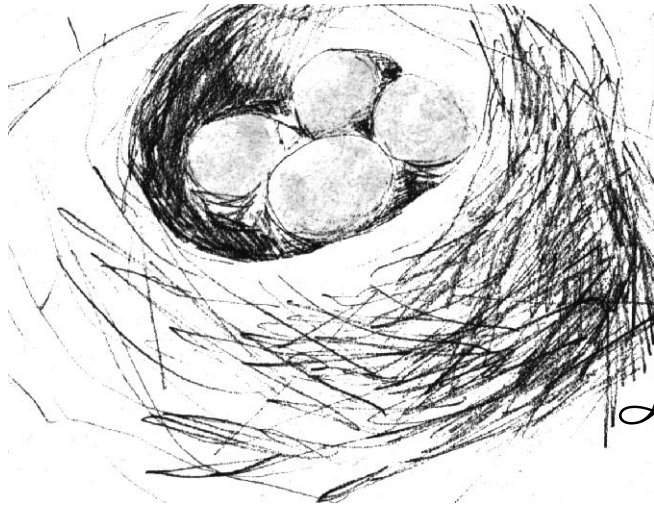


MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
Damariscotta, Maine

NEWSLETTER



Life only demands from you the strength you possess. Only one feat is possible—not to have run away.

—Dag Hammarskjöld
Contributed by Jean Crawford

June

Wednesday	June 2	5 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
Thursday	June 3	4 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
Saturday	June 5	10 a.m.	Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy (Waterville)
Sunday	June 13	8:30 a.m.	Reading Group
Friday	June 18	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Potluck Supper Monthly Meeting for Business
Monday	June 21	asap	Deadline for July-August newsletter
Sunday	June 27	8:30 a.m. rise of Meeting	Reading Group * Landscape workday with potluck lunch to follow

~ Advance Notice ~

Monday	July 5	11 a.m.	Memorial service for Bronson Clark
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* 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 Road, Damariscotta, 10:00 a.m. Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757. Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Road (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north. The Miles Home Health Care building is on the corner.) The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Back Issues of the Newsletter and Meeting Information, are available at: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

Friendly Reminders: Moving or changing your E-mail address? Don't forget to notify the newsletter of your changes. Electronic subscriptions via E-mail are environmentally friendly and cost the Meeting nothing. To receive your newsletter via the Web, E-mail a request to Nancy Terrell Hall at moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com

The Entirely Unofficial MONTHLY MEETING NOTES, 5th month of 2004

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson, Recording Clerk

Co-Clerk Ernie Foust opened the meeting with a poem. Twelve people were present. The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved with minor corrections.

Annual Corporation Meeting

Meeting for Business was, upon the motion of the clerk, suspended at this point in order to hold the annual meeting of the corporation. Later it was reopened for the purpose of discussing other business.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Spock reported for Paul Diamond. A very comprehensive, four-page report was presented to reflect our financial condition as the fiscal year closes on May 31st. Total income exceeded total expected expenses by \$6,175.00. Paul's recommendations for transfer of \$5,000 or this excess to the following reserve accounts and in the amounts indicated, was approved at the last business meeting: \$1,000 to Building Capital; \$2,000 to Capital Repairs; and \$2,000 to Meetinghouse and Grounds.

The rental income figure for the past year of \$550.00 seemed low to one Meeting member, and some discussion ensued about our rental rates and policies. We charge most organizations who wish to use the building \$25 for the first hour and \$10 for each additional hour. It was recommended, and agreed, that

Landscape Workday Sunday, June 27th

after the rise of Meeting for Worship

Bring clippers, rakes, shovels and other implements of destruction.

Potluck will follow, and, if there's time, maybe games.

**Please, everyone plan to come!
We need all hands.**

Query #4

The Meeting Community

Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine life?

Meetinghouse Use should make a report to the business meeting about our rental activity so that members can get a better understanding of the situation. At least one organization, the Damariscotta River Association, is typically not charged any rent for their use of the meetinghouse.

