

# Middlebury Friends Meeting

October  
2017

## *Inside:*

*Calendar of Events*

*News of Quakerly  
Interest*

*Reports from NEYM*


*Minutes of July 30  
& Sept. 17*



“We learn from our gardens  
to deal with the most urgent  
question of the time:  
How much is enough?”

— WENDELL BERRY

## OCTOBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 <sup>○</sup>	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 <sup>●</sup>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. Oct. 1, 2017		World Quaker Day
Mon. Oct. 2	7:00 PM	Read Aloud Group at Mitchell's
Wed. Oct. 4	7:15 PM	Leadings Group, location TBA
Sun. Oct. 8	8:30 AM	Worship & Study Committee at Havurah
	9:00 AM	Earthcare Committee at Havurah
Mon. Oct. 9	4:30 PM	Experiment with Light, location TBA
Tues. Oct. 10	4:30 PM	COSA at Faith Lowell's
Sun. Oct. 15	8:30 AM	Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun. Oct. 15	4:00 PM	Community Conversation on Climate Justice at Middlebury Congregational Church
Fri. Oct. 20	6:00 PM	Potluck at Ilsley Library, sponsored by Earthcare
Sun. Oct. 22	8:30 AM	Friendly Forum: Racism and NEYM Minute on White Supremacy
Mon. Oct. 23	7:30 PM	Men's Group at Tom Baskett's
Thu. Oct. 26	4:15 PM	Experiment with Light, location TBA
Wed. Nov. 1	7:15 PM	Leadings group, location TBA
Dec. 2 & 3		QM at Burlington Monthly Meeting

### NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon  
lucym@shoreham.net



---

CHERYL MITCHELL just had the opportunity to be part of planning and implementing a summer institute for 200 early childhood career professionals. It was held on the campus of Castleton University and offered 10 graduate/undergraduate courses sponsored by 10 different colleges and institutions. It's part of the plan to assure this critical group of teachers/caregivers can attain BA degrees and teaching licenses while they are still working and without having to incur school loan debt.

—Lucy

## REPORT FROM NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING, 2017

*Dear Middlebury Meeting Friends,*

*Seventeen of us attended the 2017 New England YM sessions this year at Castleton State, in August, for 1 or more days. We were 14 adults and 3 children among about 750 Friends. I have gathered the following responses from among our attendees, about how the Sessions were and what they particularly responded to. I send them out in hopes that they will inspire some more of us to attend next year, when it will be at Castleton again.*

*Jean Rosenberg, September 2017*

FROM LUCY MCKEON:

This year I didn't stay at Castleton. This of course had plusses and minuses but we are so lucky to have that choice. The important part of NEYM for me has been the anchor groups. I have really loved getting to know people with an array of backgrounds who are committed Quakers yet bring such different and refreshing perspective. It allows us to get a reality check on our personal experience with our home meetings and feel a part of a bigger movement.

By making commitments at home, I couldn't follow through with some things that have been troubling me such as the white supremacy minute but was able to go to the threshing session which added perspectives I hadn't even thought about.

There is a lovely rails to trails path that starts behind the football field and goes the 7 miles to Poultney, which I biked on several times last year and rode on once this year.

FROM SAS CAREY:

One of my favorite parts was a workshop on all the Legacy Grant Recipients. This to me represented the excitement and energy of young and older people who are following leadings, doing social action, working with Cuban Friends, saving energy for their Meeting Houses, and basically doing the things that the committees are discussing.

I also like the way Quakers discuss things and are so respectful.

FROM MOLLY ANDERSON:

This was my first time to attend YM at Castleton, although I used to attend regularly and clerked the NEYM Earthcare Witness Committee for several years. Since I hadn't been able to attend YM for a few years, it was especially lovely to see old friends from Friends Mtg at Cambridge (my home meeting) and elsewhere, and young people with whom I had worked, who are now leaders and staff. Under the occasional tedium of

*cont.*

Meeting for Business and sometimes boneheaded responses to what has been said, Spirit is clearly moving in Yearly Meeting as people search for truth and Light. Helping the search for Light was plenty of humor: Quakers are good at recognizing what a “peculiar people” we are, and poking fun at that.

