

Middlebury Friends Meeting



May
2010

MAY 2010

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|
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| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 [●] | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Every Saturday 10:30 AM Vigil for Peace on the Triangle Green, downtown Middlebury. Until 11 AM.
- Sun. May 9 10:00 AM Annual Celebration of Life and potluck at Quaker Acres on Washington Street, Middlebury
- Mon. May 10 4:00 PM COSA meeting at Ted Colwell's, 388-3632
- Wed. May 12 7:00 PM Men's group
- Sun. May 16 11:30 AM Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun. May 23 2:00 PM Rokeby Museum Opening Day: Vermont's Historic Black Farmers including research on Middlebury farmer, Prince King
- Fri. May 21 5:00 PM Community Supper hosted by MFM at Middlebury Congregational Church
- Sun. June 6 8:30 AM Friendly Forum: Meeting for Worship for Healing (see Minutes, item #8)

cont.

“Eating with the fullest pleasure — pleasure, that is, that does not depend on ignorance — is perhaps the profoundest enactment of our connection with the world. In this pleasure we experience and celebrate our dependence and our gratitude, for we are living from mystery, from creatures we did not make and powers we cannot comprehend”

—WENDELL BERRY

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|-------------------|----------|---|
| Sat. June 19 | 4:00 PM | Meeting for Recommitment of Marriage of Aaron and Laurel Coburn, at their home in Ripton, followed by a potluck meal. For directions call 388-0544. |
| Sun. June 20 | 11:30 AM | Monthly Meeting for Business |
| Sun. June 20 | 2:00 PM: | “Feasting with Robinsons:” Gastronomy student, Jesse North, on her research from the Robinson’s recipe books |
| Sun. July 18 | Noon | Picnic and social gathering at Kingsland Bay State Park, Ferrisburgh; rain date, Sun. Aug. 1 |
| Sun. July 25 | 11:30 AM | Monthly Meeting for Business (summer meeting; no MM in August) |
| Sat/Sun, Dec. 4/5 | | Quarterly Meeting hosted by Bennington and Middlebury meetings, location TBA |

Middlebury Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting for Business

18 April, 2010

Clerk: Becky Stratton

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Barbara Clearbridge (Shulamith), Aaron Coburn, Laurel Coburn, Stewart Kirkaldy, Grace McGrath, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Fran Putnam, Spence Putnam, Bill Schneider, Shulamith, and Chris Stackhouse.

10.04.01 **Minutes for 3/21/10** were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

10.04.02 **Treasurer's Report** (from Spence Putnam) "During the month of March the Meeting had income of \$1,155. Total income for the fiscal year so far is \$7,349, leaving us with \$3,585 to raise in the remaining three months of the fiscal year. The income for the comparable period last year was \$7,410.35. Expenditures during March totaled \$224: \$180 for the children's program and \$44 for the Friends Journal ad. The bank balance at the end of March was \$3,248.72, which includes \$1,200 in the carry-over surplus fund. The bank balance on April 14 was \$4,004.72."

It was clarified that the funds to pay for food for Community Suppers is embedded in the Outreach and Social Action line.

10.04.03 **Worship and Study Committee** (from Becky Holmes, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. *Celebration of Life*: Many details and plans have been put into place for our annual Celebration at Quaker Acres on Washington Street on May 9.
2. *A Friendly Forum on May 2nd* will address the policy of Friends United Meeting (FUM) to bar Gay and Lesbian applicants for employment. The goal of the Forum will be to formulate a minute on this issue to send to FUM and/or New England Yearly Meeting.
3. *State of the Meeting concerns*: Three areas of concern arose from the January State of the Meeting discussion and need attention:
 - a. Streamlining Business Meeting
 - b. Friendly Forum schedule
 - c. Addressing the peer group needs of our older children and teens
4. *Practices Within Middlebury Friends Meeting* pamphlet is being edited.
5. *Traveling Friend*, Debra Humphries, seeks to learn more about the spiritual health of NEYM monthly meetings. She will be invited to visit Middlebury Friends Meeting,

FOLLOW-UP: A suggestion was made that Friendly Forums and other discussions be audio-taped for Friends who cannot attend. Bill Schnieder offered to use his tape

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recorder for this purpose. All present at any recorded discussion would need to consent to being recorded.

10.04.04 Pastoral Care Committee (from Grace McGrath)

The newly designed visitor/newcomer information cards are now in use. These replace the spiral sign-in book.

