

Middlebury Friends Meeting



May
2009

MAY 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Sun. May 3 8:30 AM Friendly Forum at Havurah House. "Connecting with God/Connecting with Spirit." What are the symbols, language and experiences that help you connect with God/Spirit/Reality? Tom Baskett, facilitator.
- Wed. May 6 7:00 PM Women's Group at Cheryl Mitchell's 545-2278
- Sun. May 10 10:00 AM Celebration of Life at Quaker Acres. Theme for worship sharing: "Welcome" followed by music, May Pole dancing & potluck. Remember to bring your own plates and utensils.
- Mon. May 11 8:00 AM Finance Committee meeting at Spence Putnam's 388-1644
- Wed. May 13 7:00 PM Men's Group at David Rosenberg's 388-6453
- Sun. May 17 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Tues. May 19 7:00 PM Outreach & Social Action Committee meeting at Karen Nawn-Fahey's 989-3081

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*“Reach out your hand if your cup be empty
If your cup is full may it be again
Let it be known there is a fountain
That was not made by the hands of men”*

—ROBERT HUNTER

Sun. May 24	2:00 PM	Opening Day – Rokeby Museum, Ferrisburgh, VT: <i>Quakers and Slavery</i> : Quaker Historian, Betsy Cazden will present research on Quaker ownership of slaves in New England.
Fri. May 29	3:00 PM	Pastoral Care Committee meeting at Priscilla Baker’s 388-8024
Tues. July 21	11:00 AM	Fellowship Committee meeting at Carol’s Hungry Mind
Sun. July 26	12 NOON	Potluck and afternoon of fun and fellowship Kingsland Bay State Park, Ferrisburgh

Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

19 April, 2009

Clerk: Carrie Reed

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Laura Asermily, Margie Bekoff, Tom Dickinson, Mary Kay Glazer, Stewart Kirkaldy, Grace McGrath, Jim Morse, Mark Moss, Fran Putnam, and Spence Putnam.

09.04.01 Minutes from 15 March 2009 were accepted as printed in the newsletter with one correction: Carrie Reed clerked the monthly meeting.

09.04.02 New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice Revision: NEYM announces that some chapters of the newly revised Faith & Practice are available for Friends to review and use. Co-clerk, Carrie Reed, will send the electronic link to the

MFM Listserv and request 2 print copies be sent to MFM. Carrie will announce the availability of these materials and encourage Friends to read them.

09.04.03 Children's Program Donations: First Day School teacher, Fran Putnam, asked for permission to use the MFM tax exempt number when receiving donations from local merchants for the First Day School Migrant Workers project. This was approved.

09.04.04 Treasurer's Report: (from Spence Putnam) "During the month of March, we had income of \$764.00 plus \$49.00 in cash contributions to the H.O.P.E. food-shelf, which was passed through to H.O.P.E. as a special fund. Expenses for the month totaled \$213.00: \$18.00 for the newsletter, and \$195.00 for the children's program. The latter includes \$75.00 for the NWQ meeting. The checking account balance at the end of March was \$3764.66, which includes \$700.00 in the carry-over contingency fund. The bank balance as of April 15th was \$2,658.80, after quarterly payments had been made for rent, NEYM and NWQM."

FOLLOWUP:

- A request from a MFM Friend for \$50 in support of her attendance at a workshop at Woolman Hill was approved. This amount will come from the line item, Quaker Camps and Conferences.
- It is time to prepare the budget for next fiscal year. Suggestions regarding the budget should go to the Finance Committee (Spence Putnam, Laura Assermily, David Andrews, Jean Rosenberg and co-clerks Becky Stratton and Carrie Reed).

09.04.05 Worship & Study Committee report (from Mary Kay Glazer)

1. Committee met on April 5. We discussed logistics for the May 10 Celebration of Life Meeting which will be held at Quaker Acres on Washington Street. Meeting will gather at 10:00 a.m. and worship will begin at 10:30 for about an hour.
2. The committee is continuing to explore the Quaker Quest project and will do so over the summer months. Becky Holmes has ordered two each of the QQ pamphlets to guide our discussions.
3. Win and Joanna Colwell will meet with Fran Putnam to pursue the idea of a one-a-month First Day School program for 3-6 year-olds as discussed at the last business meeting.
4. The committee continued its discussion about a joint youth group with the Unitarians. There is concern about the risk that our young people might lose their Quaker focus in such a group. But the value of communal social life for young people, particularly at this age, was also mentioned as a concern. Chris Stackhouse will be the committee person to help facilitate the exploration of a joint group with the Unitarians.

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5. Mary Kay Glazer submitted a report from the Ticonderoga Worship Group which reported that this group, despite continuing to be small in numbers, finds great value in their communal worship. The committee supported its continuation and recommends that this report be appended to the next month's newsletter.
6. The committee reviewed the need to present books to those young people making significant moves in their academic grade levels. Mary Kay will ask Fran as the current first Day School teacher to update the grade levels of FDS attendants.

FOLLOWUP: The children have chosen a theme for worship sharing at the Celebration of Life: "Welcome." Rain location: Havurah House. The potluck will be vegetarian which will eliminate any confusion about food that is acceptable at either location.

