

Middlebury Friends Meeting



May
2014

MAY 2014

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

- Mon. Apr. 28 7:30 PM Men's group at Spence Putnam's
- Tues. Apr. 29 7:00 PM W & S at Priscilla Baker's (one time change in date, time & location)
- Sun. May 4 11:30 AM Friendly Forum on All Ages Religious Education, at Havurah
- Tues. May 6 4:00 PM Fellowship Committee at MNFC
- Sun. May 11 10:00 AM annual Celebration of Life at Quaker Acres
- Tues. May 13 4:00 PM COSA at Dickinson's
- Sun. May 18 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sat/Sun, May 31/June 1 Northwest Quarterly Meeting at Bethany Birches, Plymouth, VT
- Sun. June 8 11:00 AM Burlington Friends Mtg. worship and gathering, Rokeby Museum, Ferrisburgh
- Aug. 2-7 New England Yearly Meeting, Castleton State College, Castleton, VT

“I believe in kindness.
Also in mischief.
Also in singing, especially when
singing is not necessarily prescribed.”

— MARY OLIVER

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

20 April, 2014

Clerk: Cheryl Mitchell

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Peter Schenck, Chris Stackhouse, and Lianna Tennal.

14.04.01 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey):

“Through March 31, 2014, the Meeting had member donations of \$518. Meeting expenditures through March 31, 2014 totaled \$694.25. This includes \$108 for Directory, \$166.25 for Worship Directory ad, \$240 for childcare, \$20 for childcare snacks, and \$160 for First Day School Coordination. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$6239.57.”

Karen added the following to her written report: “We need to get a more secure storage for the childcare snacks. (Also) I wonder if we would consider paying the benevolence for Summer Lunch Program in the next month.”

cont.

FOLLOW UP: A donation of a tin (e.g., large round or rectangular cookie tin) is requested to keep snacks safe from rodents. Also, It was agreed to send our contribution to the Summer Lunch Program now, when it is needed. The treasurer will remember this when she sends all other benevolences in the fall.

A Middlebury College organization has committed to help raise funds to build an outdoor play area at the Charter House where temporary housing is provided, often to families, through the colder months. We may want to consider an additional contribution to this effort. Hannaford Career Center students will be involved in design and construction.

14.04.02 Worship and Study Committee (from Tom Baskett, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk):

1. We welcome Leigh Harder as our newest committee member.
2. We have sent out a survey to the Meeting on All Ages Religious Education (AARE) and received several responses so far. We will hold a Friendly Forum on May 4 to further consider this project and input from the Meeting.
3. We discussed our responsibilities for the Celebration of Life including books and gifts for youth in the Meeting who are at certain milestones.
4. We met with the Climate Committee (now Earthcare Committee). Both committees agreed to pursue, with the support of Monthly Meeting, organizing a year's focus on climate change with each committee proposing activities related to climate change according to their particular responsibilities. W & S agreed to include climate change queries from "Walking Gently on the Earth" with traditional queries. We propose Fall as a good time to begin our "year". We also will consider how to include earth care concerns in upcoming Friendly Forums and the Children's Program, both of which are under our purview.

14.04.03 Climate Change Committee (Chris Stackhouse, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. We agreed to change our name to the Earthcare Committee, a name more inclusive of the issues we want to address and aligns with the Quaker Earthcare Witness organization to which we give financial support as a Meeting.
2. Havurah contact person, Ken Wolpin, responded to our suggestion of a meeting to discuss waste reduction at Havurah. He said his Board is not interested in having a meeting at this time, but encourages us to use their tableware and that we all use a "carry-out policy" for food waste. Fran Putnam will meet with the Aurora School staff to discuss ways to reduce waste in the building. There are now 8 stacking glasses, made of glass, in the Havurah cupboard. Friends are encouraged to bring additional stacking glasses if they have any to donate.
3. We will explore switching out light bulbs to LED bulbs in the building since it

now is in use many hours a week. Chris Stackhouse will pursue this topic with the help of one of his electrician colleagues.

4. We discussed ways the entire Meeting can focus on earth care for one year. Suggestions include Friendly Forums, Children's Program, Potlucks, activities in the community, Queries, working with other religious groups, the newsletter, and using the Listserv.
5. Earthcare and Worship and Study committees met together to discuss how to focus our Queries on the topic of earth care for one year. We agree we want to combine the traditional queries with the new queries. Priscilla Baker will write a draft of 12 sets of Queries, based on Faith and Practice queries and queries suggested by Quaker Earthcare Witness. Our proposed goal is to begin using the new Queries in September, 2014. We also discussed other ways MFM can include earth care concerns into various aspects of the meeting through the course of a year.

14.04.04 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA) (Tom Dickinson)

The main focus is preparing for the upcoming Community Supper on April 25. There is a change of venue for several weeks while the Congregational Church undergoes renovations to their kitchen. This prompted Tom Dickinson to visit last week's supper at the Middlebury Union High School cafeteria to learn what we need to know about hosting the supper in this particular space. He noted that at least the same number of meals were served, the kitchen is well laid out for food preparation. Because the school is on spring break this week, we have the advantage of beginning food preparation whenever we want. There is no composting set up at MUHS, so we will set up our own system. Friends have signed up for the several committees.

