



# Middlebury Friends Meeting

October  
2018

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“If you find a path with no obstacles,  
it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.”

—FRANK A. CLARK

## OCTOBER 2018

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

- Oct. 7            10 am            Intergenerational Meeting with Faith and Play Lesson
- Oct. 8            4:30 pm            Experiment with Light at Cheryl Mitchell’s house at
- Oct. 13           10:30:30           VT Interfaith Power and Light Conference, Faith  
Methodist Church, S. Burlington.  
Keynote Speaker—George Lakey
- Oct. 14           11:00            Worship and Study Committee Meeting at Havurah  
House
- Oct. 14           9:00            Earth Care Committee Meeting at Havurah House
- Oct. 21           8:30            Meeting for Business

## NEWS OF QUAKERLY INTEREST

Collected by Lucy McKeon  
lucym@shoreham.net



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Several Middlebury Friends served on the planning committee for the Vision for Vermont Summit held on September 15, and even more participated at the Summit. Over 100 people from all over Vermont attended this event, inspired in part by GEORGE LAKEY, our fellow Friend, author, and activist. It was a day filled with deep listening, intense conversations, and the sharing of new ideas.

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MARK MOSS & MARY KAY GLAZER were very worried about Hurricane Florence. “It was looking like it was coming right toward us for a long time. We didn’t want to be here for it so we went to our daughter’s in Greensboro the Wednesday before it hit. The storm ended up dipping south enough that Greenville was mostly spared. (A state record of 30 inches fell in a small community near the ocean.) We came home on Sunday and our house was just fine, thank goodness. An hour or so from us, things are much, much different. Catastrophic flooding. Many communities on the coast and south of us will have a lot of loss and a lot of clean-up to do. It’s hard to see that kind of destruction. We feel for those folks and am very grateful that we are not faced with that. Very grateful.

And, you may know that MARTIN is now married to SARAH! Wedding was Aug 25. Martin has started a job teaching science with the Rochester school district. It’s a magnet school, the Leadership Academy for Young Men. Sarah is freelancing as a graphic designer and illustrator.”



—Lucy

## BREAD AND ROSES, TOO PROJECT

Friends,

Thank you all so much for being co-sponsors of this Vermont Council on the Humanities VT Reads Project.

Here is the quick report:

Thirty people read the books we were given, (by recirculating them as they finished.) if you still have a copy please feel free to either keep it or pass it on to someone else.

Two events:

The Read Aloud Evening was great, attended by Willard, Lianna, and Cheryl. The idea of holding it the same evening as the Bernie rally on the Green, while a perfect fit thematically, was not a good choice logistically. If you would like a treat, ask Willard to recite the libretto of Hamilton for you. Amazing and a great example of the ways art helps us to reflect on history.

The Tour of the VT Carving Studio and Sculpture Gallery was outstanding. Seven of us non-sculptors (including the artist Sarah Wesson) joined the local artists to explore the grounds, see the current exhibit, watch works in progress (including a bas-relief of the African American Vermonters who were part of the 54th regiment during the civil war). We met the artist who counted twenty-two ancestors from this group. Then B Amore (the founder and a member of our meeting) gave us an illustrated talk about the history of the studio, her immersion in the stone sheds in Italy, the historic strike in West Rutland, and the relationship between the work of art and the community.

Copies of the book and the historical quarterly about the strike are now in the MFM library.

Thanks for making this project possible.

— Cheryl Mitchell



## REPORT ON MFM: OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF VERMONT

Twelve of us met at Treleven farm on Aug. 26, 2018 to work together to create a vision for the future of our Vermont community, to consider what Quakers particularly can bring to the vision and the work, and to open consideration of whether we are called to focus and work as a meeting on any particular contribution.

We brainstormed, explained, considered, assessed, and summarized. Here is what we came up with.