It was great to see that climate action and racial justice are central themes of YM now, and YM as a whole accepts the importance of both issues in being able to move forward on living out our testimonies.[Keynote speaker] Ruby Sayles’s talks were insightful: she spoke about the real estate industrial complex and ways that people of color are being forced from their homes, among many other things. Her objections to the term “marginalized” to refer to people who are oppressed made me re-think my own use of language. I also thought a lot about what it means to “tenderize” my heart, and how difficult it is to stay “tender” when the world treats us harshly.

The high point of YM for me was George Lakey’s workshop on Viking Economics and how the US can shift to an equitable economy that is able to respond to climate change. He’s a very engaging speaker and had great responses to some of the common objections (e.g., Norway could achieve the progress it’s made because it’s not very diverse, but that would never be possible here). I’m inspired to try to get him to Middlebury for a talk.

FROM JEAN ROSENBERG:

Here’s what I loved about attending the 2017 NEYM sessions for 5 days:

- The community of Friends, that felt like a Beloved Community as I fell into conversation with others walking across campus to a meeting or meal or workshop or sitting down to eat together, or listening to others in meeting for business. People were friendly and welcoming, and interesting. All ages were present and participating. And it was clear that the children’s programs were beautiful.
- The Bible half hours, given by the wonderful Marty Grundy, that were inspiring, fascinating, profound, and charming. She spoke about spiritual transformation, illustrating Romans 12:2 with how Quakers ancient and modern have experienced this. You can read or listen to them on the NEYM.org website.
- Hearing about the ministry and work of New England Friends, in my anchor group, workshops, business meetings, and conversation.
- Making stronger friendships with people from other meetings, including spiritual friendships.
- Attending business meetings (yes, I even liked that, though I played hooky a couple of times) to experience our Quaker life at the New England level, as we addressed important matters that we work on together regarding climate change, challenging racism, and minutes on welcoming immigrants and addressing the

*cont.*

Israel/Palestine conflict. It was good to see and hear the NEYM staff, committee members, presiding clerk, and participating members, as this gave me such a sense of Quaker ways and concerns. We are in no way perfect, but we are serious about our Quakerism and we have lots of love. We enrich each other profusely.

- It was a palpably spirit-filled week, not every moment but repeatedly.
- I came away refreshed, having learned about Quakerism and faith, connected heartfully with dear people and with several concerns, and felt the spirit moving in my heart and our hearts.

FROM BARBARA CLEARBRIDGE, SHULAMITH:

From our new book *Practicing Peace* by Catherine Whitmire, quoting Deborah Fisch: “AF/friend and elder I know who is a historian... said, ‘Early Friends went to Meeting expecting to be changed.’ [They] expected to be changed every time they met. Every time! They reminded us about being willing to wrestle with God. Remember that Jacob was changed by that experience. Early friends wrestled with God minute by minute, second by second, breath by breath.”

This sums up to me what this year’s Sessions was about. The theme was transformation: what helps us and hinders us, and what we can do to help bring it about in the world. I find, each year, that Sessions does the work of transformation in me. It reinvigorates my Quaker life. It always gives me at least one new idea or way of looking at things. I don’t participate in many of the business meetings because I don’t have the time during the year to be active on most issues. So my experience of Sessions is the social life, workshops, nightly singing, an anchor group (a small group that meets every day to talk about whatever people want to talk about) and the Beloved Community that we create together.

I was told that this year there were over 750 people present, including many children. Though I recognize more people each year as I keep coming, mostly it is a community of people who don’t know me. We don’t have a history together and so they see me without any expectations or opinion. This allows me to be fully myself. It’s not that I can’t be myself with Middlebury Friends Meeting, it’s just that when people know each other for awhile, we perceive each other with expectations, with experiences shading our vision. It’s a goal of mine to always allow people to be new and different every time I see them; this is a difficult practice.

When people speak at Sessions, especially in anchor groups, we expect them to be wise and worth listening to. We expect them to be funny and charming and inspirational. We bring our best selves to every part of this gathering and we look for each other’s best selves. In such an environment, one expands to fill more of one’s potential.

