

Middlebury Friends Meeting

March
2017

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Meeting Report*

Minutes of February 19



“Struggle is a never ending process.
 Freedom is never really won,
 you earn it and win it in every generation.”
 — CORETTA SCOTT KING

MARCH 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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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	29	30	31	

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri. Mar. 10		Pastoral Care committee
Sun. Mar. 12	8:30 AM	Worship and Study
	9:00 AM	Earthcare Committee
Thurs. Mar. 16		ICAN meeting at Weybridge Congregational Church
Sat. Mar. 18	10:30 AM	Climate vigil at the triangle park in Midd.
Sun. Mar. 19	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun. Mar. 26	11:30 AM	Chili pot luck fundraiser for Heifer International. Havurah House.
Wed. April 5	5:00 PM	Open meeting for listening to and support of Spiritual Leadings (Callings). Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 74 Painter Hills Road. For more information contact, Craig Goddard, 388-3193, goddardcraig1@hotmail.com

NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon
lucym@shoreham.net



The SCHOONOVER-GUSTAFSON FAMILY has sent the news that they will be leaving Thailand after 5 wonderful years. BILL says that after looking for teaching jobs in Denmark, Japan, Singapore, Myanmar, California, Jamaica, Germany and Georgia they have settled on Oahu, Hawaii where he will be teaching in a small K-12 IBS school. KAYLEE will be in one of his classes as she will start high school! Bill ends with "We hope you will come visit us here in Hawaii, and sincerely want to stay in touch."

SAS CAREY has been travelling around New England, to other Friends Meetings as well as other venues, giving presentations and showing her movies *Ceremony* and the award-winning *Migration*. She has received support in her work partially through a Legacy Grant from NEYM which is available to all Friends needing financial help to follow a leading.

CHRIS STACKHOUSE writes that his oldest son COOPER and his wife are expecting their first baby in August. This will be the second Stackhouse grandchild. Yippee!!

—Lucy

2016 STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT

On January 29, 2017 28 Friends met at Havurah House in worship sharing to reflect on the year 2016. Worship and Study Committee invited two guests, Penny Wright, NWQM Clerk, and Fritz Weiss, NEYM Clerk, to facilitate. Fritz and Penny consolidated a series of queries previously sent out to the Meeting into three. After reading each query, we first discussed our assumptions regarding the query to clarify responses that followed.

The first query asked what is at the heart/foundation of MFM? Many responses focused on how our unprogrammed silent meetings for worship nurture us and how that becomes transformative over the months and years. Some noted that there is a spirit of openness and non-judgment in Meeting life that developed over time a sense of spiritual connection, kinship and power among all who attend. Friends do not feel pushed to believe in a certain way nor to have answers to all questions but feel encouraged and supported to follow where the Spirit is leading them. One Friend remarked that our social activism, both individually and as a Meeting, is led and supported by the Spirit.

The second query asked if one came to meeting for worship expecting to leave changed and, if so, in what way? It seemed clear that this was an unfamiliar question and perhaps not a regular expectation of MFM Friends. “Is change always needed? Is it a requirement” was one response. Other Friends commented that meeting for worship supports clarity and is a weekly reminder to be our best selves. It can also provide comfort or be a spark for new behavior or action. Worship was described as a safe place that invites us to grow and consider actions that are difficult.

The third query asked about challenges and obstacles ahead and what are the places of tension in our Meeting. There were a number of responses to this query. We tend as a Meeting to talk about positive things and avoid areas of conflict such as personal differences and differences of spiritual language and belief. Desire was expressed for more social and worship time. Difficulty getting to early meetings was noted. One Friend observed that, despite our focus on the positive, we do not express spiritual joy nor widely share our spiritual life in ways that would encourage deeper communion. Difficulty filling certain committee slots was noted.

Throughout the meeting, reference was made to some of the accomplishments of last year. While First Day School continues its struggle to grow, it offered enjoyable, educational and enriching programs to those who attended. The Experiment with Light group has increased in size and a group to explore and support leadings has begun. Our Meeting held a series of discussions and a workshop on the book *Active Hope*

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which inspired a well-attended town-wide workshop in January 2017. Our Meeting sponsored a workshop on the Journey of Healing that brought insight into the history and ongoing struggle for justice of Native Americans.