*cont.*

## I. Our brainstorm of our vision included:

Equal opportunity, universal services (e.g., housing assistance for all). Understanding and respect, clean environment without contaminants or toxins or toxic stress, pollutants, good health for people and the ecosystem, healthcare as a human right, welcoming for everyone, racial justice, standing up for unwelcomed people and for justice and truth, political civility, playfulness in sports rather than fierce competition, flexibility and adaptability, restorative justice in schools & workplaces & families & the criminal justice system, a universal living wage, fairness, accessible educational opportunities for all, access to the arts, cooperation and community, beauty, joy, peace, acknowledging all views, education and encouragement for nonviolence, conflict resolution education and services, kindness, caring for each other and the earth

## II. What can Quakers offer in particular?

We identified several practices or approaches from Quaker process and practice:

- Deep listening
- The tradition of equality
- Creating opportunities to listen to others
- Going to where people are
- Giving and caring for basic needs without strings
- Finding common ground

## III. We offered summaries of our work:

- We want a Vermont where everyone has the right to food, shelter, safety, and community, and where we respect each other and the earth
- We work together to assure all our basic needs are met.
- Reaching common good requires that we listen to each other, respect each other, and not shut anyone out. We must commit to respecting the institutions of democracy.
- A life-cycle view can help to inform the vision. Basic needs must be satisfied in order to go beyond them.
- Quaker principles expanded the vision of the “Founding Fathers:” equal rights and equal opportunities.

IV. We closed with a potluck supper. It was wonderful to listen and speak with each other.

— Jean Rosenberg reporting

PROFILES OF SPIRIT  
SUSANNAH McCANDLESS

Susannah McCandless was born in San Francisco, California. She has special memories of living near Golden Gate Park, where “there was a wonderful carousel, and slides that went down the side of a hill, and you had to sit on cardboard to go down.”

She says of her brother, Jonathan, who is three years younger than her:

“He and I grew up playing together a lot. My brother has a learning disability, which meant that he learned things differently, and that helped me understand that all of us learn things differently. And I think that helped me to be more patient with other people.”

Susannah and her family moved to Burlington, Vermont, when she was eight years old. When she was 14 years old:

“I went to a sledding party with Young Friends from the Middlebury area, which included your [Cole and Eliza’s] dad, Benji, and his best friend Ethan Mitchell. Ethan Mitchell came sliding down the hill and landed at my feet. And he got a bloody nose, ‘cause he fell off the sled ‘cause he was going too fast. And that was the first time I met him. We ended up becoming friends, and later on when we were grownups we fell in love and eventually we got married. And that was how I came to live in the Middlebury area, because Ethan was born on a farm in New Haven, Vermont.”

Now Susannah and Ethan live on that same farm, with their daughter, Lucretia.

Susannah once spent a special time living in Costa Rica on a community farm near a Quaker town called San Luis de Monteverde. And she has traveled to many places around the world. She likes to go birdwatching, and in New Zealand she got to see a kiwi. She works for a small non-profit called Global Diversity Foundation. She told the kids:

“We work with communities all over the world, especially indigenous communities like Native American people, or other people who have lived in places for a very long time and because they’ve lived there for so long they know a whole lot about the places where they live. We work to support indigenous people in becoming researchers and scientists so that they can write down, and document, and show the rest of the world the wonderful ways that they understand their place.”



When asked “What’s your favorite part of being a Quaker?” Susannah answered:

“I think that because I’ve been Quaker ever since I was born, with my mom and dad who were Quaker, and even my grandparents were Quakers, it has helped me make connections. It’s also a part of who I am, a part of my identity. If I go somewhere in the world I can look and I can see if there are other Quakers, and then I can go have lunch with them, or go to Quaker Meeting, or stay at their house. So one of my favorite things about being Quaker is that it has given me the chance to connect with people who are very different from me in many ways—in how they grew up, what they do in the world, but we have something in common, and we can start a really deep conversation and have a deep connection.