God is at the center of my life and I know that’s not true for all Quakers. I am more

like a nun-Quaker. Sessions is full of people like me. No matter what kind of Quaker you are, Sessions is full of people like you. It can only be wonderful fun and revitalizing to spend five or six days together. Some people find the best way is to live together so as to be totally removed from mundane life. I find commuting is best so that I can tend to work emergencies, the garden, my mother's needs, and so on and then go to Sessions later in the morning with a clear mind, rather than wondering about these things, or trying to tend to them during Sessions.

I recommend you try even just two days of attending to get the feel of it. One day is not enough, because it takes that day to let go of day-to-day living and really submerge oneself in the feeling of being there. I know that those in my anchor group who planned a short stay all yearned to be able to stay longer when it came time to leave. Because how often is one surrounded by unconditional love from 750 people of all ages?

---

## Middlebury Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business

30 July, 2017

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Win Colwell, Manya Dickinson, Tom Dickinson, Brud Leedom, Grace McGrath, Lucy McKeon, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Peter Schenck, and Lianna Tennial

17.07.01 **Monthly meeting opened** with a reading from Douglas Gwyn's *A Sustainable Life* about the covenant of the Light

17.07.02 **June 26, 2017 minutes** accepted as printed in the newsletter.

17.07.03 **Clerk's Report:** The co-clerks have added Spence Putnam to the Nominating Committee, joining Sas Carey, Lucy McKeon and Don Peabody.

17.07.03 **Treasurer's Report** (Karen Nawn-Fahey)

All statements in this report are as of July 29, 2017.

From June 25 through July 29 the Meeting had member donations of \$1790.

From June 25 through July 29, Meeting expenditures totaled \$2389.20. This includes \$120 for childcare, \$650 to Havurah, \$125 to NWQM, \$725 to NEYM, \$100 to Midd Summer Lunch Program, \$400 to NEYM Equalization Fund for Summer

cont.

Sessions, \$180.25 for Worship and Study Summer Reading Materials, and \$88.95 for Library materials. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$6374.60

Today's report included a summary of the past quarter and where we stand at the mid-point of the fiscal year. Currently we have received about 1/3 of our anticipated contributions. Although we typically receive a spike in donations in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, Karen noted it is hard to plan for future payments. Friends are encouraged to make contributions, as they are able. They can be sent to Karen Nawn-Fahey, 71 North Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT 05753

**17.07.04 Nominating Committee** reported on 2 new appointments. Molly Anderson will begin to serve on COSA. Lucy will begin as Archivist.

**17.07.05 Worship and Study** (Peter Schenck)

- State of the Meeting survey: Lucy reported she has only received back two completed surveys. She will resend and hopes more Friends will share their thoughts and input about last January's State of the Meeting meeting and general thoughts about our process of reflecting on the past year and preparing our report.
- YM White Supremacy minute and Friendly Forum: **Peter has received 5 copies of Coates book and 3 PHPs**, which Friends are encouraged to read in preparation for upcoming discussions in the fall. These are now available for Friends to borrow.
- Friendly Forums: Sept. 24, 8:30am, Earthcare will prepare and lead; Oct. 22, 8:30 AM, White Supremacy YM minute, led by Jean Rosenberg; Nov. 26, 11:30 AM (tentative) follow up to White Supremacy FF, e.g. How "isms" permeate and direct our lives; Dec. 10, 11:30 AM (tentative) follow up to SOM surveys ; Jan. 28, 2018, 3:00 PM, State of the Meeting meeting
- Response to \$2,000 donation: There will be a called meeting on Sunday, August 20, at 4:00 PM

FOLLOW-UP: Peter will ask Chris Stackhouse to check about using Havurah House on Aug. 20 for the called meeting. A facilitator is needed.

**17.07.06 Committee on Outreach and Social Action – COSA** (Cheryl Mitchell, Lianna Tennial, Tom Dickinson)

Plans for the September 29 Community Supper are taking shape, as well as planning for meals for QM at Bethany Birches, September 8-10. It is not clear, yet, if MFM will be asked to contribute to the cost of food provisions for QM. It is suggested Finance Committee consider, for future budgets, if the QM line item should be increased or we should make an additional contribution to help QM pay for the increasing costs of meeting at Bethany Birches. Karen suggests, for this year, we use money from the COSA line item for food reimbursement and support for Bethany Birches, if needed.

*cont.*



It was noted that the MFM letter regarding deportation of community members appeared in the *Addison Independent* on July 27. Tom Baskett will look into sending it to the *Addison Eagle* and Front Porch Forum.

