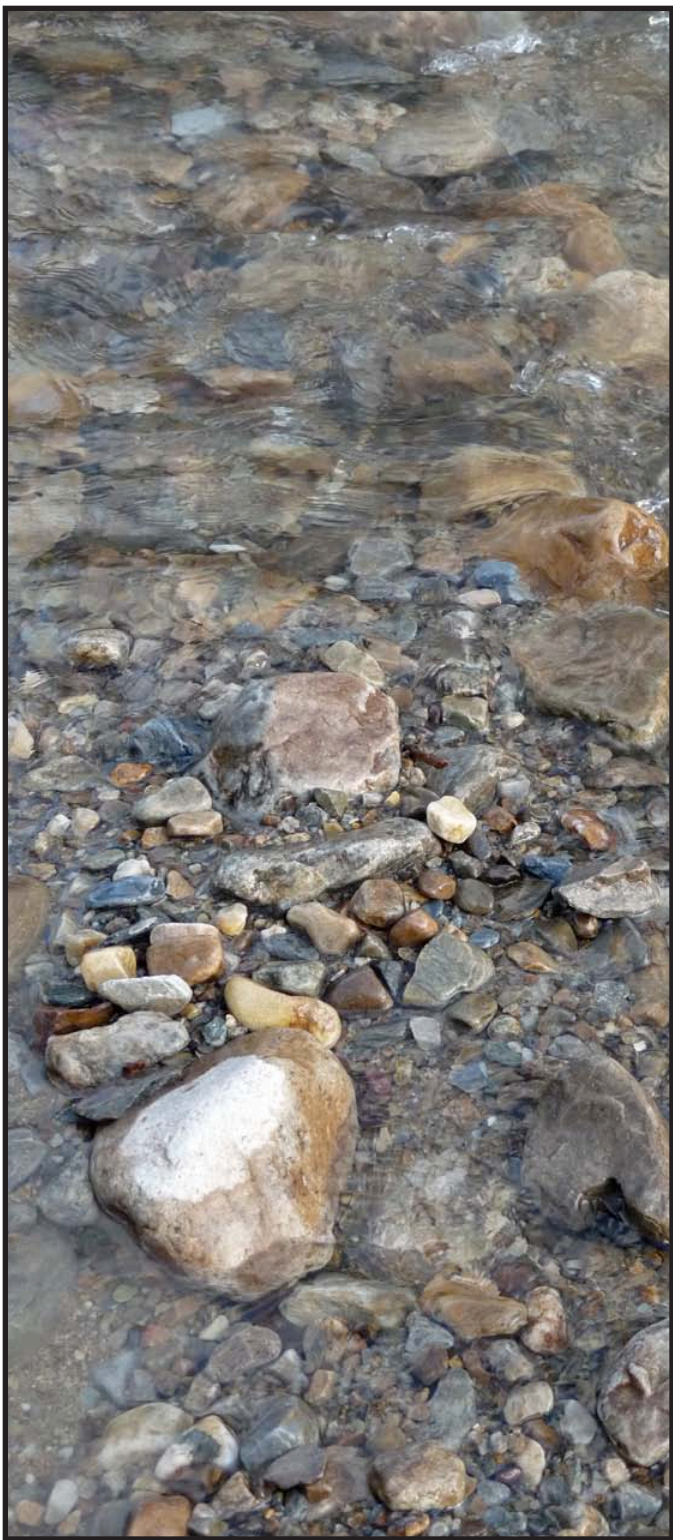


Middlebury Friends Meeting

March
2010



MARCH 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			

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM. (Every Saturday again!)
- Fri. Mar. 12 6:00 PM Potluck at Faith Lowell's, 388-3056, followed by story telling around the fireplace
- Sat. Mar. 13 9 AM-4 pm Green Energy Expo at MUHS
1:00 PM Keynote speaker: Jim Merkel on Radical Simplicity
- Sun. Mar. 21 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Mon. Mar 22 7:00 PM Holding in the Light discussion and practice at Erin & Benj Putnam's in New Haven. 453-5824, child care provided
- Mon. Apr. 5 7:00 PM Women's group at Grace McGrath's, 388-6476
- Sat. Apr. 24 State-wide Migrant Workers conference (details to be provided in a few weeks)
- Fri. May 7 5:00 PM MFM hosts the Friday night Community Supper at Middlebury Congregational Church
- Sun. May 9 10:00 AM Annual Celebration of Life and potluck location TBA

