

# Middlebury Friends Meeting

August/  
September  
2011



# AUGUST 2011

| SUN             | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT             |
|-----------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----------------|
|                 | 1   | 2    | 3   | 4     | 5   | 6               |
| 7               | 8   | 9    | 10  | 11    | 12  | 13 <sup>○</sup> |
| 14              | 15  | 16   | 17  | 18    | 19  | 20              |
| 21              | 22  | 23   | 24  | 25    | 26  | 27              |
| 28 <sup>●</sup> | 29  | 30   | 31  |       |     |                 |

# SEPTEMBER 2011

| SUN | MON             | TUES            | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
|     |                 |                 |     | 1     | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5               | 6               | 7   | 8     | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12 <sup>○</sup> | 13              | 14  | 15    | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19              | 20              | 21  | 22    | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26              | 27 <sup>●</sup> | 28  | 29    | 30  |     |

“Anger is a tool for change when it challenges us to become more of an expert on the self and less of an expert on others.”

— HARRIET LERNER

## QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                        |          |  |
|------------------------|----------|--|
| Every Saturday         | 10:30 AM | Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM. |
| Thur. Sept. 1          | 7:00 PM  | Women’s Group at Sophia Hughes’ 434-977-5123                             |
| Wed. Sept. 7           | 11:30 PM | W & S committee at Jean Rosenberg’s, lunch meeting                       |
| Sat/Sun, Sept. 10 & 11 |          | N W Quarterly Meeting, at Burlington Monthly Meeting                     |
| Sun. Sept. 11          |          | Commemoration of 9/11/01, details TBA                                    |
| Mon. Sept. 12          | 4:00 PM  | COSA meeting at Lucy McKeon’s, 462-3039                                  |
| Sun. Sept. 18          | 8:30 PM  | Monthly Meeting for Business (note earlier time)                         |
| Sun. Sept. 25          | 10:00 PM | Intergenerational meeting at Havurah House                               |
| Fri, Sept. 30          |          | Community Supper (watch for details)                                     |
| Sun. Oct. 2            | 8:30 AM  | Friendly Forum, topic TBA  |

NOTE: No monthly Meeting for Business in August

## Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

31 July, 2011

Co-Clerks: Jean Rosenberg  
Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Tom Baskett, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Brud Leedom, Faith Lowell, Cheryl Mitchell, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Chris Stackhouse, and Jill Stackhouse.

11.07.01 Minutes from 19 June 2011: After noting that the recording clerk should read “Priscilla Baker” the minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter

**11.07.02 Treasurer's Report** (Jill Stackhouse and Laura Asermily): Two reports were presented today:

"June 2011 & Fiscal Year End. During the month of June 2011 the Meeting had an income of \$415.00. The income for the comparable period last year was \$1090. Total income for the fiscal year 2011 is \$12,220.25, which exceeded our budgeted expenses by \$726.25. However our budget for 2012 is \$1640 higher than our 2011 budget. Therefore, the meeting needs to encourage strong donations. Expenditures during June: Children's Program \$150.00, mail box rental \$76 and \$250 from the Quaker Camp/Conf. fund. Total expenditures for the month of were June \$476. Current bank balance is \$6286.13 which includes Olivia Grugan's fund of \$1600.70.

"\$250 was approved from the camp & conf. fund to send someone to NEYM. Also some funds were released from Olivia's grant to reimburse for the successful Hunger Banquet she did in June in her hometown."

"July, 2011: During the month of July 2011 the Meeting had an income of \$717. The income for the comparable period last year was \$1150 which is \$433 less than this same period last year. Expenditures during July; Rent \$500, NYM \$499, Northwest Quarterly Meeting \$125, Children's Program \$164.92. Total expenditures for the month of were July \$1,288.92. Current bank balance is \$5714.21, which includes Olivia Grugan's fund of \$1600.70."

The following were noted: 1) There was a surge of donations in May, which may explain lower donations in June and July. 2) The remaining "Carry Over Funds" from past years is not folded into the regular budget and is reflected in bank balances reported at the end of each month.

### **11.07.03 Worship and Study Committee (W & S)** (Tom Baskett)

1. *Friendly Forums*: Various topic ideas are under consideration, including Quakerism 101 (Quaker history, traditions & practices), when to speak in Meeting for Worship, alternative spiritual practices (e.g., yoga, tai chi, meditation), focus on a specific book and Spacious Quakerism. Friends are invited to suggest Friendly Forum topics to anyone on W & S and/or offer to lead a specific topic of interest.
2. W & S Committee held a Quiet Day, July 26, 2011, at Tom Baskett's home.
3. *Intergenerational Meeting*: The next Intergenerational Meeting will be September 25, 2011.
4. *September 11 tenth anniversary*: Suggestions were made for marking the bombings in 2001. These will be presented at monthly meeting. FOLLOW UP: Many ideas were discussed for how we might hold a public time of silent worship in memory of the Sept. 11, 2001 bombings. A committee will meet to move forward on formulating a plan: Tom Dickinson (convener), Tom Baskett, Manya Dickinson, Karen Nahn-Fahey and Priscilla Baker.

cont.

Fran Putnam reported for the *Children's Program subcommittee* that the summer program is going well with a different Friend spending each Sunday with the children. A concern was raised about the evacuation plan for the building, particularly the upstairs, in case of an emergency. Fran will look into proper evacuation procedures for the upstairs, and the clerks will look into emergency procedures for the rest of the building, and both will report back to business meeting.