09.04.06 Pastoral Care Committee report (from Priscilla Baker):

1. Three deaths of close relatives of MFM Friends, were noted: David Tier's sister, Don Mitchell's father and Karen Nawn-Fahey's father.
2. College students: We are pleased that several students (including new "Febs") have attended MFM during the past few months. We want to continue to think of ways to nourish their connection with MFM, e.g. make sure they have transportation to potlucks.
3. Passage With Care: We agreed to revive information about and interest in passage with care, our format for collecting and holding information about Friends' desires for their end-of-life and after-death care. This was last promoted over 10 years ago. It was noted that only a handful of people filled out Passage with Care forms in past years, although 24 folders were distributed to Friends. We will go through the materials, which were originally prepared in the 1990's, update documents and prepare them for distribution. We anticipate making a presentation to monthly meeting in June.

FOLLOWUP: There was clarification that PC Committee sends letters of welcome to newcomers.

09.04.07 Fellowship Committee report (from Margie Bekoff):

1. There will be a potluck at Cheryl and Don Mitchell's sheep farm on April 26. Wendy sent out an e-mail reminder highlighting that Friends need to bring their own dishes, utensils, and mugs, to this, and to all potlucks. We considered whether this should be the practice for all events, including Friendly 8's.
2. There will be a summer social event for MFM - an afternoon at Kingsland Bay on July 26 after the rise of Meeting, rain date, August 9.

FOLLOWUP: After discussion about materials on the greeter table intended for Friends to take as handouts (newsletters, brochures, announcements, posters, magazines, etc.), it was decided to verbally encourage Friends and newcomers to

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avail themselves of these written materials. Priscilla Baker will make a sign indicating that people may take them.

09.04.08 Outreach and Social Action Committee report (from Tom Dickinson):

At their last meeting, O&SA reflected on involvements during the past year and looked forward to future involvements.

1. The NWQM gathering in Middlebury in March went well and we propose keeping a folder of all the details and plans we used this time so that next time we will be prepared. It would be useful, especially for hospitality, to have a better count ahead of time. It would be helpful to have at least six months notice before we host next time.
2. We hosted two Community Suppers in the past year. We hope to continue this effort this year and in years to come. Karen Nawn-Fahey will talk with Dottie Neuberger about future dates available and bring these to Meeting before making a commitment.
3. We participated in the Community Lunch program which is considering a simpler summer sandwich program. Tom Dickinson has been active on this committee and will continue to keep us informed.
4. We considered the projects and benevolences of the Meeting as they reflect Community Outreach and Social Concerns. Our recommendation, given the current economic climate, is that MFM focus on local food, housing and fuel concerns. The hand balm project and Community Suppers are examples of such a focus.
5. In the future, we anticipate further discussion of nuclear power and Vermont Yankee in particular. We will wait on the Meeting for direction about this.
6. We continue to work on establishing better connections with the College community and are pleased to have several new "Febs" attend meeting recently.
7. We plan to work with Ministry and Counsel on Quaker Quest. We propose a small committee to include one to two members from each committee. We note that the Quaker Quest activity might help us with our efforts to reach out to the College community.

FOLLOWUP: MFM Friends approved allocation of \$200 from our contingency fund for the Community Lunch Program.

09.04.09 Nominating Committee: It is time for the annual review of Friends serving on committees and in other positions. The Nominating Committee (Cheryl Mitchell, John Beattie, Don Peabody and Jean Rosenberg) will be asked to check in with all committee and office holders about any changes to be made in preparation for the next fiscal year.

Meeting for Business closed with several minutes of silence.

*An Invitation from
the Ticonderoga Worship Group*

Please consider joining the Ticonderoga Worship Group for Sunday afternoon worship. Come early for a walk or a hike with Mark Moss and/or Mary Kay Glazer and/or Martin Glazer. And, you are welcome to also stay for a simple dinner after worship. We heartily welcome visitors!

TICONDEROGA WORSHIP GROUP

Under the care of Middlebury Meeting

4:00 Sunday afternoons

In the chapel of St. Mary's Catholic Church

Fr. Jogues Place

Ticonderoga, NY

STATE OF THE MEETING/WORSHIP GROUP

TICONDEROGA WORSHIP GROUP

JANUARY 25 & FEBRUARY 22, 2009

The five regular attenders of the Ticonderoga Worship Group met after worship on two Sundays to prayerfully consider the state of the worship group. The queries that rose up for us are: 1) What are our individual hopes and frustrations regarding the worship group? And 2) How is God calling us as a worship group? What is God leading us to?

Responding to the first query revealed a lot of heartfelt longing we have to be in spiritual community together where we can share deeply of ourselves and listen reverently to one another. We are grateful for the worship group in Ti, grateful that we are able to worship together. We want to know each other more deeply in the Spirit, to have more times when we share our stories with each other and to be spiritual companions with each other. Because of our responses to this query, we will create more space to do that.