*“An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation,
nor does truth become error because nobody sees it.”*

—MOHANDAS GHANDI

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT

Mon. March 22

7:00 PM

Benj and Erin Putnam's in New Haven

A number of people have made a commitment to hold Susannah and her loved ones in the Light each day. Some of us who are engaged in this practice are finding it very deep and enriching as a solitary practice, but are also interested in exploring this together. How do others hold people in the Light? What are the origins of Quakers holding people in the Light? What we can we learn from this to deepen our own practice? We will have a discussion, followed by a period of actually holding Susannah and family in the Light. A light tea will be served. All welcome. Childcare will be provided.

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

21 February, 2010

Clerk: Becky Stratton

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Tom Baskett, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Stewart Kirkaldy, Fran Putnam, and Spence Putnam.

10.02.01 Minutes from 1/18/10 were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

10.02.02 Treasurer's Report (from Spence Putnam) “During the month of January we had income of \$431. Total income for the fiscal year so far is \$5,129. The income for the comparable period last year was \$6,102.60. Friends are encouraged to consider donations to help us keep up with our budget obligations. Expenditures during January totaled \$1,325: \$500 for NEYM, \$500 for rent, \$150 for the children's program, and \$50 for supplies for hand balm from the Outreach and Social Concern line. The bank balance at the end of January was \$2,290.67, which includes \$1,200 in the carry-over surplus fund.

“The bank balance as of February 18th was \$2,388.72. Through the end of January donations to the Shareheat Fund (through the Middlebury Clergy Association) amounted to \$1,075, to which will be added the \$25 that the Meeting appropriated

cont.

from the contingency line item to “seed” the fund. The total amount to be forwarded to the Shareheat Fund is \$1,100 which, with the CVPS match, will bring the total contribution of Middlebury Friends Meeting to the Shareheat Fund to \$2,200.”

It was noted that contributions through January, when compared to a year ago, are noticeably down. Friends are encouraged to contribute to MFM, as they are able.

10.02.03 Worship and Study Committee (oral report from Tom Baskett)

1. The committee would like to sponsor a participant to attend a conference at Powell House, on The Family Friendly Meeting, with Christie Duncan-Tessmer, March 12-14, 2010. It was approved for the \$240 registration to be covered by W & S funds. A travel allowance will be determined later, as will the MFM participant.

2. Laurel Coburn and Erin Ruble have offered to facilitate an evening discussion about the Friends tradition of holding in the Light, including a time during which Friends will hold in the Light one of our participants who has recently undergone a bone marrow transplant. This will take place at Erin Ruble and Benjie Putnam’s house on Monday, March 22, at 7 PM. It was agreed to cover the cost of child care.

3. A Hartford, CT, Friend has communicated that she is visiting New England meetings to learn more about the spiritual life of their meetings. It was agreed that we need to learn more about her purpose. It was suggested that we might invite her to our Celebration of Life on May 9 and send her our Spiritual Life Survey.

10.02.04 Pastoral Care Committee (from Priscilla Baker)

Friends may be asked to resume providing rides to and from The Lodge for one of our members. Drivers will be organized by PCC.

10.02.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action (from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by the Recording Clerk)

1. We note with regret that Elisabeth Sutcliffe will not be able to join our committee because of a heavy schedule her senior year at Middlebury College. We would like to see if another student might be interested. Spence will contact students who have been attending Meeting to discuss this and other possibilities for collaboration. We will explore possible campus contacts with the Charles P. Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life and Alliance for Civic Engagement. Fran Putnam has been reaching out to students and reports that three have signed up for Friendly 8s.