A copy of the proposed financial pledge letter was distributed for comments. It is typically sent out after the May meeting for business, once the major capital expenditures for the coming year are approved. The letter, which also seeks information about volunteer interests on committees and in the accomplishment of various other functions, was approved for mailing.

The Meeting expressed its collective appreciation for the fine work of Paul and Bill in making our financial health so comprehensively understood.

Ministry & Counsel

Jean Crawford reported for the committee. An edited draft of the State of Society Report was distributed along with a draft memorial minute for Bronson Clark. Kit Pfeiffer wrote the minute about Bronson, and it was read aloud and heartily endorsed. In addition to sending it to the Quarterly Meeting, it will be sent to the American Friends Service Committee and to Bronson's family. It was proposed and approved that memorial minutes be posted on our Web site, starting with the most recent ones and then going back in time. The State of Society report was also approved for submission to New England Yearly Meeting.

The committee recommends to the Meeting that we plan an after-meeting conversation to share our views on vocal ministry. It is noted that some members have expressed discomfort with some aspects of the vocal ministry, so the committee hopes to get input from a broad section of the Meeting community.

New England Yearly Meeting has requested a copy of our Final Choices brochure for use with their Committee on Aging. This was approved after a brief update on the status of our Final Choices/Emergency Contact packets which will soon be ready for redistribution.

The Meeting has received an invitation from Susan St. John Rheault to worship at Morse Mountain again this Labor Day Sunday. The format would be similar to last year's with a walk in silence and a potluck lunch following Meeting for Worship.

Peace & Social Concerns

Holly Baldwin reported for the committee. It was recommended and approved that the \$750 allocated to Worthy Needs (our support of local and national worthy causes) be allocated as follows: Food Pantry-\$300; Habitat for Humanity, Brunswick Chapter-\$200; Vesper Hill Foundation-\$100; and World Gathering of

continued on page 3

Summer Outdoor Meetings for Worship in Rockport

The Megunticook Worship Group resumes meetings for worship on Sunday, June 6. The group gathers for unprogrammed meeting at the Children's Chapel/Vesper Hill in Rockport, every Sunday, June through September, from 9 until 10 a.m. (Please note that the chapel is an open-air structure and there are no rest-rooms on site.) See our Meeting Web site for color photos of the site.

For further details, please see the link on Midcoast Meeting's Web page or contact Diane Kirkman at <diane_kirkman@hotmail.com> or leave a message on her answering machine at 236-9078.

Monthly Meeting Notescont'd fr. p.2

Young Friends- \$150. It was pointed out that Vesper Hill Foundation is the organization which maintains and administers the Children's Chapel in Rockport, where the Megunticook Worship Group convenes during summer months under the care of Midcoast Meeting. This allocation was approved. The committee indicated that its future focus for funds may include "Healthy Kids," a state government-supported program to increase health awareness among lower income families, as well as Youth Promise, a restorative-justice program which, among other things, provides avenues for young criminal offenders to perform community service.

The committee is discussing various possible programs to bring to the Meeting community during the year.

Landscape Committee

The compacting of the driveway is expected to begin on Monday (May 24th). Hopefully the process will be completed before the next Meeting for Worship.

Maintenance

A very large turnout for the last scheduled workday resulted in about 30 people making light (or at least fast) work of the planned list of items. All work was accomplished in about 1½ hours, after which a great lunch was enjoyed by all volunteers.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Friday, June 18, at 7 p.m., following a potluck supper at 6 p.m. All welcome.

.....
THE EARTH CARE TEAM WILL BE AT THE MORRIS FARM GATHERING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6, FROM 1 TO 5 P.M. FOR FUN, SHARING, AND ICE CREAM SUNDAES. THEY WILL HAVE A MEETING AND ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING HELPING WITH THE FARM CHORES. FMI CALL MORRIS FARM 882-4080

Spring Workday

by Claire Darrow

A big "thank you" goes to all who pitched in at our last workday and did ALL THAT WORK in just about one and a half hours! We were astounded! We then tucked into a picnic lunch provided by the Landscape Committee. We had a good time together—all ages—and the committee enjoyed providing the food. Thanks to those of you who brought some food anyway!

