

Sixth Month

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

June 2010



You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

-- John 8:32 (NKJV)

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

June

Sunday	June 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck/Work Hour
Thursday	June 10	3:00 p.m.	M&C Meeting, David Cadbury's home
Sunday	June 13	11:30 a.m.	*Quakerism Study Group
Saturday	June 19	10:00 a.m.	FCMPP Meeting, Alford Center
Sunday	June 20	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Business

July

Sunday	July 4	Rise of Meeting	Potluck/Work Hour
Sunday	July 11	11:30 a.m.	*Quakerism Study Group
Sunday	July 18	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Business

Upcoming

Sun.-Sat.	July 4-10	FGC Gathering [See March newsletter.]
Sat.-Thurs.	August 7-12	*NEYM Annual Sessions, Bryant University, Rhode Island
Sunday	August 29	Meeting for Worship at Small Point with Susan St. John

*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--May 16, 2010

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE was the featured committee for discussion. Friends approved the description of the committee. There was discussion about putting the name of a contact person for the committee in the newsletter and on the Web site. The committee will look into this. It was also suggested that the Emergency Fund, available for individuals in the meeting, be clarified more fully.

FINANCE COMMITTEE followed up the discussion of last month with more information. The Meeting approved renewing the loan with the Four Directions Development Corporation of the Wabanaki people. The meeting has received an anonymous gift of \$3,000, which is not to be used for current operating expenses. The Draft Budget was discussed. Final approval will be sought at the June business meeting. Meeting approved a periodic review of our finances. Bill Spock, clerk, discussed long-range issues before the Meeting. Over 10 years, our income is down 25%, and operating expenses are up 82%. The Meeting approved a stronger pledge letter, to go out in June, suggesting that each individual contribution be increased at least 4% annually.

MEETINGHOUSE & GROUNDS--George Waldman, co-clerk, presented a request from the Coastal Kids Preschool in Damariscotta to rent the all-purpose room in the meetinghouse for a group of 15 children from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon from September through December 2010. The school is building an addition to its permanent space and needs temporary quarters for that period of time. George suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to review the proposal and make a recommendation to the next business meeting, on June 20. A committee consisting of Bill Hallett, George Waldman, Paul and Viki Diamond, Claire Darrow, Karen Cadbury, and Guy Marsden (clerk) was approved.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL would like to encourage more interaction among meeting participants. It proposed that everyone remain in the meeting room for 15 minutes longer after the close of meeting to visit with each other before refreshment time begins. The goal is to nourish inter-relationships on a different level. The meeting approved doing this on a trial basis, starting May 23 and continuing until the end of June.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE proposed moving the piano to the hallway to free up space for shelves in the library. The meeting approved moving the piano. The Meeting also approved asking Gretchen Hull (who had given the piano to the Meeting over 10 years ago) to find a new home for the piano. The clerk will contact Gretchen.

The entire pending minutes of the meeting are available at the Meeting Web site www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

The **next meeting for business will take place Sunday, June 20**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

ADVICES--Outreach

The power of God is not used to compel us to Truth; therefore, let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, let us seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable. Friends are advised to witness to the power of Truth and justice and to foster growth of the divine community at home and abroad. While remaining faithful to our Quaker insights, and ready to share them with others, let us seek to understand the contributions made by the people of God everywhere. Whenever possible, let us seek to enter into prayer and work with the wider community of faith.

The monthly meeting has approved Ministry & Counsel's request that for one month we **change our worship schedule** a little bit. At the rise of meeting, before the doors are opened for refreshments, we are asking people to spend 15 minutes talking to one another very informally. We feel this will provide an opportunity for us to get to know one another more deeply, which will ultimately enrich every aspect of the life of our Meeting.

Changes in Midcoast Friends' Directory:

John Lacy
johnplacy@gmail.com

Susan & Bruce Rockwood
clan.rockwood@gmail.com

NEYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2010
From Jean McCandless, Sessions Committee Clerk

When the Sessions Committee discerned two years ago that we should move toward a time of Jubilee for NEYM's 350th year, we tried to imagine what this ancient concept might look like for 21st-century New England Friends. Last year we began "Living into Jubilee" with an excellent Biblical foundation provided by Eden Grace, by beginning to use Anchor Groups to provide opportunities for small-group fellowship and discernment, and by working through several important items of Yearly Meeting business which had been with us for some time.