14.04.05 Pastoral Care Committee

No report this month.

14.04.06 Fellowship Committee (Laura Asermily & Peter Schenck)

1. Several upcoming events were discussed, including Community Supper on April 25 and Celebration of Life. It was decided that MFM will not have a presence at this year's Earth Day celebration since no one is available on that day to oversee a table.
2. Potlucks: We will consider joining Burlington Friends Meeting at Rokeby Museum on June 8 which will provide a social event for early summer. We propose Sunday, August 17 for our summer picnic/potluck at Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore.
3. Singing after meeting: the committee will oversee the singing of a song on Sundays when there is no birthday song.

Monthly meeting closed after a period of silence.

George Fox advised us: Walk cheerfully over the earth, answering that of God in everyone. Here is a true story of “answering that of God” in someone in a challenging situation. This was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald, 29 March, 2014, in a feature article in their weekend magazine.

—Jean Rosenberg

Scott Poynton, Australian forester, and his organization The Forest Trust, work to convince huge corporations to change their business model to operate without decimating forests and harming forest-reliant communities. In 2013, he had been working for months with the chief of Wilmar, the world’s biggest palm oil company, on the business case for change. But the chief was nervous about the competition. Poynton wrote to him, reiterating all the business, environmental and social reasons, but then including a cartoon by Michael Leunig. It shows the saddest and loneliest man in the world, at the top of his corporate skyscraper, and at the bottom of his lonely heart lies the “lightest, loveliest, tenderest, most beautiful happy angel.” Poynton told the chief: you have an angel like this in your heart. Listen to it, and make this change.

And the corporate chief wrote back to say: We’ll do it.

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Mary Kay Glazer
mkgazer@me.com



From Johannah Schneider (who grew up in the meeting and is the daughter of Bill Schneider and Laura Asermily): “Just returned from a weeklong adventure in South Dakota working with Habitat for Humanity at Crow Creek Reservation and got the chance to stop by the Badlands on the way back! Breathtaking!” Bill adds that Johanna’s adventure was part of the Alternative Breaks Program at Naropa University in Boulder, CO. Donations to support this student service can be send payable to Naropa University [with MEMO: Alternative Breaks], Office of Development, Alternative Breaks Fund, 2130 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80302.

Grace McGrath shares that Adrien Moseley Preston and her husband Chris had a baby boy in Burlington on April 9. Adrien is on maternity leave from her position as a guidance counselor at Burlington High School. Adrien grew up in the Meeting and her mother Martha is a member. Martha and her husband Chas will be moving back up here from Alexandria, VA this summer.

cont.

Fran and Spence Putnam joined their neighbors in Weybridge at a potluck supper recently to celebrate the success of a year of weatherization in the Vermont Home Energy Challenge and the achievement of the highest number of home weatherizations per capita in the state. Under the leadership of the Weybridge Energy Committee, Weybridge won a \$10,000 award to put toward an energy efficiency project in town. In addition, Fran was featured in an article in the Swarthmore College Bulletin, highlighting her work addressing climate change. Here is a link: <http://media.swarthmore.edu/bulletin/?p=1202>

Cheryl Mitchell's daughter-in-law Susannah went to Tampa, FL to present findings about farm workers. In addition, Cheryl and others are working with local banks to open accounts for farm workers in other parts of the state.

Laura Asermily has been elected to a three-year term on the Middlebury Select Board. Laura is also a member of the Middlebury Energy Committee, employee of the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, community volunteer, and bicycle and walking advocate.

For the 20th year, Sas Carey will be going to Mongolia in May, harmonizing traditional and modern medicine. She writes: "We have been invited to migrate with the reindeer herders from their spring camp to the summer camp for the month of June. Besides taking hygiene kits and vitamin C, we will collect stories and document the nomadic life on video." And, in July for two weeks, Sas will be interviewing women healers in Romania with a Romanian graduate student who attends Indiana University.

Alice Mae Peabody participated in Vergennes Union Elementary School's first "Read-a-thon," which took place from March 1st to 31st. She had an awesome time reading to her family and listening to her parents read, and listening to novel after novel on audio books. She was pleased to win an award for the most reading/listening minutes (3,584) in the first grade, and will get to pick a book to be donated in her name (with a name plate) to the school library.

Several Middlebury Quakers will join The College and Community Chorus on May 4 to sing a short group of pieces. Wendy Goodwin, tenor, Claudia Stoscheck and Mimi Love-Nicholson, soprano will sing in the concert on Sunday, May 4, at 7:30 PM at Mead Chapel, Middlebury College. The concert also includes the Vermont Choral Union. Tickets are sold at the door.

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

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
News of Quakerly Interest — mkgazer@me.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