And here’s one other thing I would tell you about me, that’s connected to being able to talk to people all over the world. Because I thought everybody had the light of God in them, I thought it would be fun to be able to talk to lots of different people, so I learned different languages. So I can speak several languages. English and Spanish and French and some Russian and some German.”

*Profile written by Lianna Tennal, Alice Mae, and Willard. Based on an interview conducted by Alice Mae, Cole, Eliza, Pema, Taber, and Willard.*





The Earthcare Committee is inaugurating a new initiative to highlight some of the ways individuals in our Meeting have nurtured the Earth in their everyday or professional lives. This entirely voluntary program is meant to share ideas among us, provide inspiration, and give us new insights into how we can protect our environment.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE  
CHRIS STACKHOUSE

**When did you first become aware of the need to take special care of the earth?**

Probably after reading *Silent Spring*.

**What are some of the first actions that you took to care for the earth?**

Living simply, driving a VW bug, growing an organic garden, working on a farm that won awards for erosion control measures.

**What are some of the people or events or other sources that have influenced your attitude toward caring for the earth?**

Growing up around Quakers, and at age 7 having a my Granddad Nicholson get me up at 5:00 AM for bird walks. I took a couple of week long, summer canoe trips in Indiana, led by Dick Parsons, Quaker Math teacher. He would always have a riverside Meeting for Worship, which were very powerful. Learning from Friends at MFM. Attending Efficiency Vermont's Better Buildings by Design conferences for over a decade, and integrating green building practices, every chance we get.

**What actions do you take in your daily life that demonstrate caring for the earth?**

I send love to, and draw strength from, every bit of nature around me. I cry when learning what our leaders are doing to the Earth today. I sign petitions, donate money, and pray for our Earth and its vulnerable creatures. I accidentally bought a small house in town, (1,586 sq ft), with a tiny lawn. It needed major renovations, which over time resulted in our ability to heat it with wood pellets, and/or heat pumps. Those renovations allowed me to use pile of salvaged materials. We bought enough solar panels, in Chester, VT, to supply 50% of our electrical needs. We converted to LED lighting, compost, and our trash/recycling is hauled away by a horse drawn wagon. We have replaced our older frig with one more efficient, and our new washer/dryer also save water and power.





We celebrate our son Cooper, who has become a leader in our local construction community, teaching/building passive and high performance housing.

We celebrate his younger brother Beecher, living in Brooklyn, who has never owned a vehicle. We celebrate our son Jack, who practices the latest in earth friendly farming. We respect our son Dusty who works as an engineer in N. Dakota, drilling for oil and gas. His work serves as a mirror, reflecting our ongoing consumption of those fossil fuels.

Three years ago we purchased a small, off the grid camp near Elizabethtown, NY, on Lincoln Pond. It is a one hour drive that reconnects us to the beauty and sacredness of Nature. We've put many weekend of work into rehabilitating it. We look forward to sharing its healing powers with friends and family in the years ahead.

**What actions do you take in your working life that demonstrate caring for the earth, past or present?**

Our small residential construction business is run from our small home office. This avoids the carbon footprint of another space, plus travel, and maintenance. Jill is able to work from home, and we generally work in or near Middlebury, turning away jobs even 45 minutes away, if possible. Our annual mileage is less than half of that in our earlier years. I have successfully trained my crew to recycle everything possible. Thanks to our awesome Transfer station, we can repurpose tons of good components from remodels, that would normally be thrown in a dumpster. In my role as a Design-Builder, I'm able to shape projects to include many energy efficient features. At least as many as consensus and the budget allow. For every moment I feel guilty for working so hard, I also take solace in doing those good works, and raising the consciousness of the other tradespeople around us.