Throughout this time, I have been helped by Maria Harris's *Proclaim Jubilee: A Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century*. Her main themes resonate with Friends: Liberation, Connectedness, Suffering, Imagination, and Repair of the World. Our faith community certainly has a strong tradition of this last theme: "If we attempt repair, our fingerprints will be on the vessels we restore and our lives and our work will matter, to ourselves, to the next generations, and to our fragile planet." We hope that many Friends will take time between now and this summer to read and reflect on the meaning of Jubilee.

Sessions this August will include daily Anchor Groups, giving us a chance to gather with the same small group of Friends for discussion, sharing, and worship. There will be Jubilee Seminars for all of us on Sunday and Monday afternoons, with brief presentations on individual and corporate witness, followed by reflection in our Anchor Groups. There will be corporate worship of all kinds: intergenerational worship with the whole community every morning; singing grace at lunch; evening vespers, and, through it all, Meetings for Business ("Meetings to Hear God's Call") that are deeply centered in worship.

We will also create more opportunities for being together as a community—in play, in service, in celebration. We will have Sunday afternoon activities with the children, and a Kenyan tea sponsored by the United Society of Friends Women. On Tuesday evening, there will be an intergenerational musical Jubilee Celebration led by Peter and Annie Blood-Patterson. Taking to heart the Jubilee injunction to take time to rest and refresh ourselves, the Sessions Committee has left afternoon time each day open, with the intention that YM Sessions will not be as heavily programmed as usual.

We look forward to seeing you. Financial aid through the Equalization Fund is available as always. In the end we will all create our Jubilee Sessions in our time together. Come and help us! Thus refreshed, may we all be led to more faithful witness in the world.

Online registration begins any day. Visit <http://sessions.neym.org/online-registration> for details.

An Invitation from Claire Darrow

This spring I put together 17 midsize books of memories I have of my grandparents and parents, as well as a couple of favorite aunts and uncles. I realized I was now the matriarch of our family and that if I didn't tell them, younger family members would never know what wonderful people they are descended from. So, after Christmas I sat down and thought for a while and then began writing, starting with the easiest one, of course. After that it came easily. I also contacted some older cousins for some help, which came willingly. They produced great pictures and stories and were very cooperative and pleased with what I was doing.

So now I am ready to give the books to my family, telling them to keep them all their lives and read them every ten years. It might just tell them something about themselves. I have told my own children to keep the books belonging to their children, who will not be interested until they are years older. They will be given to them at the right time.

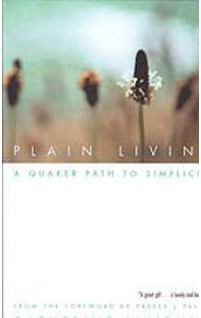
I have learned what to do and what not to do, what to buy and where to buy it. I would be glad to share the process with interested people. It took a long time, but I enjoyed every minute, particularly the writing. Call me at 371-2447, and perhaps we can have a workshop at the meetinghouse if enough people are interested.

What Are Annual Sessions?

New England Yearly Meeting's annual Sessions for business, usually held in early August on a college campus [August 7-12, 2010, Bryant University, Rhode Island], have the features of a conference and a family camp, with workshops, worship-sharing, interest groups, talks, and recreation. A large number of children and young people attend. The Sessions Committee works all year making arrangements for the six-day annual Sessions attended by over 700 persons. Not only meeting members attend, but it is also open to those not in formal membership.

Quakerism Study Group

The Quakerism Study Group will next meet Sunday, June 13, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 (or 1 p.m. at the latest) and will focus on the Simplicity Testimony. (From now on, we plan to meet on the second Sunday of the month, so as not to conflict with workdays.) We will be reading *Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity* by Catherine Whitmire, and for the first meeting, we suggest reading through the second chapter. We encourage the use of the following study questions when reading on our various discussion topics:



1. What is the author's main point in this passage?
2. What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage?
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?

We will share about the passages that have the most significance to each of us. We hope you will join us.

QUERIES--Outreach

Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in spreading the Christian message? Are your patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?