On Tuesday following the workday, a group of five men from the Lincoln County jail worked at the meetinghouse and cleared all around the entrance, so we can see to safely exit the driveway. They also worked a bit on the nature trail, but ran out of time before completing that job. So, during the next workday we will apply our clippers and saws to whatever needs to come out of that area. The ever-present weeding will need doing again. By that time the driveway should be repaired (if the rain ever stops) and the place will be really looking cared for.

We will be having another workday June 27th, and if everyone returns to help out, the work will all get done in no time. A potluck will follow. Don't miss out on the fun!



Ministry & Counsel Report

May 21, 2004

Various committee projects have been completed and submitted to Monthly Meeting for approval (see Monthly Meeting Notes for details).

The committee has been pleased with attendance and the depth of recent after-meeting conversations. We recommend the Meeting plan another conversation, this one on sharing our views on vocal ministry in the Meeting. It has been brought to our attention that some Friends are not comfortable with the vocal ministry; therefore we want to get input from a broad section of the Meeting.

A delegate is needed to attend Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel on Sunday, June 27th.

We received an invitation from Susan St. John Rheault to worship at Morse Mountain on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. The format would be similar to last year's with a walk in silence and a potluck lunch.

Visit
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org
 Look for new postings, coming soon.

State of the Meeting Report for 2003

Approved by Monthly Meeting 5/21/04

Our last State of the Meeting Report began with a reference to the dismay and unease created by the strong possibility that our nation would embark on yet another war with seemingly no recognition of or regard for other paths that would not involve force and its inevitable consequences. Throughout the past year, as individuals and as a Meeting, we have continued to voice our objections and distress. We have found consolation in the number of people in our immediate area and throughout the nation as well as abroad who have come to the realization that war is, indeed, not the answer to the tensions in the world.

One of our most visible and dramatic anti-war efforts has been Bridges for Peace, a movement created and sustained by one of our members. The metaphor of the bridge as a uniting force has become a way for ordinary people in considerable numbers to rise above the traditional rhetoric of friends and enemies, the good and the bad, to remind us that we are citizens of one world.

War and all the resulting tensions and strains of apprehension for the victims at home and abroad have not distracted us from the need to address our customary concerns and responsibilities. We are pleased that we have an active First Day School with teachers and children in sufficient numbers to present a play for the Meeting. This was stimulated last summer when a family with three children moved to our area and began attending this Meeting. At Christmastime the First Day School raised funds for the Heifer Project.

The increase of young families helped to assuage profound feelings of loss with the deaths of four of our members: Connie St. John, Erica Welter, Chouteau Chapin and Bill Bowers. Two other members transferred to other Meetings. We gained six members as well, five by application and one by transfer. Membership stands at 53 as we continue to feel a strong need for energetic able-bodied participants to share in the many tasks involved in sustaining a vital Meeting.

In the fall Ministry & Counsel took action to re-energize us by sponsoring an "Uplifting Event." They brought us amazing owls, luscious food and a musical duo. It did lift our spirits as all ages joined in this wonderful time.

We have had after-meeting discussions of topics such as the procedures of the caucus in the primary process and NAFTA. Two other sessions were about envisioning our long-term goals as a Meeting. We had three dialogues especially for the benefit of new members and attenders to clarify Quaker ways that may be confusing. These offered opportunities to ask questions and hear the variety of answers a diverse group of Friends can supply with enthusiasm in a meaningful display of healthy diversity. The concluding session was on the delicate issue of when to consider joining Meeting.

One of our members, while traveling in a poor township of South Africa, witnessed the needs of a group of women who struggle against great odds to maintain a community garden and operate a mediation center from one "container" (truck body). She was inspired to ask what would be most helpful to them. She then came to Meeting and the community and raised enough money for another container and funds to teach the importance of voting.

