

First Month

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
 OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 Damariscotta, Maine
NEWSLETTER

January 2010



And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God..

--Romans 12:2 [KJV]

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
 Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
 Little we see in Nature that is ours;
 We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!

--William Wordsworth

January

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|----------|------------|--|---|
| Sunday | January 3 | Meeting for Worship Rise of Meeting | *New Year's Candle-Lighting Service Potluck Lunch followed by Viki Diamond Concert |
| Thursday | January 7 | 4:30 p.m. | Ministry & Counsel |
| Sunday | January 10 | Rise of Meeting | *Window Insulation Workshop |
| Sunday | January 17 | Rise of Meeting | Monthly Meeting for Business |
| Sunday | January 24 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | * <i>Right Relationship</i> Study Group |
| Friday | January 29 | TBA | Opening: Exhibition of Paintings by Alice Lacy, Miles Hospital |
| Sunday | January 31 | Rise of Meeting | *Window Insulation Workshop |

February

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|--------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Sunday | February 7 | Rise of Meeting | Potluck lunch followed by Quaker Quest Gathering led by Leslie Manning of Durham Meeting |
| Sunday | February 14 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | *Quakerism Study Group |

*Look inside for more information regarding these items.

~Calendar events are held at the meetinghouse, unless otherwise noted.~

Sunday Meeting for Worship is held at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta, 10:00 a.m.
 Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757. Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Rd.
 (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north—Miles Home Health Care building on the corner).
 The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, .2 mile from the corner.

Moving? Changing your e-mail address? Don't forget to let us know. Please remember that when you receive the newsletter by e-mail, you save the Meeting money and you lighten our workload. To receive the newsletter by e-mail, kindly send a request to Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com. Thanks!

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org.

Highlights

Monthly Meeting for Business—December 20, 2009

After a short period of silence, Co-Clerk Karen Cadbury opened the meeting with recognition that the gathering snowstorm would shorten the session. Not all committees would report. Thirteen Friends and attenders were present.

Minutes of the November business meeting were approved.

Gifts and Leadings distributed the **Committee List for 2009/2010** but deferred full discussion until the January business meeting. A list of **Resource Persons** in the Meeting was also handed out [*Ed. note: see item p. 5*]. The Committee List was approved [*Ed. note: see item p. 3*]. Appreciation was expressed to all those willing to serve.

Meetinghouse & Grounds noted that the estimated costs for new insulation in the basement were too high for that project to be advisable. Some old insulation had been removed from the basement to prevent mold and infestation. A new lock-box by the front door will allow quick access by the local fire department in case of emergency.

On **January 10 and 31 Guy Marsden will offer do-it-yourself workshops** after meeting on the construction of simple, indoor thermal-insulating windows [*Ed. note: see item below*]. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Guy.

Quaker Quest: Someone from Friends General Conference will visit our meeting on February 7 to explore the possibility of undertaking a full workshop at Midcoast (cost = \$1,000).

Peace Center: Minutes of the most recent committee meeting are available. Three issues areas will be emphasized: Militarism and the Afghan War, Food Issues, and Environmental Concerns. Linda-Cote Small described one endeavor, a monthly study group on the book *Right Relationship*, which is intended to run from January 24 through June [*Ed. note: see item p. 4*].

The Quakerism Study Group (an outgrowth of Quakerism 101) will continue to meet regularly for sharing experiences rooted in relevant readings and leadings [*Ed. note: see item p. 4*].

Rachel McGinness (who spent the morning working on the Peace Testimony with the young people) now regularly attends the local ministers' group.

The Christmas Party raised \$103. In the New Year, **Viki Diamond** will offer a benefit concert at the meetinghouse. No decisions have yet been made about where the proceeds of either of these events should be sent.

On January 3, a **candle-lighting ceremony**, followed by the regular potluck.

The **next meeting for business will take place Sunday, January 17**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the December 2009 session are available at the Meeting website www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

The Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee has scheduled two January workshops where Guy Marsden will demonstrate how to make thermal storm windows. The MHG committee scheduled the dates at our last meeting. The workshops are scheduled for Jan. 10 and 31 after rise of meeting and should run about two hours.

Guy tells us that about 30% of a building's heat loss is through its windows, more when those windows are old and leaky. A single pane of glass has an R-value of 1, but by adding 2 layers of clear heat-shrink plastic film on a removable frame, you can triple that R-value. This reduces the heat loss dramatically, and the effect will be immediately noticeable--no drafts around the window. Guy's thermal window panels seal all air movement through the window. It is not strenuous work, and 2 or 3 people can make one window panel in about 30 to 40 minutes. The cost of material for an average window is about \$20, which you can almost certainly recover in one heating season in reduced heating costs.