2. We are signed up to host the Community Supper on May 7.

3. One area of outreach is the Middlebury Area Clergy Association, MACA, for which Sas Carey is our representative. Two items of note: (1) a group of college students is eager to meet with local faith communities to encourage involvement in Haiti earthquake relief -- perhaps an opportunity for collaboration with the student community, and (2) MACA is looking for commitments from member congregations toward the overall goal of 16,000 pounds for the Spring Challenge Food Drive to benefit local food shelves. Sas has sent out, via listserv, a list of suggested foods.

4. The Community Lunch Program is doing well, serving 25 or more people four days a week. Recently they asked folks to fill out an evaluation and the 15 responses were very positive, saying that the food is good, nutritious, and financially helpful. There were requests for MORE vegetables!

5. Friends Committee on National Legislation invites meetings and individuals to participate in setting priorities for FCNL's lobbying work for the 112th Congress (2011-2012). Since input needs to be submitted by April 10, any response from MFM as a whole would need to be considered at the March meeting for business. Tom and Stewart will figure out how to get the information out to members and collect responses.

FOLLOW UP: Friends agreed to participate in the MACA food drive. COSA was asked to set a MFM goal and distribute information via the listserv to encourage Friends to make donations.

10.02.06 Fellowship Committee: (from Fran Putnam)

1. A potluck will be held at Faith Lowell's on March 12, followed by story telling in front of the fire place.

2. It is noted that fewer people are signing up for hospitality after worship. Fran will bring this up after worship, to remind Friends that snacks can be very simple and/or shared with another person in order to lighten the preparation and expense.

10.02.07 State of the Meeting: Priscilla Baker presented a draft of the 2009 MFM State of the Meeting, based on a gathering for worship, held on Jan. 24, to reflect on the past year. Several adjustments were made to the text which was then approved. It will be published in the MFM newsletter and sent to Northwest Quarterly Meeting. Although New England Yearly Meeting has said they do not want monthly meetings to send their reports to YM, it was agreed that we will send ours in mild protest. Friends expressed their belief that this is a valuable process for a monthly meeting to experience and should be encouraged, not discouraged, by YM.

10.02.08 Pennies for Peace: Fran Putnam reported on the children's project to collect pennies, originally inspired by and intended to be sent in support of Greg Mortensen's work of building schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as described in *Three Cups of Tea*. Soon after starting to collect pennies (and larger coins and bills), it was suggested that the money be sent for Haiti earthquake relief. Friends decided to send some of the money, immediately, to an organization providing services in Haiti and to continue to collect money, as an ongoing project, to send to the school building program.

10.02.09 Quarterly Meeting: MFM will partner with Bennington Meeting to host the December 2010 QM. The clerks will communicate with Bennington Friends to discuss location and begin the process of organization.

Monthly meeting closed after a moment of silence.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING 2009 STATE OF THE MEETING REFLECTION

In our reflections on the past year, we focused on three queries to guide us. We find we have many qualities and practices that sustain us as individuals and as a spiritual community, and that there are areas in which we strive to improve.

HOW IS THE SPIRIT MOVING AMONG AND THROUGH US IN MIDDLEBURY MEETING?

We are a diverse group, each with our own personal experiences and language to express how the Spirit moves through us. We acknowledge there is no one right way and seek to not only accept, but to love, the differences among us. It is as if we are a single body of many parts, all valued and necessary to make visible the whole. We are enriched by the diversity of ages, messages, talents and interests in our Friends community. These varied strands help to deepen us all in our connection to the Spirit.

We treasure our coming together amid the darkness and chaos of the world. This companionship is an antidote to our sometimes lonely travels and reinforces that we are in this life together as a spiritual community. We feel a brightness as we come together to worship, as we offer and receive assistance in times of need, when we see each other outside of meeting and as we carry our collective energy into the wider community.