As we thought about the past 3 years since the worship group started, we realized that many of our hopes have been fulfilled. We are in worship and fellowship together in the area where we live. We are able to live our faith in our home community, which carries a strong sense of integrity. We noted that pretty much everyone in

Ticonderoga, and the surrounding towns, knows we are here, and where and when we worship. We are grateful for the support of others who have helped us to care for the worship group, especially those who travel long distances to convene worship when we are out of town.

We also recognize that we would really like to have just a few more regular attenders; we think the group would feel a bit more stable then. It rose up that if we create more space to share more deeply in the Spirit, our light will shine brighter and will attract others. Still, there was a sense that big numbers may not be so important; instead, we want to discern together what God is calling us to. Even so, we find ourselves doing outreach and education, talking to anyone who is interested about Quakers. We wonder how we might share more about the worship group and connect with those who are interested but are not sure how to get more information. We would like to find a way to have traveling Friends visit and offer programs that we can invite the public to. This is something we explored a bit last year, but didn't get very far with it. Maybe this year.

Because we are geographically spread out, there is concern that the worship group may be too far away from home for some. It is a different community from where some of us live and coming to the worship group might not be a wise use of gas; it also means that energy is used to build a community away from the communities where some of us live. Still, there was a communal sense that we cherish the worship group and each other and agree that it is important for us to be together in worship and fellowship. One member talked about the gifts present among us that have yet to be birthed.

The second query about how God is calling us led to us sharing thoughts about how we might be more visible and inviting in the community. We are in unity about changing our worship location from the Catholic Church to a home a block away, which we will do in the fall. In addition, we may start meeting mid-week at one of our attender's houses in a community nearby. We talked about several ideas for how to be more inviting to those who are interested in Quakerism. We might try some in the coming year. We would also like a stronger connection with Middlebury VT Meeting, one of the two meetings who have us under their care (the other is Old Chatham in NYYM and we also welcome visits from them, though they are much farther away). We talked about trying to visit there regularly as a group, and would also welcome more frequent visits from them.

In reflecting on meeting for worship, we talked about the expectant waiting for the Presence, inviting God's grace however God brings it to us. We want to share that story of our walk with God – share it with each other and with the wider community, inviting others to share their stories. That is how God's story is told – in the stories of our lives. That builds community, and is a manifestation of the kin-dom of God here on earth.

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

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

RECENTLY HOME FROM DOWN UNDER: JEAN AND DAVID ROSENBERG are back in town after 4 months in Australia. Quaker highlights: They attended the Australian Yearly Meeting where Jean co-led a workshop on "Leadings and Leadership in Quaker Meetings" and worked on the Help Desk. David was MC of the Concert (talent show). Jean also led a workshop at the Canberra Regional Residential Weekend on "Centering Down in Quaker Meeting." She also was co-clerk of the Canberra Meeting Ministry Committee. David started a monthly Men's Group and a monthly Friendly Friday Meeting for Music. Jean also co-organized a very successful "Quaker Open Day" (i.e., open house for interested neighbors and community people). She also co-organized a dress-up wine-and-cheese party to benefit Quaker Service Australia (a foreign aid program like AFSC). For these last 2 events, David was sausage sizzler and bartender, respectively. "We bring greetings to our home meeting from Australian Friends."

QUAKERS IN THE ARTS: TANYA LEHMAN is performing in Cinderella, showing at the Town Hall Theater the weekend of May 9. She is playing the role of Gala, the apple seller. She has enjoyed her first experience with community theater. Visit TownHallTheater.org for tickets and show times.

The Middlebury College & Community Chorus will give their Spring concert on Sun. April 12th, Mother's Day, at 3 PM Mead Chapel, Middlebury College. No charge. Our MFM singers are: MIMI LOVE, PRISCILLA BAKER, and PRISCILLA BAKER.

PASSAGES: We note with sadness the passing of STEPHEN R. SASALA of Woodbury, CT, husband of BETSY LOVE and brother-in-law of MIMI LOVE-NICHOLSON AND TOM NICHOLSON. He was the CEO of the Woodbury, CT Chamber of Commerce, he loved his soul mate & wife, Betsy Love, their two Labrador Retrievers ("the boys"), Cape Cod and his family and friends.

KAREN NAWN-FAHEY's father, HUGH NAWN, also passed away recently. Karen and Mimi, and your families, we hold you in the Light!

HEALING: SAS CAREY's son, KAI MAYBERGER, had surgery on his rotator cuff recently. Please help him recover quickly by holding him in the Light.

NEW HOME: GREG DENNIS moves on May 23 to his new digs along Otter Creek, adjacent to Pulp Mill Bridge. Phone and email remain the same (388-0390, GregDennisVtyahoo.com). Mailing address shifts to POB 168, Middlebury .

SERVICE AND STREACH: Otter Creek Yoga has been hosting a monthly class to raise donations for the food shelf. We invite pre-school aged kids to come practice yoga (with their parents) and we have a very fun and silly time together, on the last Thursday of each month!

Joanna Colwell

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Co-Clerks

Becky Stratton (388-2487)

Carrie Reed (388 0436)

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)

John Beattie (352-4416)

Sas Carey (388-7684)

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