The meetinghouse has seven small windows, and we hope to make panels for all of them during the January workshops. Guy will provide all tools and materials.

Officers and Committees 2010
Approved December 20, 2009

OFFICERS

Clerk of Meeting: Deborah Haviland
Recording Clerk: Jim Matlack
Treasurer: Paul Diamond
Statistical Recorder: Diane Kirkman
Archivist: Pat Spock

Representatives to:

Quarterly Meeting: Carmen Lavertu
New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM)
NEYM M&C Com:
NEYM Peace & Social Concerns:
NEYM Finance: Bill Spock
NEYM China Camp: Thomas Steele-Maley
Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy:
Jim Matlack
CHIP: Nancy Booth
Ecumenical Food Pantry: Wendell Stephenson

COMMITTEES

Ministry & Counsel

2011 David Cadbury, co-clerk
2011 Suzy Hallett, co-clerk
2010 Rachel McGinness
2010 Rowan Rowntree (summer/4 months)
2010 Willow Rowntree (summer/4 months)
2012 Jean Crawford
2012 Brewster Grace
2012 Mallory Waldman

Pastoral Care

Carmen Lavertu, clerk
Nancy Booth
Deborah Haviland
Carolyn Miller
Maria Reardon
Jean Crawford

Peace Center Steering Committee

Brewster Grace, co-clerk
Karen Cadbury, co-clerk
Nancy Booth
Andy Burt
Linda Cote-Small
Ernie Foust
Gretchen Hull
Carmen Lavertu
Jim Matlack
Rowan Rowntree
Thomas Steele-Maley

Finance

Bill Spock, clerk
Paul Diamond

First Day

Kathie Gass, clerk
Karen Cadbury
Rachel McGinness
Lisa Steele-Maley
Sally Tukey

Communications (Directory/Mailing/E-Mail chain)

E-mail chain - Diane Kirkman
Directory, Database – Pat Spock
Meeting Clerk, ex officio
Audio Visual Program Support – Guy Marsden

Newsletter/Web site

Diane Kirkman, edit/prod.
Guy Marsden, web site
Sally Tukey, circulation & mailing
Nancy Terrell Hall, mailing labels

Gifts & Leadings (Nominating)

2011 Mallory Waldman, clerk
2010 Willow Rowntree (summer/4 months)
2011 Karen Cadbury
2011 Bill Hallett
2012 Jean Crawford
2012 Anne Spencer

Meetinghouse & Grounds

Bill Hallett, co-clerk
George Waldman, co-clerk
Andy Burt
Claire Darrow
Kate Nordstrom
Anne Spencer
Steve Gorry, Advisory
Guy Marsden, Advisory

Meetinghouse Use & Access

Jean Harris
Meetinghouse Committee representative

Hospitality

Mallory Waldman
Suzy Hallett
Kate Nordstrom
Pat Spock

Library

Suzy Hallett
Deborah Haviland
Kate Nordstrom
Willow Rowntree (summer/4 months)
Lisa Steele-Maley

TWO NEW STUDY GROUPS IN THE NEW YEAR

Right Relationship Study Group

We invite you to join us in an exploration of the concept of right relationship and its impact on each of us and the Meeting, on the fourth Sunday of the month, starting January 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This study group will be based on the book *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy* by Peter G. Brown and Geoffrey Garver. We invite you to read the introduction and Chapter 1, but you are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book.

The authors of *Right Relationship* define the Quaker principle of right relationship as "respecting the integrity, reliance, and beauty of human and natural communities." They also refer to "human and natural communities" as the "commonwealth of life." They maintain that orienting ourselves toward living with the principle of right relationship as our guideline and goal is essential in building a healthy ecology and economy.

Two new queries to consider on this topic are: How do I bring my life into harmony with the natural rhythms of life so that I may pass on to future generations a sustainable world? Where is my growing edge in living in right relationship?

If you have a friend who is reading the book or interested in this topic, feel free to invite her or him. For more information, please can contact Carmen Lavertu (clavertu@gmail.com or 354-9556) or Linda Cote-Small (chezcote@roadrunner.com or 563-6712).

Quakerism Study Group

You are invited to join a group of us who will be gathering monthly to share our experiences of our Quaker readings. The first gathering will be on Sunday, February 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will focus on the Peace Testimony. Those interested in participating are encouraged to read the Peace and Reconciliation Advices and Queries in the *Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends* on pages 209 and 213 and the packets that will be available on the credenza by January 17.

We will be encouraging the use of the following study questions when reading on our various discussion topics:

1. What is the authors' main point in this passage?
2. What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage of text?
3. Is this passage true to my experience?
4. What are the implications of this passage for my life?
5. What problems do I have with this passage?