We appreciate the many ways that we have felt the Spirit moving among us, not only in silent worship but also in our meeting activities, including participation in our several committees, Friendly Forums, Friendly 8's, all-meeting potlucks, men's and women's groups, intergenerational meetings, healing circles, singing before worship, sharing ideas and information via our library, newsletter, and listserv, and our participation in the wider community through community suppers, community lunches, weekly peace vigils and community social justice & conservation projects. We are grateful for the increase in participation of Middlebury College students. We continue to value our decision not to own property and to direct financial resources toward those in need. We note that when money is needed to sustain the Meeting or to support a special project, Friends respond readily and generously.

HOW ARE WE FALLING SHORT? WHAT ARE OUR GROWING EDGES?

We continue to be a Caucasian-dominant gathering and wonder how we might make ourselves better known to and welcoming of people of color. We wonder how we might better address conflicts that arise within the Meeting community. Monthly Meetings for Business might benefit from some changes, but we are not clear on how to do this: some would like shorter, more concise meetings; others favor longer times

for worshipful considerations and more silence. We wonder about our role vis a vis individuals in need of ongoing support vs. attention to the Meeting as a whole.

We are grateful for the stability in child care this past year, as well as the availability of child care at functions such as Monthly Meetings and potlucks. A new program for children has been adopted and all have responded positively to this. We wonder how we might better support those of pre-adolescent and adolescent age.

The Passage with Care program presented by Pastoral Care Committee on end of life planning and Quaker Quest gatherings were well attended and helpful. We might want to cultivate more programs to enlighten ourselves and others in the wider community by presenting topics of interest.

We want to continue to improve in our efforts to welcome newcomers to Meeting, offering ongoing support and information. We want to be more mindful of the need to reach out to newcomers and to make an effort to truly get to know them.

We note that in 2009 one of our valued Friends died, a baby was born and three Friends chose to formalize membership.

WHAT ARE OUR HOPES AND PRAYERS FOR THE COMING YEAR?

We hope in the coming year to work toward improvement in a number of ways, including:

- Become more of a presence and support to 2 worship groups in our care (Ticonderoga and Wake Robin) and to the newly organized group on campus
- Increase interactions between children and adults
- Explore ways to provide a larger peer group for adolescents
- Participate in more service projects, especially intergenerational, as a way to know each other better as we work on common goals
- Enlarge our visibility in the wider community so that Quakers become better known as one of the faith communities in Addison County
- Begin to discuss the future of Monthly Meetings for business to discern if there are changes we want to make
- Continue to get to know each other more deeply, especially newcomers and college students
- Reach out to people who have not attended recently
- Initiate a sharing of Joys and Sorrows after introductions

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

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

ANAIS MITCHELL's new CD *Hadestown* is officially released on March 9. If you loved the production, you'll love the record! She does a performance with a few other folk April 9 at Higher Ground in Burlington.

For people who want to follow SUSANNAH AND ETHAN's Journey, the web site is <http://susannahandethan.blogspot.com>. They are so grateful for being held in prayer. Her nurse said that was what brought her back during the hospital days and the road ahead is still long. Thank you all for caring for and about them.

Newborn Lambs arrived unexpectedly early at Treleven Farm so we may move up the date of the annual host student and lambing potluck.

During the Middlebury College Ice Show our Meeting was well represented. † KAI AND CLAIRE ARMSTRONG, along with our childcare provider, PAIGE KEREN, skated beautifully in this wonderful community "Olympic" event.

— Joanna Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Stewart Kirkaldy (388-3388)

Becky Stratton (388-2487)

Recording Clerk

Priscilla Baker

Treasurer

Laura Asermily

266 Washington St. Ext.

Middlebury, VT 05753

388-9478

Co-Treasurer

Spence Putnam

575 Morgan Horse Farm Rd

Weybridge, VT 05753

388-1644

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