

Middlebury Friends Meeting

February
2014



FEBRUARY 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tues. Feb. 4 4:00 PM Fellowship Committee at MNFC
- Sun. Feb. 9 8:30 AM Worship & Study at Havurah House
- Sun. Feb. 9 8:45 AM Climate Committee at Havurah House
- Tues. Feb. 11 4:00 PM COSA at Dickinson's
- Fri. Feb. 14 3:15 PM Pastoral Care Committee at Sas Carey's
- Sun. Feb. 16 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business at Havurah House
- Mon. Feb. 24 7:30 PM Men's Group at Stewart Kirkaldy's, Room 334 at the Lodge.
- Sun. March 2 all day NWQM at Monadnock Monthly Meeting
- Sun. March 2 11:30 AM Friendly Forum: Holding one another in the Light
- Fri-Sun March 7-9 Conference on Climate Change at Woolman Hill
Details TBA

“The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away.”

— PABLO PICASSO

Middlebury Friends Meeting
Monthly Meeting for Business

19 January, 2014

Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Baskett, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Brud Leedham, Grace McGrath, Lucy McKeon, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Peter Schenck, and Lianna Tennal.

14.01.01 Minutes for 17 November 2013: Accepted as printed in the newsletter.

14.01.02 Treasurer’s Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey) “Meeting expenditures through December 31, 2013 totaled \$1185.34. This includes \$210 for childcare, \$320 for First Day School Coordination, \$200 for First Day School supplies (includes books purchased at NEYM), \$40 for Tax Advisor, \$173.59 to reimburse expenses from Community Supper, \$41.75 for books and \$200 to support the Ticonderoga Meeting.

“Additional benevolences totaling \$800 were paid through December 31, 2013. (The \$200 contingency benevolence was paid to Red Cross Typhoon Relief Efforts.)

“The remainder of the Farm Workers Coalition funds (\$1420) was paid to Open Door Clinic for gas cards.

“When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$5824.82. At beginning of this year, the bank balance was \$5976.30, of which \$3856.30 belonged to MFM and \$2120 belonged to the Farm Workers Coalition.

“Comments on Year-End 2013: As you can see from the worksheet, donations exceeded budget projection by \$1416. Expenditures for the year were \$469.66 less than projected.”

Most notable is the completion of our role in holding the Farm Workers Coalition

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funds for the past couple years. Henceforth, all figures in the treasurer's report will reflect only money that applies to MFM.

14.01.03 Financial Committee Report and proposed 2014 budget (Spence Putnam) The proposed budget was discussed, including the cost and responsibilities of the child care provider. It was agreed to maintain the same level of reimbursement and to clarify her hours and responsibilities. This resulted in an increase of \$250 in the proposed budget. It was noted that \$400 has been included specifically for New England Yearly Meeting scholarships, to encourage Middlebury Friends to attend this year's sessions which will be held in Castleton, VT. The budget was approved with the addition of \$250.

Appreciation was expressed to the Finance Committee for their thoughtful and thorough work on preparing the proposed budget.

14.01.04 Worship and Study Committee (Lianna Tennial)

1. Details for the State of the Meeting gathering next Sunday have been worked out. Sas Carey will facilitate; Tom Baskett will be note taker and report writer. Sophia Hughes also will take notes. Fellowship Committee will send out the announcements via Listserv.
2. The Ticonderoga Worship Group will be laid down during non-summer months, to be resumed in June.
3. Couple Enrichment workshops have been led by Msry Kay Glazer and Mark Moss for many years, under the care of Rochester, NY, Monthly Meeting. As Mary Kay and Mark anticipate transferring their membership to MFM, they ask us to consider assuming the care of their couples enrichment ministry. They will give a report at next monthly meeting about what this will entail for Middlebury Friends.

W & S encourages monthly meeting to invite Greg Williams to visit Middlebury Meeting, possibly in June, to lead a conversation on racism.

As followup to Beth Collea's program on All Ages Religious Education, monthly meeting is asked if we, as a whole meeting, wish to move forward on considering ways we might create an all ages program within MFM. Friends agreed to this. W & S will present some ideas at future monthly meetings.

Religion for all Ages: Lianna Tennial will attend a workshop Feb 28-March 2, at Powell House. It is hoped another Middlebury Friend will join her.

14.01.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA) (Tom Dickinson, edited by the recording clerk)

1. Discussed the recent forum on how MFM decides on which social and other issues should be taken up for corporate action. It is expected that COSA would continue to be involved in this process and we talked about how we can facilitate the development and discussion of issues.

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2. Soon, Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL, will request monthly meeting priorities on issues to be lobbied to the 114 Congress to be seated in January 2015. Because they ask responses be a formal action of monthly meetings we need to be prepared to decide on our list of priorities at our March monthly meeting.