The Meeting also joined with several religious bodies in a dinner to raise funds for Seeds of Peace International Camp. We hosted the congregation from the new Mormon Church near us and enjoyed a meal with them after they were settled into their new building. We have had two meetings with a Baha'i group to share commonalities and differences in our mutual pursuit of peace.

We have struggled with the war and the loss of some very special people in the course of the year, but we remain an open, caring community grateful for the new people who have joined us with their insights and abilities. In all humility we feel the spirit move among us.

CONA News

CONA Annual Meeting

CONA will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, June 12th, at St. Andrew's Church, Glidden St., Newcastle. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m., to be followed at 12:00 noon with a potluck lunch. At 1:00 p.m., Maine author William S. Coperthwaite will discuss the social, political and personal impact of a search for simplicity. All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information, contact Tom Schmidt, 529-5302, tschmidt@prexar.com.

Food for Thought

The Monthly Meeting has received word that it will receive a legacy from each of two estates. Although it will probably be at least a year before we know the exact amount or receive the money, it seems to dovetail with the sentiment expressed by some that we should consider adding the classrooms to the meetinghouse. Would there be enthusiasm for establishing a committee to begin exploring some of the details which must be investigated before such a major decision is made? Expressions pro and con will be appreciated. Please call Carolyn Miller, 236-8706 or email at [<ccmiller23@aol.com>](mailto:ccmiller23@aol.com).

Bronson P. Clark

October 6, 1918 - January 24, 2004

Bronson Clark was a beloved family man, Quaker leader, anti-war activist and successful businessman who dedicated his life to peace and justice in every arena. Born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Bronson graduated from Antioch College and married Eleanor Meanor in 1941. Through work with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, he became a conscientious objector, protested compulsory conscription in World War II, and was imprisoned for his beliefs.

In his memoir, *Not By Might*, Bronson quotes a letter he wrote from prison in 1944 to his infant daughter, Mallory, about his hope for her future: "I see a world of constant strife and conflict. Although it will be a much different world than we know now, there will be great need for those who preach love and non-violence.... We must fight against bitterness and hatred toward any man, and must always be ready to examine our own lives for evil, and we must always maintain a sensitive conscience toward the misery and suffering of our fellow man." After release from prison Bronson joined the American Friends Service Committee Ambulance Unit in China. At the end of the war President Truman granted him a full pardon, restoring all his civil rights.

After several other AFSC assignments, he and Eleanor and their growing family then moved to Oberlin, Ohio, where until 1961 he ran a successful public-housing building company. From Ohio Bronson returned to service with the AFSC in Morocco and Algeria, assisting refugees fleeing the Algerian War. Returning from Africa, he became Vice-President of Gilford Instrument Laboratories, a company that developed biomedical instruments for hospitals and research use.

From 1968 to 1974, covering the years of growing US involvement in the Vietnam conflict, Bronson served as Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In this service he spoke and traveled extensively, promoting humanitarian aid projects and activities against the war. These travels ultimately included a peacekeeping mission to Hanoi in 1973. During his time as AFSC Executive Secretary, he was also elected to the Council on Foreign Affairs and he led a Quaker delegation to the White House in 1969 to meet with Henry Kissinger.

Bronson was an avid sailor and always loved the sea. Upon retiring from the AFSC in 1974 he and Eleanor followed their love of sailing and moved to Vinalhaven, Maine. There he helped local fishermen on the island start up a cooperative fast-freezing operation called Fox Island Fisheries. The couple moved to Rockport, Maine, in 1980 and transferred their mem-



berships from Germantown to Midcoast Friends Meeting in 1984. Bronson served on the Board of Directors of Moss Tents and was a founding member of the Midcoast Forum on Foreign Affairs, an organization that encourages political education and debate.

Following Eleanor's death in 1987 Bronson reconnected with Harriet Warner of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, a long-time family friend. They first met in Oberlin, Ohio, where Hattie worked with Eleanor on the local Head Start program. The two families became good friends in the years before the Clarks went to Philadelphia, and when Bronson and Eleanor traveled to Vietnam for six weeks in 1967, their daughter, Alison, stayed with Hattie and her family in Oberlin. Bronson and Hattie were married in 1989.