#### 17.07.07 Earthcare Committee (Fran Putnam)

1. Actions for the Earth: We encourage anyone who attends meeting to feel free to circulate the jar with blank pieces of paper so anyone who wishes can write down their "Actions for the Earth" and then have someone read a few out loud each week. We would love to see this practice carried out every Sunday during announcements even when members of our committee are not present.
2. Friendly Forum on the Concept of a Carbon Tax: David Andrews, along with Fran and Spence Putnam, are planning a Friendly Forum on this topic, including efforts at the national, state, and personal level. The date is September 24, 8:30 AM.
3. Report from ICAN: Members of ICAN are helping to organize a "Community Conversations" event, on the topic of Climate Justice scheduled for October 15, 4:00-5:30 PM at the Middlebury Congregational Church. Members of our Meeting are encouraged to save the date and show support for this important program.
4. Future Actions of the Committee: Molly Anderson plans to attend Yearly Meeting and will write up a report for our Newsletter on what is going on at that level regarding Earthcare activities. She will find out when the Yearly Meeting Earthcare workshops are being held so anyone interested can attend.

#### 17.07.08 Pastoral Care No report

**17.07.09 Fellowship Committee:** (Spence Putnam) We will be holding our annual summer picnic after Meeting on August 13 or 20 (rain date) at Branbury State Park. Please bring picnic food to share in time to eat at 1:00 PM. Jake and Becky will be going early to reserve space and tables near the waterfront. Bring your own plates, cups, and utensils, and bring lawn games if you have some. There will be no hospitality provided after Meeting that day.

In case of doubtful weather look for an email earlier that morning. The rain date is the following week.

**17.07.10 Karen Nawn-Fahey** announced she will be attending a one day Parker Palmer training, in Burlington on August 21, to learn how to facilitate community meetings (circles) based on his book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy*. **Grace McGrath** reported on attending a Thich Nhat Hahn silent retreat for educators.

**17.07.11 NEYM sessions at Castleton U.** It is noted the workshop schedule includes two MFM led workshops: Sas on leadings, and Jean and shulamith on Experiment in Light. In anticipation of future budgets, it is suggested MFM make a contribution to NEYM for the amount of money that represents the full cost of attendance for one person at yearly meeting sessions.

Meeting closed after a brief moment of silence.

# Middlebury Friends Meeting

## Monthly Meeting for Business

17 September, 2017

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Tom Baskett, Tom Dickinson, Joe Garren, Brud Leedom, Grace McGrath, and Cheryl Mitchell.

17.09.01 **Monthly meeting opened** with a reading from *A Language for the Inward Landscape* by Brian Drayton & William Taber, Jr.

17.09.02 **July 30, 2017 minutes** accepted as printed in the newsletter.

17.09.03 **Clerk's Report:** Tom Baskett delivered the following report of the August 20 called meeting concerning the \$2,000 gift from Rachel Harper-Carey.

Thirteen friends met on August 20th in a called meeting whose purpose was to discuss the \$2,000 gift from Rachel Harper-Carey to be used by the Meeting to “create the world to which God calls us in these tumultuous times”.

We explored our own reactions to these times and how difficult it is to identify effective responses. Suggestions that were aired included these:

- Focus on doing things in our own Addison County community. We are already engaged in community responses to “these times”. Expand on things we are already doing like supporting responses to climate change.
- Participate in or extend actions already happening such as Community Conversations at the Congregational Church.
- Reach out to other religious groups (Baptists and Catholics) who don't usually attend these kind of progressive community events. These congregations also often include migrants.
- Reach out to the new leader at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Middlebury.
- Open contact with these other churches by attending their services and meeting people.
- Reach out beyond the Christian community.
- Provide a time during the week for people to come together in silence and hold each other and the issues that trouble us. A non-denominational time of prayer.
- Approach people with an “I want to get to know you and learn from you” rather than “I have something to give you”.
- Participate in local migrant activities: Methodist church offers their premises to Mexican laborers on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

cont.

- Support larger Quaker groups such as FCNL, AFSC, etc.
- Use the \$2,000 as seed money for activities that would require greater funding.

