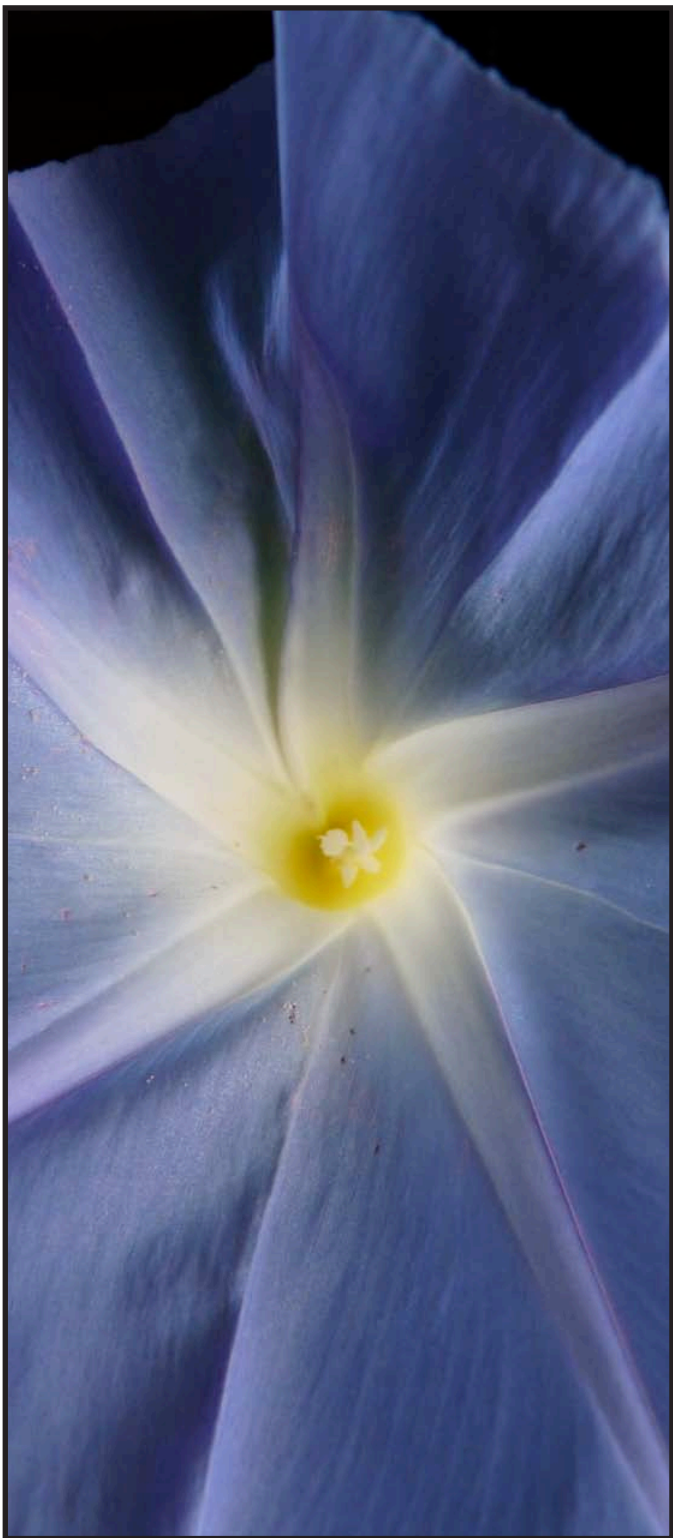


Middlebury Friends Meeting

August/Sept
2010



AUGUST 2010

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				

SEPTEMBER 2010

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		

“... when you want to distract your mother from the discouraging soulness, I will tell you what I used to do. To take her for a long walk in the quiet country, gathering wildflowers here and there, resting under the shade of trees, between the harmony of the vivid stream and the tranquillity of the mother-nature, and I am sure she will enjoy this very much, as you surely will be happy for it. But remember always, Dante, in the play of happiness, don't use all for yourself only, but down yourself just one step, at your side and help the weak ones that cry for help, help the prosecuted and the victim; because they are your friends; they are the comrades that fight and fall as your father and Bartolo fought and fell yesterday, for the conquest of the joy of freedom for all and the poor workers. In this struggle of life you will find more love and you will be loved.”

