify as a Hospice Volunteer at the Addison County Home Health Care & Hospice organization. She is following in the footsteps of JEAN BURFOOT who was a director of the Addison County Hospice program, and worked closely with two other former meeting participants, BARBARA DARLING and PAT NOLL. As the world moved closer to warfare in Iraq, the peace vigils increased in frequency and in those witnessing. Besides the long-time silent vigil on the Middlebury Green, MEG LANGWORTHY was active in starting a similar gathering in Vergennes. There is good news about GREG PAHL, a longtime friend of MFM, who recently had an operation at Porter Medical Center. Greg came through the surgery with flying colors, was up walking the hospital halls with his IV holder the next day, and was quickly sent home for a longer recuperation.

KAITLIN GREGG, a Middlebury senior, has just been named as a Thomas J. Watson Scholar, a prestigious honor. Kaitlin plans to travel to various parts of the world, visiting three or four countries to study sustainability. What a wonderful opportunity; congratulations, Kaitlin!

- Ted Colwell

## MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

### Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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**Co-Clerks**

Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)  
 Spence Putnam (388-1644)

**Ministry and Counsel Committee**

Meg Langworthy  
 Grace McGrath  
 Carrie Reed  
 Chris Stackhouse  
 David Tier

**Treasurer**

Olive Colwell (388-3632)  
 PO Box 6  
 E. Middlebury, VT 05740

**Recording Clerk**

Priscilla Baker

**Newsletter Mailing**

Ruth Barenbaum  
 Olive Colwell  
 Ted Colwell

**Newsletter Editor** Winslow Colwell (388-1961, winslow@well.com)

**MIDDLEBURY  
FRIENDS MEETING**

PO Box 203  
Ripton, VT 05766

Meeting for Worship

10:00 AM every First Day

Parent/Child Center, 126 Monroe Street, Middlebury

<http://community.middlebury.edu/~jmcbride/mfm.htm>

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

*on the cover: Early Spring Puddle by Winslow Colwell*