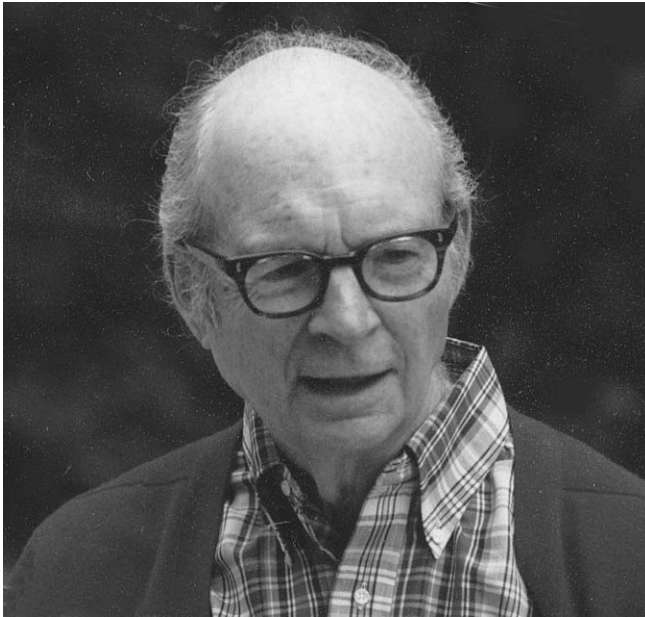
In the years that Bronson and Hattie had together, spending part of each year in Maine and part in North Carolina became the norm, visiting children and grandchildren en route. He was always very proud of his four daughters—Mallory, Jennifer, Melissa, and Alison—and of their accomplishments. Bronson was a regular seasonal member of Midcoast Meeting. He served on Ministry & Counsel and took an active role in the Monthly Meeting. During the last years of his deepening illness, Hattie was a loving, faithful caregiver, keeping in close touch with a wide circle of Bronson's family and friends.

Bronson Clark will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know him. He was a man of piercing intellect, driving energy, and notable accomplishments, with a delightfully dry wit and a huge measure of compassion. The Meeting will miss him sorely.

*Approved by Midcoast Monthly Meeting May 21, 2004,
Barbara K. Foust and Ernest E. Foust, Co-clerks*

Henry Beerits

by Deborah Haviland



Henry Beerits is truly a renaissance man whose life has spanned more than nine decades. He was born January 12, 1912, in Somerset, Pennsylvania, a small town in the southwestern part of the state. He lived a normal, quiet boyhood with parents John and Florence Beerits and sister, Mary, who was two years older. He spent two years at Mercersburg (Pennsylvania) Academy, two years at the University of Virginia, and two years at Princeton, where he graduated in 1933.

In September of 1933, as a result of his Princeton thesis, he was asked to come to Washington, D.C., for a year to work on background material for a proposed biography of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes. This was during the first year of the Roosevelt administration, an exciting time to be in the capital. After two summers of travel he entered Harvard Law School, graduating in 1938. Henry's travels have taken him to all 50 states, Japan, China, and many times to Europe.

Henry spent his entire law career in Philadelphia, working for a number of firms before staying with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius and specializing in estates. During the years in Philadelphia he was very active in civic affairs. One of the important things he did was serve as chairman of the Joint Committee on City Planning, a group very instrumental in getting active planning going in Philadelphia. This made a big impact on the city. He was also chairman of the Citizens Council on City Planning, representing 175 organizations, and president of the Philadelphia Housing Association, a well-established agency interested in housing for low-income people.

In August of 1943 he married Janet Robinson, a pro-

fessional artist who had been on the faculty of Wellesley for four years. In the early years of their marriage they lived in Broad Axe and Chester Springs, and then Radnor became their home for 24 years, until their move to Maine in 1978. They have two sons and a daughter and five grandchildren. Their sons both live in Maine: Chris in Alna and Peter in Deer Isle. Daughter Susie in Fairfield, Iowa. Henry and Janet feel very fortunate to have two of their children's families living so close.