— NICOLA SACCO in a letter to his son Dante

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Saturday	10:30 AM	Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
Sat.-Thurs.	Aug. 7-12	New England Yearly Meeting, Bryant College, Smithfield, RI
Tues-Sat.	Aug. 10-14	Addison County Coalition of Alternatives to Military Service, ACCAMS, booth at Addison County Field Days (call Ann Ross if you can help cover the booth).
Sat/Sun,	Sept. 11 & 12	Northwest Quarterly Meeting, location TBA
Sat.	Sept. 11	6:00 PM Traveling Friend Deb Humphries potluck at Tom Baskett's, 758-2055, followed by discussion about the spiritual life of MFM
Sun.	Sept. 19	11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
Fri.	Sept. 24	5:00 PM Community Supper hosted by MFM
Sun.	Sept. 26	9:45 AM Singing before worship resumes!
Sun.	Oct. 3	8:30 AM Friendly Forum, topic TBA
Sun.	Oct. 3	12 noon Crop Walk
Sun.	Oct. 10	10/10/10 Climate Action Awareness Day, sponsored by 350.org
Sat/Sun,	Dec. 4/5	Northwest Quarterly Meeting hosted by Bennington and Middlebury meetings, location in Middlebury TBA

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

25 July, 2010

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Ted Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Chris Stackhouse, Jill Stackhouse, and Becky Stratton.

10.07.01 **Minutes for 6/20/10** approved as printed in the newsletter with one correction. It is noted that the discussion concerning obtaining a MFM phone line was omitted. See next item, FOLLOW-UP #3

10.07.02 **Treasurer's Report** as reported by Laura Asermily: "During the month of June the Meeting had income of \$1,090.00. Total income for the entire fiscal year is \$11,244.00, which means we actually *exceeded our goal* for the year by \$310.00. The income for the comparable period last year was \$10,947.35. Expenditures during June totaled \$723.30: \$90.00 for the children's program, \$15.00 for newsletter printing, \$44.00 for postage, \$152.30 for Pendle Hill Pamphlets, and \$72.00 for post office box rental. In addition \$250.00 was sent to Farm and Wilderness from the Quaker Camps and Conferences line, and \$100.00 was donated to the Middlebury summer camp from the summer lunch budget line. The bank balance at the end of June was \$5,349.67, which includes \$1,200.00 in the carry-over surplus fund.

"Income during the fiscal year just completed *exceeded expenditures* by \$402.80. The Meeting might want to consider adding (this amount) to the carry-over surplus fund for any future special projects.

"The bank balance as of July 7 was \$4,224.67, after making the first quarter's payments for rent, New England Yearly Meeting, and Northwest Quarter."

FOLLOW UP: 1. The \$402.80 overage from last fiscal year will be added to the carry-over fund. It was agreed to discuss the purpose of the carry-over fund at September monthly meeting.

2. Approved was the use \$204.50 from Contingency for an emergency medical need for a MFM Friend. Friends are invited to make individual contributions to this need and, thereby, replenish our Contingency pool for the remaining 11 months of this fiscal year. These contributions, earmarked "Contingency," may be sent to co-treasurer, Laura Asermily.

3. The possibility of purchasing a dedicated phone line for MFM has been referred to Outreach and Social Action Committee. They will research the various possibilities and report to MM.

cont.

10.07.03 Minute concerning payments to New England Yearly Meeting: Tom Dickinson presented a proposed Minute to be sent to NEYM concerning our contributions to them vis-a-vis their financial support of Friends United Meeting (FUM). NEYM has prepared a formula that reflects the percentage of any contribution that subsequently goes to FUM. This enables monthly meetings to calculate a specific amount to withhold from their contribution to NEYM. Several small changes were made to the minute which was then approved to send to NEYM. Appreciation was expressed for Tom's work on this topic and for drafting this minute.

MINUTE REGARDING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FRIENDS UNITED MEETING

Some of the members of Middlebury Friends Meeting (MFM) have stated that they wish to exclude any contribution to Friends United Meeting (FUM) from their portion of the contribution from MFM to New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM). The personnel policies of Friends United Meeting and the relationship of MFM and its individual members to FUM have been under active discussion in our Meeting for more than a year. There have been two well-attended Friendly Forums and it has been a topic of conversation whenever Friends come together. The sense of these discussions is that we are unified in feeling that the FUM policies are not in accord with our beliefs, but there is not yet agreement on what action we should take, or on the nature of our continuing relationship to FUM. We continue to work toward unity. At the Monthly Meeting for Business on July 25, 2010, Middlebury Friends Meeting agreed to honor the conscience of those members who wish to exclude contributions to Friends United Meeting, and to instruct the MFM treasurer to make the necessary calculations for this exclusion and to provide this information to the treasurer of NEYM when the diminished contribution is submitted.