10.04.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action (from Tom Dickinson, edited for these minutes by the recording clerk)

1. *Community Lunch Program*: 1,292 lunches were served, January through March, including 168 bag lunches delivered to HOPE and CVOEO. Plans for summer operations, May through August, are underway with four church groups to take a full four-day week on a rotating basis so there will be better day-to-day coordination. Each group will cover four weeks during the summer.
2. *FCNL Priorities*: A survey was made via listserv asking for priorities for lobbying the 112th Congress, as request by the Friends Committee on National Legislation. There were 10 responses to the survey, and a total of 20 Friends participated in setting our priorities. The top five, which have been sent to FCNL on-line, were:
 - a. Reduce military spending & redirect resources to long-neglected domestic issues.
 - b. Press for removal of US bases and combat forces from Afghanistan and Iraq.
 - c. Support civil liberties & full access to justice for all persons, regardless of citizenship.
 - d. Work toward reduction in weapons trading which is on the increase, with the US a leading trader.
 - e. Seek ratification of bans on nuclear testing, cluster munitions, and landmines.
3. *May 2 Friendly Forum on FUM policy barring gays and lesbians from employment*: Background information has been gathered, including letters and minutes from other Meetings which show ways to respond to this issue. We will provide access to this material both before and at the Forum.

FOLLOW-UP: *Community Suppers*: Karen Nawn-Fahey has requested that MFM be given the last Sunday in September on a regular basis. She is working on establishing a regular Spring date, as well. To facilitate more complete participation of Friends, it was suggested we post the job list, before each Community Supper, on our Listserv, as well as pass around a sign-up sheet after worship.

10.04.06 Fellowship Committee: (from Fran Putnam)

1. Potlucks are in place for April and May. A summer potluck will take place at Kingsland Bay after meeting on Sunday, July 18; rain date, August 1. Friends are asked to mark both dates on their calendars in case we need to use the rain date.

2. In anticipation of MFM hosting Quarterly Meeting December 4 & 5, discussion has started about providing meals and coordinating with our co-host, Bennington Monthly Meeting. It was agreed that Havurah House served well, in the past, as the location. We will inquire about reserving the space.

10.04.07 Clearness Committee on Recommitment Meeting for Marriage: Spence presented the report of Laurel and Aaron Coburn's Clearness Committee. They will celebrate their 10th. wedding anniversary on June 19 and wish for their marriage to come under the care of MFM. Their request and the report of the clearness committee were happily approved. An Oversight Committee will need to be appointed to help with logistics. Three Friends immediately volunteered: Chris Stackhouse, Karen Nawn-Fahey and Becky Stratton. Any other Friends wishing to serve on this Oversight Committee should contact Becky Stratton.

10.04.08 Meeting for Worship for Healing: Barbara Clearbridge, also called Shulamith, has offered to facilitate a meeting for worship for healing, a practice she learned and experienced with Friends in Chicago. She described the process and explained that this would be in addition to (not instead of) our healing circles held at the beginning of weekly worship. Friends approved moving forward, starting with an exploratory session at the June Friendly Forum on June 6 at 8:30 AM. Shulamith and Worship and Study Committee will coordinate the planning of this first session which will begin with a short time of discussion followed by the practice of a meeting for healing. It was suggested that, eventually, this might be something to consider opening to the wider community.

10.04.09 John Calvi's work to heal victims of and end torture: John is an energy worker and released Friend from Putney Monthly Meeting. For many years he has worked with survivors of torture as well as educating people about torture and ending torture. It was approved that we send the balance of our Contingency fund, \$75, to support his work. It was further approved to invite John to make a presentation in Middlebury. It was agreed that this should be a public presentation and during a college term, perhaps next fall, so that more people can hear him speak. COSA will pursue the possibility of John coming to Middlebury next fall.

Monthly meeting closed with a moment of silence.



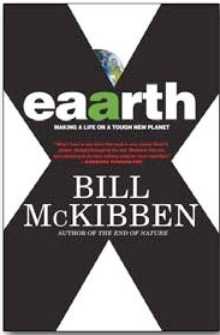
FRIENDLY BOOKS OF INTEREST



Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet

by Bill McKibben

Tines Books, 2010, 254 pgs.



Our Ripton, Vermont neighbor Bill McKibben is probably the most knowledgeable non-scientist on the subject of Global Warming. He's written on this environmental threat before and is active in organizing major world-wide demonstrations calling attention to the issue. In his latest book, *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*, he has updated his statistics and incorporated much of the latest scientific studies. Bill has done us all a great favor in writing a book that is mind changing, and, incidently, full of local Vermont area references.

McKibben writes that in the past forty years the overall make-up of our planet has changed dramatically, to such an extent that he has coined a new name for the planet – *Eaarth*. He feels this new name will make us aware of the different world we now live in. He states, “This is one of those rare moments, the start of a change more thoroughgoing than anything we can read in the records of man, on par with the biggest dangers we can read in the records of rock and ice.”