14.01.06 Fellowship Committee (Laura Asermily)

1. A proposal will be made to monthly meeting that we sing another song after meeting when no birthdays occur.
2. State of the Meeting gathering details are in place.
3. Possible future event/pot luck topics are under consideration. We will reserve the Illsley Library Community Room for the 3rd Friday in February

14.01.07 Climate Committee (Fran Putnam, edited by recording clerk)

1. On January 12, 10 participants of the Climate Committee discussed ongoing and new topics, including the Havurah weatherization project and how to begin implementing a composting method for the building. Fran will get in touch with Karen Lefkoe from Havurah and a representative from Aurora School to discuss the possibility of having a joint composting system that all can embrace.
2. Under consideration is a booklet entitled “Walking Gently on the Earth” published by Quaker Earthcare Witness. It is a checklist of a variety of actions that individuals and Meetings can undertake to address climate change and other environmental concerns.
3. When Fran teaches First Day School in April she will incorporate some earth care ideas in her lessons.
4. There will be a retreat at Woolman Hill, March 7-9, 2014, for Meetings concerned about climate change. Several Climate Committee members are interested in attending when we get more details.
5. There is interest in updating the Car Pooling map. It is suggested we add information for new attenders and put the map on the Friends ListServ.
6. Several members of the Climate Committee attended the Middlebury Congregational service to hear a sermon by Bill McKibben, a climate activist who writes about climate change from a religious perspective. It was a powerful sermon. Of note is the ongoing response of members of this congregation to this issue.

14.01.08 Pastoral Care Committee (Brud Leedham) The new MFM Directory is nearly completed. It will be sent electronically as well as 75 hard copies printed out. Two new additions: a list of Friends by first name and committee and other job assignments within the meeting structure.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

BOOK REVIEW:

THE QUAKER WAY: A REDISCOVERY, BY REX AMBLER

Christian Alternative Press, 2013

The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery is Rex Ambler's version of an explanation of Quakerism. It can be read both as an introduction for newcomers and also as an enlightening and deepening advanced text for experienced Friends. At 130 pages, it is more than a brief introduction, but Ambler takes care to explain thoroughly the fundamentals: Friends' approach to spiritual reality and how that differs from most other religions. Ambler's style is relaxed and friendly, down to earth and readable, like a wise and benevolent elder in conversation. It is a book that I will reread and continue to benefit from.

Ambler writes not only about what Friends do to approach the life of the spirit, but he has developed some effective language for explaining why and what our experience does to us. He helps to liberate us from the mainstream Western expectations of what religion is, with creeds and moral laws and external spiritual authorities, and points us instead toward the experience of spiritual reality and our own place in it. He helps us realize that we have experienced this, we do experience it, each in our own measure. The little stirrings and insights we have, even as they don't look like the Old Masters' paintings of saints transported by ecstasy in floods of light with angels singing, are actually the real thing, and as we attend to them and "stand in the light" more and more, our own measure will grow and change us. He is eloquent on the difference between ideas of God and experience of God/the spirit; see his chapter on Looking for God.

In chapters on Meeting Others and Making Decisions, Ambler addresses how the Quaker Way is not just an individual way, but a way of community. Not only do we need each other's support, insight, and gifts, but it is in our spiritual community that we can find a life of love and unity. In the inevitable times of conflict, as we deepen our silence and openness to the light within, we can find our way to the truth of the matter and to loving unity. This requires a deep discipline of facing the truth and opening hearts, "but the Quaker experience is that it works." It is a deep discipline that many of us modern Quakers may not have learned adequately, but it arises from our fundamental approach, of experiencing the spirit in all of us.

Ambler has lovely chapters on the effects of our Quaker experience on our lives, on living faithfully, bearing witness, and changing things. His explanations of the Quaker Way always arise out of the fundamentals of our experience of Truth, of the reality of the spirit and our individual and collective relationship to it. Ambler's basic concern is to explain *why* we Friends do what we do, and how our Way can lead us to a life of deep connection, liberty, and love. As he says, Quakerism is fairly well known about, but not well understood. His book can be a real help to us in both deepening our understanding and affirming our steps along the Way.

— Jean Rosenberg

BEULAH E. TORIAN

(SEPTEMBER 20, 1920 – JANUARY 5, 2014)

The Spirit we called Beulah E. Torian, after 93 years left her body, Sunday, January 5, 2014 at Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center where she had resided for the past year. Born September 20, 1920 in Montpelier, Idaho, she was the daughter of the late P.B. Edson Skiff and Helen M. (Gould) Skiff. Beulah was a graduate of Washington High School, Los Angeles, CA and Santa Barbara Teachers College, class of 1942. She lovingly shared her knowledge at Pacific Ackworth Friends School for many of her years spent as a teacher. Beulah moved to Middlebury in 1985 and was a member of Middlebury Friends Meeting. She worked with Project Independence for a short time after coming to Middlebury. She journeyed upon many paths and was a true nurturer of spirit where ever she went. In her later years she succumbed to the pain and depression of arthritis and the immobility it brought with it. Now that she has transitioned into her next possibility, she can be remembered for her love of dancing and mountaineering. She loved nature and has hiked to the tops of more mountains then one can easily name. She was artistic and loved working with clay and water colors. She was an avid reader and loved cat stories. Beulah is survived by one daughter, Barbara Torian and her husband, Tim Bouton of New Haven; one son, Tim Torian and his partner Reya Shante of Visalia, CA; one sister, Louise Andrus of Coeur d'Alene, ID; one grandson, Andrew Bouton of New Haven. In addition to her parents she was predeceased by a brother, Edson Skiff.

A memorial service will be conducted at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Home Health and Hospice, PO Box 754, Middlebury, Vermont 05753 or Project Independence, 112 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT 05753.



MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Cheryl Mitchell 545-2278
Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker
388-8024

Treasurer

Karen Nawn-Fahey
PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753
388-9478

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.

Sas Carey (388-1301)

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Norm Tjossem (388-0338)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

We welcome your submissions! — winslow.colwell@gmail.com

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
win@wcolwell.com