Henry took a leave from legal practice to serve for five years on the staff of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), including three years as associate executive secretary. It was quite a decision to leave his law practice for those years, but he was drawn to the AFSC and wanted to do work of social significance.

Henry was brought up Lutheran, the leading church in his boyhood town, but when he went to college he gravitated to the Episcopal Church. He attended his first Quaker Meeting while working with the AFSC and became a member of Radnor Meeting in 1951. Over the years he was very active in that meeting and in other Quaker organizations. He was active in the AFSC for thirty years, serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees and on many committees. He was on the boards of *Friends Journal* and Haverford College. In 1999 he transferred his membership from Radnor to Midcoast Meeting.

In 1972 Henry retired at the youthful age of 60. The summer before, he and Janet had started looking for property in Maine, and in 1972 they bought their Deer Isle summer home, which looks out over Pickering Cove. From 1972 until 1978 they spent summers on Deer Isle and winters in Radnor. One of the things he did in those early years of retirement was to work on a part-time basis with the Quaker United Nations Program. He wrote various reports on the U.N., which were circulated to a wide international mailing list. In 1974 he served as chairman of a conference in France, which brought together diplomats and scholars to consider how to save the Mediterranean Sea from biological extinction. This conference involved Palestinians and Israelis talking together in a way that had never happened before. He also wrote a book, *The United Nations and Human Survival*, published by the AFSC and sold by the U.N. in New York and Geneva.

Henry knew that Janet had a strong desire to live in Maine year round, so when he saw an ad in *Down East Magazine* for a house in Sheepscot, (a town he vaguely knew) he followed it up, and the couple moved there in 1978. He says, "It is an 1820 house in a very small village on a very broad tidal river, in a setting reminis-

continued on next page

Henry Beeritscont'd from page 6

cent of the English countryside." Henry was concerned with leaving his Philadelphia activities and starting from scratch, but he found many like-minded people. He and Janet have been very happy with their move of twenty-five years ago.

For many years Henry had been interested in art, and in retirement he began to paint again. Janet's background inspired him, but she was careful not to give instruction. At first there were only certain things he thought he could handle—the countryside in Pennsylvania or "diamonds in my own backyard," but then his horizons broadened. He paints in an unstructured, "naïve" style. His paintings, landscapes in gouache, have been exhibited in many places in Maine and are in private collections. He was also president of the Deer Isle Artists Association for a number of years.

Although art has always been a strong interest, it has been a minor activity in busy retirement years in Maine. Henry's major focus has been involvement with charitable organizations. After chairing the county chapter of the Red Cross, he became involved in the early '90s with Miles Hospital in Damariscotta, where he served as president of the board and of the Miles Foundation during a period of new buildings and programs.

In 2002 Henry celebrated his 90th birthday, and today he is active, with a very vigorous mind. He has written, "A primary feature of this stage of life is that, being free of the pressing demands of earlier years, I have found increased opportunity for spiritual development. It is clear to me that each of us is a manifestation of God and that God's love and wisdom can flow into us, giving us guidance and support in living."

Henry Beerits is a wise, compassionate man whose presence in our Meeting and in our lives is a gift. We are indeed fortunate that Midcoast Meeting is his spiritual home.

The Advices

Let us live in love as members of a Christian community. Let us be ready to give and receive help, to rejoice together in the blessings of life and to sympathize with each other in its trials.

Let us maintain unity: let us avoid tale-bearing and detraction, acknowledge differences and seek to settle conflicts promptly in a manner free from resentment and all forms of inward violence; let us visit one another, making sure that those who are alone are drawn into the wider family of Friends.

Thus, we may know one another as fellow workers in the things that endure.