In the first two chapters he lists hundreds of examples of how higher temperatures, caused by our profligate burning of fossil fuels, are changing everything on the planet. He mentions that certain places on the globe are seeing much-increased amounts of rainfall while other locations experience draught and increased desertification. As one who has never liked lightning, he quotes scientists who are recording substantial increases in lightning strikes over the earth, a key factor in the number and intensity of wildfires. The rise of ocean levels, the acidification of the seas and consequent erosion of coral reefs, the melting of the age-old glaciers in the polar regions and atop of the high mountain ranges are all mentioned and much more. By the end of these two chapters, I believe most of us would be convinced that we are deep trouble.

Fortunately, in the final two chapters of the book McKibben offers us the promise that there are solutions already available to allow us to leave a livable world for our grandchildren and their children. However, it requires a number of steps that must be begun immediately, before it is too late. These include a drastic reduction in the amount of carbon burned by our factories, cars, farmers, and homes, bringing the percentage of carbon dioxide in the air to below 350 parts per million. To do this will require major changes in the way we live. We will have to live more locally, change our eating habits

to consume less meat and more vegetables and fruits, switch our use of private automobiles to mass transit, more trains and less air travel, consume less of everything, and learn to find more of our pleasures and joys in our neighborhoods.

This is a germinal book that I highly recommend to make all of us more aware of our immanent danger, and to help us find the courage to personally make changes and demand that our governments start at once on a major program to take those steps that need to be corporately done.

— Ted Colwell

News of Quakerly Interest

joanna@ottercreekyoga.com

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

Passages: We note with sadness the passing of our dear Friend BURT KNOPP, who died on March 31, 2010. We will especially be thinking of him at our Celebration of Life, which was held at his home in Orwell for so many years.

Good Work: DAVID ANDREWS has retired from the Counseling Service of Addison County after seven years as Director of Development and Community Relations. He continues as part-time interim co-Pastor at the First Congregational Church of Cornwall, but looks forward to more time for reading, sailing, woodworking, and his granddaughters.

Our Friends OLIVIA GRUGAN AND WYATT ORME have been awarded a Projects for Peace grant for work in Guatemala! Of 25 proposals submitted by Middlebury College students, two were awarded funding. They submitted a project titled "Unveiling Reality – A Library and Oral History Project in Guatemala." In an effort to address the daily violence in Guatemala, Grugan and Orme want to help increase the youngest Guatemalans' understanding of the 36-year civil war that ended in 1996, which the Middlebury students believe is the source of much of the country's lingering instability.

A great photo of MARY LANGWORTHY appeared in the *Addison Independent*. Mary was recognized by the John Graham Shelter for her volunteer work with children of residents of the shelter during a weekly play group.

KEVIN LEHMAN is running for the MNFC Board of Directors.

GLENN GOODWIN finished his tenure as building coordinator for Habitat for Humanity here in Middlebury - the new house was dedicated on April 17.

WENDY GOODWIN is hard at work on the annual auction for Hospice. It will be held this year at the Town Hall Theater on May 14 - come join us for dessert, dancing and some great buys on art and various restaurant and gift certificates.

Travels: DAVID and JEAN ROSENBERG are homeward bound from Australia, with stop-overs in Tbilisi, Georgia (to see ELI, KARA, and ASA) and Washington, D.C.

(with mother-to-be ELIZABETH and JONATHAN), before arriving in Middlebury on Monday, May 10.

WENDY and GLENN GOODWIN are recently back from a week of music, food, and soul in New Orleans. They had a tour of the neighborhood where Habitat for Humanity is building 150 houses a year and also the Lower Ninth Ward where Brad Pitt is leading the way building green houses with unique architecture.

Music: Friends are warmly invited to attend the College & Community Chorus Spring Concert, Sunday May 9th, 3 PM, Mother's Day, Mead Chapel, Middlebury College. Singers from MFM are PRISCILLA BAKER, WENDY GOODWIN and MIMI LOVE-NICHOLSON. Come and enjoy the music of many voices.

TANYA LEHMAN was a sweetly singing nun, (and wildly dancing caterer!) in *The Sound of Music* at Town Hall Theater.

Higher Education: Josie Schneider will be going to Bard College in the beautiful Hudson Valley. She loves the campus' open space, inspired architecture, and solid grounding in writing and thinking to handle complex problems from an interdisciplinary perspective. Congratulations, Josie!

Exciting News Scoops: SPENCE PUTNAM has decided to run for the Vermont House of Representatives with the able assistance of Fran, who has agreed to act as campaign manager. He will be running for the seat vacated by Representative Chris Bray of New Haven, who is running for Lieutenant Governor. Go, Putnams!!!

— 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