Comments of a general nature included the following. Participants of MFM were raised in a wide variety of religious traditions. As adults we have had deep explorations into more wide ranging spiritual journeys. We have come to MFM with different expectations, hopes and needs. Discussion of future directions focused on more emphasis on our spiritual development as Friends, as well as sharing our sometimes rich, sometimes painful, sometimes joyful spiritual backgrounds and experiences with love and caring interest. Through it all, we continue to strive to find unity and to know each other in that which is eternal.

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

19 February, 2017

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Sas Carey, Ted Colwell, Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Joe Garren, Brud Leedom, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Don Peabody, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Peter Schenck, Lianna Tennal, and Carrie Wiebe.

17.02.01 Monthly meeting opened with a reading of several quotations from early Quakers

17.02.02 January 15, 2017 minutes, accepted as printed in the newsletter.

17.02.03 Treasurer's Report (Karen Nawn-Fahey) From January through February 15, the Meeting had member donations of \$4638, including \$30 for the Warming Shelter, \$2000 from Rachel Carey Harper (donations made to each monthly meeting in NEYM) and \$1500 for the Budget Shortfall.

Through February 15, Meeting expenditures totaled \$1975. This includes \$130 to Gretchen Richer for childcare, \$320 for Children's Program Coordination, \$25 for MACA dues, \$650 to Havurah, \$725 to NEYM, and \$125 to NWQM. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$6286.14.

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FOLLOWUP: In January, April, July, and October the Treasurer will give an oral quarterly report at the close of worship in order to inform more Friends of our Meeting's financial status. She also suggested a future opportunity to talk among MFM Friends about our finances, perhaps a Friendly Forum.

17.02.04 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam) The committee discussed suggestions that have been collected for taking concrete actions in response to the NEYM Minute on Climate Change. We acknowledged the limited capacity of our committee and others in the Meeting to undertake a new large-scale initiative at this time.

Because this Minute encourages all members of the Meeting to be involved we suggest, for a limited number of months, each member of the Meeting try to take one personal action a week in response to climate change and, if desired, write it on a slip of paper. We will collect them at Meeting on Sundays. These entirely voluntary actions would be reported in an anonymous, nonjudgmental manner. If desired, we could read some of the slips after Meeting to give everyone a sense of what is possible.

This could be a transitional action, a chance for the Meeting to refocus our engagement and take a reality check on what the Meeting's capacity for taking on this issue is at this time.

Report from ICAN: 80 people participated in the Active Hope Workshop on January 28. There will be a follow-up meeting for participants in March.

FOLLOWUP: Friends agreed to move forward on the Earthcare proposal to encourage people to take personal steps and share these among ourselves by recording our actions on slips of paper that will be collected in a receptacle. The committee seeks a name for the collection receptacle.

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

The committee has reached out to S. Starksboro Meeting our co-hosts for June 4 Quarterly Meeting to be held in Middlebury. It is not clear how involved they will be, so we should proceed as though we are hosting. Event could be one day or two. It will include meeting for worship, meeting for business and a program (possibly a singing program led by South Starksboro). COSA will be the principal committee planning the Quarterly event coordinating with Fellowship where appropriate. Co-clerk, Tom Baskett, will meet with representatives from COSA and Worship and Study to clarify program options.

A letter and card writing folder or box is available, with the encouragement that Friends communicate with leaders, legislators and others.

On Sat. March 4, 10-3 PM, at Hanover Meeting, there will be a Clerks peer group gathering to share ideas and experiences.

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17.02.06 Worship and Study Committee (Peter Schenck) A draft of the State of the Meeting report was presented. A few amendments were made. The amended report will be published in the next newsletter.

17.02.07 Fellowship Committee: (Spence Putnam) There will be a Chili Potluck and Fundraiser at the rise of meeting on March 26 with the purpose to raise money for Heifer International. The Committee will supply several chilis, and Friends are asked to bring sides, desserts, and a donation to for this highly rated charity in the work it does. The children's program is assisting with the effort. There will be a brief informational program on the work of Heifer International.

17.02.08 Pastoral Care Committee (Sas Carey) The 2017 MFM Directory will be published soon.

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