**What ideas do you have for how you will carry on this work in the future?**

Buy the other 50% of our solar panels. Trade my diesel fueled truck for an electric truck, (coming soon!) Spray foam our basement foundation, to air seal and insulate us even better. Maybe install polycarbonate , interior storm panels, to achieve near triple glazing on our bigger windows. That would not only reduce our carbon, but make us more comfortable, and eliminate frost build up on the glass. Retire from running such a demanding and unpredictable business. Work fewer hours as a consultant or an affordable designer, helping folks do Earth friendly construction or remodeling. Walk, bicycle, carpool, ride the bus, take a train. Kayak a lot more, grow an organic garden again, sit in the woods, get to know my neighbors of all kinds. Attend Meeting more often.

# Monthly Meeting for Business

16 September, 2018

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Priscilla Baker

Present were Grace McGrath, Brud Leedom, Tom Dickinson, Debbie Ramsdell, Spence Putnam, Priscilla Baker, Karen Nawn-Fahey, Annie Stratton, Joe Garren, Fran Putnam, Lianna Tennel, and Don Peabody.

Jean opened the Meeting with a reading from Pendle Hill Pamphlet #44 “Quaker Doctrine of Inward Peace” by Howard Brinton

**18.09.01 Treasurer’s Report** Presented by Karen Nawn-Fahey. All statements in this report are as of September 16, 2018.

From August 12 through September 16, 2018, the Meeting had member donations of \$971.00. From August 12 through September 16, 2018, Meeting expenditures totaled \$718 including \$250 to ACORN Energy Coop, \$100 for Pastoral Care, \$48 for *Friends Journal* subscription, \$160 for Children’s Program Coordination, \$160 for childcare. When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$5923.44.

The current balance of the Rachel Carey Harper fund is \$1350.

Debbie Ramsdell will be shadowing Karen in training for the treasurer’s position.

**18.09.02 Earthcare Committee Report** Presented by Fran Putnam

**Personal Earthcare Profiles:** The committee is continuing to interview Friends for a series of profiles of participants in our Meeting that detail how their lives and work are informed by a concern for the Earth and the changing climate. We encourage Friends who would like to participate to get in touch with the Earthcare Committee. Profiles have begun appearing in the Middlebury Friends Newsletter with a profile of Brud Leedom.

**Meeting for Worship at Spirit in Nature:** Earthcare committee decided that there was not enough interest in having a meeting for worship at the site due to accessibility issues. We suggest having a separate event next summer after meeting where participants can bring a bag lunch, have a short time of silence, and then walk on the trails.

**Vermont Interfaith Power and Light Conference: A Just Economy to Achieve Climate Goals,** Saturday, Oct. 13, Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., South Burlington. George Lakey will be the keynote speaker. Register at: <http://www.vtipl.org/node/382>.

**18.09.03 ICAN/ACORN Solar Panel Report** Spence provided an update and corrections: “Support was reaffirmed for the purchase of five solar panels for the benefit of

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Havurah in the ACORN Energy Co-op array in Shoreham. The total cost is expected to be not more than \$3,500, which will come out of the Meeting's reserve funds. The clerk will ask the Rachel Carey Harper Fund committee to determine if some of the cost could be offset from that fund, and members of the Meeting will be offered an opportunity to make donations to help replenish the reserve fund after this expenditure. See a fuller explanation of this project elsewhere in this newsletter."

**18.09.04 Community Supper** Don Peabody reported that Community Supper plans are proceeding well. The supper is on September 28, at the Congregational Church. Friends will be asked to sign up to help prepare and serve.

**18.09.05 Nominating Committee** Margie Latham will take on the role of Social Action Mapper.

**18.09.06 Report on Vermont Vision Summit** A more complete report will be forthcoming. (See article in this issue.) One hundred people attended with 12 from MFM.

**18.09.07 Response to Kiah Morris news.** Cheryl Mitchell crafted a letter to the editor which Jean has distributed to the meeting. A few edits were made and the letter was approved by the Business Meeting. It will be sent to local Vermont newspapers.