News Notes

- ✓ **Sarah Pfeiffer**, daughter of **Kit Pfeiffer**, has just received two masters degrees from American University—in business and in international development management. This talented young woman is ready for the job market.
- ✓ **Pete and Deb Haviland** are celebrating their 50th anniversary in June. They invite friends at Meeting to join them on June 20th after Meeting for cake and punch.
- ✓ **George Sparks** and **Sally Cartwright** were featured in May in the *Lincoln County News* in an ad for Schooner Cove in Damariscotta. Their smiling faces are a tribute to their lives.
- ✓ **Rob Patterson** and Sandy Williamson returned last month from helping friends from Edgecomb sail their Stephens 47' sloop from Fort Lauderdale to Nassau. A number of years ago Rob captained and chartered his own boat in the Caribbean.
- ✓ **Web site blues.** If you looked for **Claire Darrow's Antarctica photos** on the Web last month, you probably didn't find them. Your befuddled Web master did actually post the photos, but then forgot to put up a link to them. Now you really can find them, along with other new postings, on the "Forum" page of our Meeting Web site. Have a look!

Peace and Social Concerns

P&SC Committee Notes

Some thoughts shared: We come to committee meeting to be with others who are first and always devoted to peace and social concerns (and we are patient when the process and outcomes do not always further one's own personal wishes). There are only three traditional peace churches and, though we are few, we have the responsibility of that tradition. Friends have tenacity, and we do what we can locally, supported and guided by FCNL and AFSC. We believe that someday there will be a meeting of minds beyond cultural differences, economic competition, and religious dogma; and we may be nearer to that than we have ever been.

What we are currently doing: Gretchen's correspondence with Bridge activists finds the movement concentrated on the presidential election; from Ireland comes the admonition that we should be focussing our efforts on the real issue of stopping war.

Carmen is focussing her studies and thinking on the militarization of foreign policy.

Holly attended the clerking workshop in Worcester and found helpful resources. In Portland she went to a meeting of The League of Pissed Off Voters, a group working to inspire the young generation to participate in the political process—especially in ways beyond voting and encouraging young progressives holding local and state governments.

The Monks' Visit

by "Grandma" Charlotte Ritter

Last Sunday it was my honor to bring three Tibetan monks to Midcoast Friends Meeting. Wangchen, Dawa, and Pema have been active members of the Camden/Rockport community since last fall. They have been dedicated to learning English from 44 volunteers who have come to their home on an extensive schedule.

Along with their studies, they have been sharing peace and healing in many ways. Creating two sacred mandalas, weekly Sunday afternoon meditation, and teaching are just a few of their contributions. They are present for dozens of people, thus bringing the spirit of compassion to our community on a daily basis.

As a Friend, I see them in agreement with not only our Peace Testimony but also with Friends' directive to "walk our talk." I asked the monks if they would be interested and willing to visit our Quaker Meeting in Damariscotta, some 30 miles away from where they have been living. It would be an inspiring opportunity for all and especially for the children, I told them.

Yes, they said, they would come to us. Next, because we have only a few families with children, it was important to work with the teachers to try to have everyone there on the same Sunday morning. And it

happened! The monks came to silent worship and left for First Day School with the children, teachers, a couple of dads, and me.

It is surprising how many different kinds of sharing can happen in 45 minutes. At the beginning we were able to sit on the floor in a circle—each of the 15 of us having a small rug. After sharing names, one of the fathers opened a box and showed and told us about the cup he passed around. It had come from the Far East and was made from water buffalo horn. Everyone had a chance to examine this unusual vessel.

Questions from children, teachers, parents, and monks were addressed. Wangchen responded to questions and emphasized the importance of children learning from their parents how to behave in peaceful, caring ways, even at times when they are filled with angry feelings. If only you could have heard him say it!

Finally when time came to "lighten up" we played a couple active games, made some noise, and laughed a lot—we even sang a song while playing one of the games.

When we returned to the meeting room, the adults were very curious to know what we had been doing. So there was another sharing.

Midcoast Meeting of Friends
PO Box 714, 77 Belvedere Road
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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