Individual Friends who wish to have excluded that portion of their contribution to MFM which then goes to NEYM and, subsequently, to FUM, should notify co-treasurer, Laura Asermily, of their request. This can apply to a one time contribution, sent by Sept. 15, 2010, or to a pledged amount for the MFM fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. NEYM approved this adjustment to monthly meeting contributions for this fiscal year only (ending September 30 for NEYM). NEYM will revisit this topic at yearly meeting sessions in August 2010.

The co-treasurers will report to MFM how many Friends request exclusion of money to FUM and the amount withheld.

10.07.04 Worship and Study Committee (presented by Chris Stackhouse; recorded by Becky Holmes & edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. Recommendations to Monthly Meeting for Business about the process of business meetings:

- * The agenda should be published three days before business meeting. Additions to the agenda can be added at the beginning of the meeting. Dates of meeting events should come early in the business meeting, and add additional dates as they arise during the meeting.

cont.

- * Each meeting committee that has met gives a brief summary report of their decisions made, and brings only questions to be decided by business meeting.
 - * The goal is to finish by 1 pm; however, we recognize that a spirit-led meeting can not follow a set schedule.
 - * We will start promptly at 11:30 and ask non-attending Friends to move outside.
 - * We remind ourselves that it is the responsibility of all participants to speak as led by the spirit, to speak briefly (always to the point) and to listen carefully. We will support our clerk in helping Friends with this.
2. **Threshing session about MFM's response to the FUM personnel policy:** We recommend that it be held in the fall. Shortly before the threshing session, we will send out, on our Listserve, a summary of what our discussions have come to so far, and a statement of the question for the threshing session.
 3. **Traveling Friend, Deborah Humphries, to visit on September 11 and 12:** We will hold a potluck dinner and discussion of the spiritual state of the meeting on Saturday, Sept. 11. This will be an open meeting of the Worship & Study committee, with everyone in meeting cordially invited and urged to come. We will have extended hospitality on Sunday, Sept. 12, and encourage Friends to converse with Deborah.
 4. **Practices of Middlebury Friends Meeting** revision and update is underway with a target date to finish by Sept. 11, when Deborah Humphries will be here.
 5. **Friendly Forums:** There will be no FFs in August and September. The next one will be October 3. Possible topics are under consideration.
- 10.07.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action** (presented by Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)
1. **Financial contributions to FUM via NEYM:** A draft of a minute regarding excluding contributions to FUM was discussed. We agreed to send out this draft on our listserv so that Friends can consider it before monthly meeting on July 25.
 2. **The next FUM discussion:** Since monthly meeting and committee meetings do not resume until September, and we will be busy preparing for Community Supper on September 24, the earliest this could be held is October.
 3. **Involvement with the wider Quaker community:** Our recent discussions on FUM revealed that some of us are unaware of much of the activity that goes on in our yearly meeting and in other parts of the Quaker community. Participation in these activities has not been part of our culture, for many of us, and perhaps we should encourage attendance at yearly and quarterly sessions as well as Quaker retreats and workshops. Funds have been set aside in our budgets for scholarships and transportation expenses, but often these have not been used. Perhaps we should promote these activities more vigorously. We will seek information from MFM members who have experience with these activities and their value.

cont.

4. **Community Supper, September 24:** The same popular menu of harvest stew and cornbread is planned. We now need someone to spearhead the effort.
 5. **Quarterly Meeting, December 4-5.** We need to establish the meeting place(s) and other details that will be announced in the October "Nor'Wester."
Submissions need to be delivered to the editor in early September.
- 10.07.06 **Pastoral Care Committee:** no report this month
- 10.07.07 **Fellowship Committee:** no report this month
Monthly meeting closed with a moment of silence.

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

"If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own!" — Scoop Nisker

JOANNA COLWELL, our intrepid NQI reporter, has been stranded at the top of the Ferris Wheel at Field Days, and so is unable to submit her report this month. However, she is glad that while up there she has plenty of water, a good book, and that everyone can clearly see her 'Spence Putnam for VT House' sticker!

I would like to mention some happy news! On July 23 we had the birth of a daughter, ELIZA ADELA PUTNAM RUBLE, to BENJ PUTNAM and ERIN RUBLE. And GRACE McGRATH has become a grandmother with the birth of LUKE McGRATH HELMER on July 31. Baby and parents SARAH and ED are all doing well! Hooray!

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)

Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

Treasurer

Laura Asermily

266 Washington St. Ext.

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9478

Co-Treasurer

Jill Stackhouse

12 Seminary St

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9224

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.

Priscilla Baker (388-8024)

Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)

Sas Carey (388-1301)

Brud Leedom (623-7533)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Carrie Reed (388-0436)

Newsletter Editor: Winslow Colwell (388-1961, win@wcolwell.com)

Newsletter Mailing: Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum

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