September 18, 2018

Addison Independent  
Middlebury, Vermont

To the Editor,

Vermont Representative Kiah Morris, an African-American woman from Bennington, announced this past summer that she will not run for reelection to a third term in the Vermont House. This was in part because of repeated racist threats and harassment against her and her family.

We find this racist behavior horrifying and harmful to us all. It hurts our hearts. It weakens our community, and it undermines the structure of our democracy. The meanness and violence of it scares us. It is worst for the direct recipients, and it is horrible for us all to know that this happens in our state.

We want a community that respects, welcomes, and supports us all, and that is safe for everybody. Let us reject racist name calling, meanness, exclusion, death threats, and violence. Let us commit to good will, respect, and welcoming support for everyone. Let us each affirm this commitment, and make it real in our lives.

*Jean Rosenberg and Tom Baskett*

on behalf of Middlebury Friends Meeting (Quakers)

*cont.*

**18.10.08 Fellowship Committee** Presented by Joe Garren. The Fellowship Committee sent out a request to the Meeting asking for any ideas for fellowship events and opportunities. We encouraged get-togethers in small groups hosted by individuals or friends or families.

The Fellowship Committee (John Cook, Robert Wyatt, Joe Garren) wants your ideas for fellowship get-togethers. It could be anything that will bring us together and will afford us the opportunity for sharing, enjoying each other's company and/or working together to achieve a purpose.

These could be get-togethers that you dream up and carry off yourself, or in pairs. And you can limit the numbers to however many will fit your space. Here are some examples:

- Invite Friends to a potluck at your house with a special guest who can talk about an interesting topic.
- Organize a winter afternoon's cocoa and cookies party at your house.
- Invite folks to go sledding or skating, or go on a hike together with pot luck refreshments.
- Invite Friends to come see a good Netflix movie at your house and talk about it.
- Invite Friends to get together to bake or cook.
- Invite Friends to get together to make up apple pie ingredients for The Food Shelf.

The Fellowship Committee can support people in organizing events like the ones described above or if there is something that you think would be a good thing for the whole meeting, hosted by the Fellowship Committee, let us know.

We will report if there will be a fellowship event in December at the October business meeting.

**18.10.09 Worship and Study / Children's Program** Presented by Annie Stratton

The Committee reviewed the functions of the committee, and determined that the purpose of Worship and Study Committee is to ensure a deep and lively spiritual life at MFM.

The committee decided to meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month, after meeting, at about 11:15. Annie Stratton will be our contact person for the meeting.

The Children's Program will start the year with some clarification around procedure and expectations for the children and teachers, getting input from the children, and report on it to meeting.

We discussed a recommendation from the Children's Program Committee that we change the order of closing meeting: the greeter shakes hands to close worship, and says that we introduce ourselves, but will start first with announcements, and then do the introductions and birthday song, so that the children are here for the introductions

*cont.*

and song. We will notify the children to come as the announcements are drawing to an end.

We will have an intergenerational meeting for worship on Oct. 7, with children and adults together. Lianna will do a Faith and Play lesson, and she will announce this on the listserv.

We approved having the FFs start at 8:30 AM for the warmer months, and at 11:15 for the colder months.

On Sept 23 we will have a FF with open discussion on *How can we support each other in our aging process, realistically? How do we make this happen?* It will begin at 8:30 AM

Lianna reported on the Children's Program committee meeting. They have chosen a theme for First Day School for the year on racial justice, and will develop a plan for this.

Business Meeting discussed the request to change the sequence of activities at the rise of meeting and a plan was formulated to give a 3 month trial to the new sequence.

Meeting closed with a moment of silence

## MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

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### Co-Clerks

Tom Baskett 989-7034  
Jean Rosenberg 388-6453

### Recording Clerk

Lucy McKeon  
462-3039

### 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.

Meg Langworthy (877-3217)  
Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)

Norm Tjossem (388-0338)  
Brud Leedom (558-1005)

Grace McGrath (388-6576)  
Faith Lowell (388-3056)

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)