

5th Month

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

May 2007



"I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. . . inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

--Matt 25:35-37, 40

God's life and our lives are bound together, as a vine with branches as a body with members. *So corporate* are we that no one can give a cup of cold water to the least person in the world without giving it to [God]!

--Rufus M. Jones

May

Saturday	May 5	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Friends Committee for Maine Public Policy, Waterville (for more information, please contact Ernie Foust)
Sunday	May 6	11:30 a.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
Saturday	May 12	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	*"Quaker Leadership Workshop," Durham Monthly Meeting, Durham, Maine
Sunday	May 13	Rise of Meeting	Work Hour
Sunday	May 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business

June

Saturday	June 9		New England Yearly Meeting Committee Day hosted by Midcoast Meeting at Great Salt Bay School
Sunday	June 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business

*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

4th Month 15th 2007

Meeting opened with a short reading from Rufus Jones, followed by silence. 15 Friends were present.

Bill Spock reported on the **forthcoming budget** expecting to increase expenses and income by \$1,600 in the year beginning in June. It was noted that a change in the way we mow the grass will tend to decrease the need for additional funds somewhat. The Treasurer, who was away on a trip, had provided the information, which was tentatively approved. The budget will be adopted next month.

Linda Cote-Small reported that M&C expects to have a draft report on **State of the Meeting** in April and urged Friends to attend the workshop on Quaker testimonies.

Gifts & Leadings reported that Deb Haviland would like to join that group, which was approved, and suggested that the Committee also recommend names of Friends and others from the community to steer the **Peace Center**, which Friends approved.

Brewster Grace recommended for P&SC that the key persons to guide the **Peace Center** come from both **M&C and P&SC** as recommended by the Gifts & Leadings group, and should include willing members of the local community. Friends approved these suggestions.

As a first step in publishing a **new Friends Directory**, it was proposed that the old pages be spread on a bulletin Board for suggested revision, which Pat Spock volunteered to prepare.

Jim Matlack advised that **a group of teenagers from the Rockland UU church would like to visit our Meeting on May 13th**, which will also be a "work day" indoors and out.



QUERIES: Social Responsibility

Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all? Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings? Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake?

PLEASE NOTE: WORDS ON WORSHIP

For the last several months Ministry & Counsel has been writing a column, "Words on Worship," in order to feed the spiritual life of the Meeting. At a recent meeting, the committee decided to ask the Meeting if the column has been helpful and if it should be continued.

You are invited to share your responses to the "Words on Worship" column with any member of the M&C committee: David Cadbury, Todd Garth, Nancy Nyberg, or Linda Cote-Small.

Quaker Leadership Workshop

May 12, 9:30 to 3:30 pm at Durham Monthly Meeting, in Durham, Maine: *A New England Yearly Meeting "Quaker Leadership Workshop" -- a workshop to nurture, train and support clerks of monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and clerks of committees at all levels. Contact NEYM office by Thursday, May 4 to let them know you are coming : neym@neym.org or 508-754-6760*

--Carmen Lavertu

ADVICES: Social Responsibility: Friends are called, as followers of Christ, to help establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Let us strengthen a sense of kinship with everyone. Let that sense of kinship inspire us in our efforts to build a social order free of violence and oppression, in which no person's development is thwarted by poverty and the lack of health care, education, or freedom. Friends are advised to minister to those in need but also to seek to know the facts and the causes of social and economic ills and to work for the removal of those ills. Let us cherish every human being and encourage efforts to overcome all forms of prejudice.

Countering White Privilege and Racism

Memoir of a Race Traitor, Mab Segrest. Personal reflections on white privilege & anti-racist action by brave, white, southern, lesbian, anti-Klan activist. . . . **Race Traitor**. N Ignatiev & J Garvey, eds. Provocative essays on eliminating the social meaning and unearned advantages of skin color by abolishing "white" as a social category. "Disloyalty to whiteness is loyalty to humanity." . . . **The Social Construction of Whiteness: White Women, Race Matters**, Ruth Frankenberg. The mother- text of whiteness studies theory. Author straightforwardly argues that whiteness is neither neutral nor invisible and is crucial in structuring interpersonal relations. . . . **White Whine: Reflections on the Brain Rotting Qualities of Privilege**, Tim Wise. <http://www.zmag.org/Sustainers/Content/2004-04/20wise.cfm>. His essay identifies assumptions that make whiteness 'invisible' to white people and how it impacts their intellect, spiritual life and humanity.

From the working parties against racism of Framingham Friends Meeting and NEYM M&C,
Send your ideas and comments: music1@charter.net.

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:

You, sent out beyond your recall,
go to the limits of your longing.
Embody me.

Flare up like flame
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nereby is the country they call life.
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.



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Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God
Trans. Anita Barrows & Joanna Macy
NY: Riverhead, 2005, p. 119

Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends -- Clerk: Peter Haviland, 354-8714; Assistant: Carmen Laverne, 354-9556; Recording Clerks: Jean Crawford, 236-4176, and Claire Darow, 371-2447; Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283. **The Newsletter** -- May 2007, Volume 19, Number 5. The Newsletter is published every month except August. Editing/design: Diane Kirkman, 236-9078, diane.kirkman@hotmail.com, 18 Atlantic Ave., Apt. 3, Camden, ME 04843. Address changes to: Pat Spock, 729-0826, wspock@gwi.net, 10 Curtis St., Brunswick, ME 04011. Web: Guy Marsden, 443-8942, guy@artec.net, 61 Delano Rd., Woolwich, ME 04579.