

Middlebury Friends Meeting

February
2017

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Minutes of January 15



“Continue to embrace the things that make you unique even if it makes others uncomfortable. You are enough. And whenever you’re feeling doubt, whenever you want to give up, you must always remember to choose freedom over fear.”

—JANELLE MONAE

FEBRUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 ^o	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
● 26	27	28				

SHAKING THE TREE

Middlebury Friends Meeting ended its 2016 budget year with a \$1,600 shortfall. Please consider making a special donation by the time of our next Business Meeting (February 19) to help us restore our financial equilibrium. Write “special contribution” on the memo line of your check to make clear to our treasurer that these funds are to help make up the \$1,600 difference.

Thank you!



QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun. Jan. 29 3:00 PM State of the Meeting worship sharing at Havurah House
(See queries below!)
- 5:00 PM Potluck, also at Havurah House
- Wed., Feb. 1, 5:00 PM Open Meeting for Listening and Support for Spiritual
Leadings. Julia Child's house (1282 Painter Road,
Middlebury). Please RSVP (information on pg. 4)
because if there are more than 7 people, we'll change
the location.
- Sun. Feb. 12 8:30 AM Worship and Study Committee at Havurah
- Sun. Feb. 12 9:00 AM Earthcare Committee at Havurah
- Sun. Feb. 12 10:00 AM Inter-generational meeting with Everybody Lesson
- Thur. Feb. 16 8:30 AM ICAN meeting at Weybridge Church
- Sun. Feb. 19 8:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun. Feb. 26 11:30 AM Friendly Forum on Covenant inspired by Pendle Hill
Pamphlet 439, *Marking the Quaker Path: Seven Key*

PERSONAL QUERIES FOR REFLECTION AND PREPARATION FOR THE STATE OF THE MEETING MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 3-5 PM HAVURAH HOUSE

- How have you contributed to/participated in Meeting in the past year?
How has it changed you?
- If each of us holds a unique space in the meeting, what is yours?
Do you feel you are a needed, loved and loving part of a larger whole?
- Do you feel the needs of the Meeting as your own?
- Has the Meeting invited you to do new, difficult or unaccustomed things?
- What are you grateful for and appreciative of in the Meeting in the past
year? How have we been faithful to the spirit/testimonies?
- What have we failed to see or found difficult?

*Suggestion: Use these queries for personal reflection during the week prior our State
of the Meeting gathering. These queries may not be referred to specifically at that time,
but are designed to help us ponder these areas individually and as a community.*

OPEN MEETING FOR LISTENING
AND SUPPORT FOR SPIRITUAL LEADINGS

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 5 PM

Julia Child's house, 1282 Painter Road, Middlebury

Would you like good listening while you explain and explore where you are being spiritually led? Would you like support in discernment? Are you led to offer support by listening and discernment?

Then join us in this opportunity to speak and listen to each other about our leadings. We will divide up the time among those who wish to speak.

Some of us have met twice now to support each other regarding our leadings, mainly by listening. "Leadings" is "Quakerspeak" for interests or actions or tasks or causes we feel "led" (by Spirit, by God, by something inside us...) to undertake. Some of us have them, some of us aren't sure if a particular thing is a leading or not, some of us haven't identified any before, or not at the moment.

Anyone with an interest in leadings is welcome to come. Contact shulamith eagle with questions, or to RSVP: clearbridge@fastmail.com or 802.324.9149.

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



SAS and LUCY have been sponsoring a 7-year-old girl from Mongolia who has come to Boston for her third trip for burn treatment at Shriners Hospital. Many Friends have met Nara in the past. She continues to be bright and positive, doing well with all of the procedures this trip. Nara and her mom will return to Mongolia on February 2nd.

THE PUTNAM FAMILY made a multi-generational journey to Washington DC for the Women's March on Washington. FRAN, SPENCE, BENJ, ERIN, ELIZA and COLE all headed down. (Many other Middlebury Quakers were there, or in Monpelier, as well!)

LAURA ASSERMILY is running for a second term on the Middlebury selectboard. This has been a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the well being of our town and Laura invites anyone interested in this kind of community service to contact her.

—Lucy

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

15 January, 2017

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Sas Carey, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Brud Leedom, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Peter Schenck, Susan Smiley, Chris Stackhouse, Lianna Tennal, and Norm Tjossem.

17.01.01 Monthly meeting opened with a reading from Parker Palmer's, *Let Your Life Speak*.

17.01.02 November 20, 2016 minutes, accepted as printed in the newsletter.

17.01.03 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey, reported by Spence Putnam)

Donations for 2016 were below budget by slightly over \$2700. Our expenses were under by about \$900. We will dip into the bank account for about \$1800 as a result of 2016.