When we gather, we will be sharing about the passages that have the most significance to each one of us. We hope you will join us.

ABOUT THE ADVICES

The Advices have served Friends for many generations in their search for a life centered in the Spirit. Arising from the experience and aspirations of successive generations of Friends, the Advices are illustrations of how they seek to carry their faith into all aspects of life.



Advices first appeared in the form of epistles sent among Friends to encourage and strengthen each other in their faith. The earliest surviving collection of Advices was issued from Balby in England in 1656. Its concluding statement begins, "Dearly Beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by"

Friends find their essential unity in their profound and exhilarating belief in the pervasive presence of God and in the continuing responsibility of each person and worshipping group to seek the leading of the Spirit in all things. Obedience to the leading of that Spirit rather than to any written statement of belief or conduct is the obligation of their faith.

Yet the Advices should have a quickening influence in shaping our daily lives. Their reading is intended to remind us that all aspects of our lives are under divine guidance and to heighten our awareness that in all our relationships we act in the sight of God.

--*Faith & Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends* (1985), p. 205

Resource List for Midcoast Monthly Meeting (approved 12/20/2009)

Quaker History: David Cadbury, Peter Haviland, Carolyn Miller, Paul Diamond, Jim Matlack

Public Relations: Andy Burt, Karen Cadbury

Art: Anne Spencer, Bill Hallett

Photography: George Waldman

Music: Viki Diamond

Writing/Editing/Proofing: Karen Cadbury, Diane Kirkman, Willow Rowntree

Hospitality: Linda Cote-Small, Claire Darrow

Food: Viki Diamond, Deborah Haviland,

Event Helper: Andy Burt, Gretchen Hull

Fund-Raising: Karen Cadbury

First-Day School Substitutes: Linda Cote-Small, Sarah Ewing

Facilitating Meetings: Linda Cote-Small

Greeting on Sunday: Claire Darrow, John Gass

Phone Calling: Claire Darrow, Deborah Haviland

PLEASE NOTE the sheet on the meetinghouse bulletin board for signing up to bring treats for snacks at rise of meeting.

--Mallory Waldman

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON MAINE PUBLIC POLICY SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 12, 2009, MEETING

Seventeen Friends gathered in Waterville for the meeting. Diana White clerked this session.

The morning was devoted to a presentation by Andy Burt (Midcoast), who has worked across the state on environmental, energy, and food issues. She gave a wide-ranging and detailed presentation of programs and current issues in relation to climate change, energy efficiency, alternate-energy systems, toxic threats, community-supported agriculture and fisheries, and related concerns. In most cases, Andy indicated the extent to which tribal peoples were involved. She also described specific programs undertaken by each of the tribes--Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Mic-Mac, and Maliseet. Underlying environmental concerns is the fundamental commitment of the tribes to maintaining the integrity of their land holdings. Deeper still is the core issue of tribal sovereignty.

After Andy's presentation, discussion focused on what aspect or project might engage FCMPP consistent with its limited resources and mandate. After discussion, it was decided that the next step for FCMPP was to send a small group for "listening sessions" with tribal leaders in order to deepen Friends' understanding of tribal perspectives and priorities for current public policies related to climate change, environmental issues, and economic development. Four persons were approved to engage in this listening mission: Diana White, Ed Snyder, Andy Burt, and Mark Rains.

The Legislative Sub-Committee awaits the upcoming "short session" of the state legislature to respond in timely fashion to proposals that may be of concern to Friends. Responses may be appropriate to a bill on solitary confinement as well as recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Task Force.

Extended attention was given to ways in which to strengthen involvement of local meetings in the work of FCMPP, including patterns for prompt notifications and more inclusive attendance at FCMPP sessions. More effective use will be made of FCMPP Minutes, Actions Calls, and summary texts for newsletters (such as this one).

The **next meeting** will be held at the Alford Center in Waterville on Saturday, March 6 (snow date March 13).

--Jim Matlack, Recorder

ABOUT THE QUERIES

From *Faith & Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (1985)*: Friends have developed the Queries to assist us to consider prayerfully the true source of spiritual strength and the extent to which the conduct of our lives gives witness to our Christian faith. To these ends, the Queries should be read frequently in private devotions and regularly in monthly and quarterly meetings.

In using these Queries, meetings should be aware that our standards of conduct do not derive from an outward set of rules but rather from the life and teachings of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament, from the examples offered by the spiritual experiences and lives of those who have preceded us, and from our own encounters with that inward revelation through which "the way, the truth, and the life" see expression today.