**11.07.04 Fellowship Committee (FC)** (Fran Putnam)

1. Annual picnic at Kingsland Bay State Park after worship on August 14, rain or shine. Bring your own food, plates, etc.
2. Friendly 8's will be reconstructed in January, 2012. Meanwhile, some of this year's F-8s continue to meet.
3. Next potluck event will be in October.

**11.07.05 Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA)** (notes from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk):

1. Plans for the Community Supper on September 30 were reviewed. Lucy and Spence will coordinate activities in the kitchen. Tom will send out notices in early September to round up volunteers and ingredients.
2. Commemoration of 9/11/01: Spence will offer to help W & S with planning publicity to the wider community.
3. FUM personnel policies: Don Peabody will work on advancing our efforts since our minute was not accepted by Quarterly Meeting for forwarding to Yearly Meeting and on to FUM. He will look into possible revision of our minute inspired by minutes created by other Meetings in our Quarter, with a view toward sending our sentiments directly to FUM.
4. Quaker Earthcare Witness: Don will discuss with this organization how they might present their mission and activities to our Meeting.

Tom announced that the Saturday evening, September 10, program at QM will be a talk by Ruah Swennerfeld about her visits to several Transition Towns.

**11.07.06 Nominating Committee** correction to last month's report: Bill Schneider should be added to Spiritual Biography collectors.

**11.07.07 Monthly Meeting time change:** After some discussion, it was decided to change monthly meeting to 8:30 AM on the 3rd Sunday of each month, during daylight savings. During the darker winter months, beginning in November, we will return to meeting after worship, at 11:30.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.

## Karen Nawn-Fahey

Karen says she decided, at age ten, to take charge of her own life. “I knew what my job was. I’m smart, reliable, and responsible. I’m a good soldier.” And yet she never made a Five Year Plan, because her family was unpredictable and troubled. She admits, though, that good opportunities just keep showing up.



Backbone of Middlebury Community Suppers, Math teacher, single parent of Meg (22) and Sean (19), organizer of an Autism Parents’ Support Group, volunteer at Town Hall Theater, and tutor/counselor to many, there is a life theme that Karen calls “My Portable Tool Kit.” “Every experience I’ve ever had gave me a chance to develop new skills that became part of my tool kit. I see the big picture and the small details. I understand systems; I see various ways to solve problems.”

One of six children, Karen grew up in Catholic Schools in Scituate, Mass; she came to Middlebury College “to ski and to become an astronaut.” Math major, “Nimble Knuckles” (typist of term papers, Campus and Valley Voice newspapers), headwaiter in SDU-Cook, and volunteer at Mary Johnson Day Care Center, Karen graduated with a resume. She also began attending Middlebury Friends Meeting regularly. It was through the Meeting that she was first exposed to non-violence training and became involved with the Children and Nonviolence program of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She still uses these skills every day in schools and community.

Karen credits her grandfather/mentor for encouraging her to seek a career in business. Upon graduation from Cornell Business School, she worked for IBM in Finance and then Sales, working with large insurance accounts in Hartford, CT and Boston. She married Scott Fahey, a college admissions colleague, and had two children.

“The needs of both my children informed all my subsequent decisions and shaped who I am today. I have clear priorities: family first!” She soon realized that working full time in a high-powered job was *not* going to enable her to balance work and family. She “retired” from IBM shortly after Sean was born in 1992, and accepted a job as College Counselor at the New Hampton School in NH. After she and Scott divorced, she and the children moved to Baltimore where she spent five years as Director of College Counseling at the Bryn Mawr School, followed by seven years teaching math full time at Towson High School. “I had always loved teaching math, and I was thrilled to return to public schools.”

In her quest for life/work balance and to be closer to her extended family in Boston,

Karen returned to Middlebury, and to our Meeting. She experienced the healing power of forgiveness, as well as the grace of letting go as a result of attending to her parents during their illnesses and recent deaths. “God gave me tremendous gifts and challenges. Throughout my life, I have developed a strong faith. I always ask myself: *What’s the lesson here?* There are so many angels along the way for me and my children. Again and again, when there’s something we need it’s right there. Often, something completely unexpected and unplanned is the better solution. Amazing!”

— Ruth Barenbaum with KN-F

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|---|---|--|
| <b>MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING</b><br>Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)   |   | <b>Editor:</b> Winslow Colwell<br><b>Newsletter Mailing:</b> Ted Colwell & Ruth Barenbaum    |
| <b>Co-Clerks</b><br>Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)<br>Jean Rosenberg (388-6453)  | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Laura Asermily<br>266 Washington St. Ext.<br>Middlebury, VT 05753<br>388-9478 | <b>Co-Treasurer</b><br>Jill Stackhouse<br>12 Seminary St<br>Middlebury, VT 05753<br>388-9224 |
| <b>Recording Clerk</b><br>Priscilla Baker   |   |  |
| <b>Pastoral Care Committee</b><br>Caring for one another in a loving community is an important part of our life as a Meeting.<br>Call any member of Pastoral Care to share a concern or need. |   |  |
| Priscilla Baker (388-8024)<br>Ruth Barenbaum (388-2651)   | Sas Carey (388-1301)<br>Brud Leedom (623-7533)  | Grace McGrath (388-6576)<br>Carrie Reed (388-0436)   |
| We welcome your submissions! — win@wcolwell.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](http://www.middleburyquakers.org)

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