This is the first year in a long time that we received less in donations than we spent in a fiscal year. We received a generous donation of \$2000 just before year's end with the hope it would be used for other-than-operating expenses. The \$2000 does not appear in 2016, nor in 2017 budget.

FOLLOWUP: There was discussion about how to help Friends better understand the budget and Meeting finances. The Finance Committee will take into consideration the many perspectives and ideas presented. It was agreed that the Finance Committee will appeal to Friends to make a special contribution to meet the 2016 shortfall of \$1,800, and to designated "special contribution" on checks. This would be in addition to regular donations. Friends agreed quarterly reports sent to the entire meeting would be helpful, bearing in mind the irregular pattern of income and expenses. Worship and Study will review the statement in the Practices booklet about Meeting finances, to expand it to include the history of MFM not owning property and our commitment to support various nonprofit service groups (benevolences).

The budget for 2017 was reviewed and approved with the understanding that it will be re-examined in the fall.

17.01.04 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam)

1. All Meetings in NEYM have been asked to read and study the two Minutes on Climate Change that were adopted at NEYM Sessions in August. The Earthcare committee is hoping to engage the Meeting as a whole in this process.

The Earthcare Committee strongly endorses both Minutes and has some suggestions on how to begin the process of responding to the charge from NEYM. We have begun a list of suggestions from which we will discern items on which to take action.

2. The Active Hope full day workshop sponsored by ICAN for the community is taking registrations.

FOLLOWUP: Fran presented a list of ideas for concrete actions which, along with additional ideas and perspectives, will be considered by Earthcare.

17.01.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action - COSA (Don Peabody)

1. June 2017 NWQM is scheduled to be co-hosted by S. Starksboro and Middlebury Friends Meeting. Tom Dickinson will contact S. Starksboro Meeting; Susan Smiley will assist.
2. Refugee Resettlement: Manya Dickenson sent an email to the MFM Listserv summarizing the situation. That email included this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBwhWztgbbtMebo5rUHdRTUZLZ28/view> which has a list of things still sought by Rutland Welcomes. Manya's emphasized it is important to let Carol Tashie know what you plan at <http://www.rutlandwelcomes.org>, before you do anything to help in Rutland. For those interested in more than making donations, you can get in touch with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program via their website: <http://refugees.org/field-office/vermont/> or <http://refugees.org/get-involved/volunteer>.
3. Susan and Don reported on their experiences and observations during the recent Mexican Consular visit. Many other Quakers were involved; Laura Asermily is the "go to" person for next year's plans.
4. Discussion continued as to What Can Quakers Do In Trump Times? Tom suggested we ask "Is there a way to influence Congress"? Susan responded to the FCNL request to call representatives, and reported back on her calls to our Congress people. She recommends a *New York Times* article that suggests we take a cue from the Tea Party and organize.

FOLLOWUP: It is suggested we plan a Friendly Forum or other opportunity for Friends to explore how we can maintain a calm and loving center amid the uncertainty and negative expressions as we move into the Trump era of governance.

Friends are reminded that we need to begin organizing for June Quarterly Meeting with S. Starksboro. If S. Starksboro Meeting wishes to host the meeting they would take the lead and we will assist them. This will be reported at February monthly meeting.

cont.

17.01.06 Worship and Study Committee (Peter Schenck) Plans are under way for the State of the Meeting gathering, to be held at Havurah House on Jan. 29. To prepare, Worship and Study will send out the previous report as well as daily queries the week before. We have invited Penny Wright, NWQM clerk, and Fritz Weiss, NEYM clerk, to facilitate our worship sharing. Both have accepted and will co-facilitate our discussion.

17.01.07 Fellowship Committee: (Spence Putnam)

No report at this time.

17.01.08 Pastoral Care Committee (Sas Carey)

The suggestion is made that we consider a Friendly Forum, or other opportunity, for MFM Friends to discuss how we, as Quakers, are moved to respond to changes in the national political climate. (See item 17.01.05, COSA Followup.)

17.01.09 Incident of hateful graffiti on the door at Havurah:

FOLLOWUP: MFM received a letter from Havurah thanking us for our support.

17.01.10 NEYM Faith and Practice revision on membership: Tom Baskett reported that Worship and Study read and discussed the YM committee draft. The statement in our Practices booklet was slightly amended to clarify MFM position regarding membership. This statement will be sent to the NEYM committee.

Meeting closed after a brief moment of silence.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Tom Baskett 989-7034
Jean Rosenberg 388-6453

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 (558-1005)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)

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

News of Quakerly Interest — lucym@shoreham.net

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