*Recommendation to meeting for business: Call a follow up meeting to discern and plan how specifically to use the \$2,000 gift.*

FOLLOW UP: Friends agreed to form an ad hoc committee consisting of both co-clerks plus Tom Dickinson, Joe Garren and any other Friends interested in being part of the committee. The clerk's report will be sent out on the listserv as well as an invitation for Friends to join the committee and/or offer further thoughts.

**17.09.03 Treasurer's Report** (Karen Nawn-Fahey) All statements in this report are as of September 15, 2017.

From July 29 through September 15, the Meeting had member donations of \$1175.

From July 29 through September 15, Meeting expenditures totaled \$180 for childcare. When these checks clear, the bank balance will be \$7369.60.

FOLLOWUP: Friends approved \$124.49 reimbursement for breakfast food for QM at Bethany Birches.

**17.09.04 Worship and Study** (Priscilla Baker)

1. YM White Supremacy minute and Friendly Forum: We explored the idea of using the minute as the context from which to start our exploration into racism. Jean and Leigh will facilitate.
2. Upcoming Friendly Forums dates and topics
  - Sept. 24, 8:30 AM Earthcare will prepare and lead, with focus on putting a price on carbon
  - Oct. 22, 8:30 AM Racism and YM minute on White Supremacy, led by Jean Rosenberg and Leigh Harder
  - Nov. 26, 11:30 AM (tentative) Follow up to White Supremacy FF
  - Dec. 10, 11:30 AM Poetry or other reflective opportunity
  - Jan. 28, 2018 Annual State of the Meeting meeting (in lieu of a FF)
3. W & S retreat: Saturday Oct. 14, 9 AM – 1 PM.
4. Semi-programmed meeting for worship option: We considered a suggestion for exploring a different format of worship, in addition to our First Day worship. This semi-programmed format has been used in other NE meetings. Jean will contact Jonathan Vogel-Borne about coming to Middlebury to guide us in considering how we might adapt this within our meeting.

**17.09.05 Committee on Outreach and Social Action – COSA** (Cheryl Mitchell)

The committee is exploring (1) ways for COSA to do some of its work online, (2) how to continue work with Addison County Migrant Ally Group as well as Migrant Justice, a state wide advocacy group led by migrants.

*cont.*

**17.09.06 Earthcare Committee** (sent by Fran Putnam) Three Upcoming events sponsored by Earthcare Committee related to putting a price on carbon pollution  
**Sunday, September 24, 8:30 AM: Friendly Forum with David Andrews, Fran Putnam, and Spence Putnam.** Title: *Putting a Price on Carbon at the policy and personal levels to help preserve our planet for future generations.*

**Friday, October 20, 6:00 PM, Ilesley Library: Potluck and presentation/discussion with Tom Hughes,** Executive Director of Energy Independent Vermont, on the Vermont Campaign to put a Price on Carbon and how we might support it as a Meeting and as individuals.

**November (Date TBA): A showing of the film “Priceless” and panel discussion,** at Middlebury College, on a national campaign to put a price on carbon.

Also:

**Climate Vigils: First Saturdays at 10:30 AM,** back to original location at Triangle Park

**“Community Conversation” on Climate Justice: Sunday, October 15, 4:00-5:30 PM,** Middlebury Congregational Church

**17.09.07 Pastoral Care: (Grace)** On Sept. 7 Pastoral Care sponsored a gathering of Friends to share reflections on how we are doing in these challenging times. Twelve Friends considered: What are we concerned about? What makes us hopeful? What actions can we take?

**17.09.08 Fellowship Committee:** will co-facilitate an Oct. 20 potluck with EarthCare

**17.09.09 Quarterly Meeting:** A letter from QM clerk Penny Wright was read, expressing gratitude for various ways Middlebury Friends support the ongoing livelihood of Northwest Quarterly Meeting. Cheryl Mitchell read a reflection written by Lianna Tennial. It was agreed to publish these documents in the newsletter. Other Friends offered verbal reflections on the success of the gathering. There was minimal business with focus on social and inter-Friendly activities.

Meeting closed with a 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](mailto:winslow.colwell@gmail.com)

News of Quakerly Interest — [lucym@shoreham.net](mailto: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](http://www.middleburyquakers.org)

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to

[winslow.colwell@gmail.com](mailto:winslow.colwell@gmail.com)