



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

The Navajo teach their children that every morning when the sun comes up, it's a brand new sun. It's born each morning, it lives for the duration of one day, and in the evening it passes on, never to return again. As soon as the children are old enough to understand, the adults take them out at dawn and say, "The sun has only one day. You must live this day in a good way, so that the sun won't have wasted precious time."

From the *Harrisburg Monthly Meeting Newsletter*, June 2002, with thanks to Esther Cope

July-August

Sunday	July 7		Food Pantry Day
Tuesday	July 9	4:00 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns
Wednesday	July 10	4:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel committee meeting
Sunday	July 14	8:30 a.m. following Mtg.	Book Discussion Group * Picnic at Natalie Wriggins' home, Nobleboro
Friday	July 19	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper Meeting for Business
Sunday	July 28	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Wednesday	July 31	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	AFSC in Maine meeting, bring bag lunch
Sunday	August 4		Food Pantry Day
Sat.-Thurs.	August 3-8		New England Yearly Meeting, Norton, MA
Sunday	August 11	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Sunday	August 18		Deadline for September newsletter
Sunday	August 25	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
~ Advance Notice ~			
Sunday	9/1	following Mtg	* Picnic at home of Carmen Lavertu, Thomaston
Fri.-Sun.	9/6-9/8		Fall Gathering, Vassalboro Quarterly Mtg., South China, ME

* 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 first building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Moving or changing your email address? Don't forget to notify the newsletter of your changes. Thanks!

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

Back Issues of the Newsletter along with other Meeting Information are available at:
www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite/q-pages.htm

The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 6th month of 2002

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

Clerk Carmen Lavertu opened the meeting with a reading from *Reflections on Friends Peace Testimony* by Mary Lord. There were 9 people present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with minor corrections.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL

Pete Haviland reported. A memorial service for Natalie Wriggins' mother, who passed away recently, has been scheduled for July 28th following Meeting for Worship. It will primarily be a family affair, though the Meeting community is welcome.

The committee has identified almost 40 long-term attenders of meeting who have not broached the possibility of becoming members of the Meeting. The committee plans to make contact with these individuals to discuss possible membership. A discussion ensued of the way Ackworth Meeting in England keeps connected with its members by a system of contact responsibilities.

The Spiritual Foundation Program of Maine was discussed. It is a year-long series of meetings for spiritual seekers that starts in the fall with a weekend gathering, involves several smaller group meetings throughout the winter and culminates in another weekend in the spring. As reported by a Midcoast member who participated this past year, it can be a very fulfilling experience. The cost is \$100 per participant. Members contemplating participation in the coming year's series could apply for Conference Fund monies available from the Meeting to help defray the cost. [See Deb Haviland's piece on page 3]

Chouteau Chapin was reported to be in failing health. She is at the Hill House in Bath; visits from Meeting members would be welcomed.

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS

Carmen reported for the committee. A recently drafted "Urgent Call" to disarm petition addressed to the federal government has been drafted by three authors knowledgeable about issues of disarmament and non-

proliferation. The statement, which had previously been circulated at a recent CONA meeting, collected more signatures at this Monthly Meeting. Carmen will mention it at Meeting for Worship this Sunday, affording another opportunity for signatures. It will then be sent to the sponsors.

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

A quote of \$900 for purchase and installation of two ceiling fans in the meeting room was approved.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Deb Haviland reported that we are experiencing a great number of missing (un-returned) books. Anyone having a book that is overdue was asked to return it as soon as possible.

FCMPP (Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy)

Ernie Foust (Midcoast's representative to this group) reported that the committee has drafted a statement about Friends' conflicting interests in regard to Indian sovereignty and the Indians' current gambling initiatives. While we support Indian sovereignty, we have long opposed gambling on moral grounds. The FCMPP statement acknowledges Friends' seeming conflicting positions. Midcoast Friends will continue to study this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Efforts to make contact with our future neighbors, The Church of Latter Day Saints, were discussed. Several Friends have stated their intention to attempt to contact someone in the local LDS organization, but no reports are yet forthcoming. The goal is simply to show our interest and be welcoming.

There was a discussion of the damage done to the Ramallah Friends School during recent fighting in Palestine. A spontaneous "passing of the hat" after Meeting recently yielded \$104 for repairs to the school. The question of whether to do something more formal in the way of a fundraiser will be discussed at the next monthly business meeting.

ERICA WELTER LETTER

Erica's very compelling letter on the right to die was read and discussed. It will be mentioned in our newsletter and Friends are encouraged to take action, as they see fit, to advance this cause.

* * * * *

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Friday, July 19th, at 7:00 p.m. following a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. ALL WELCOME.

* * * * *

There will be no Meeting for Business in August.

Query #7

Home and Family

Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life? Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustments? Should conflict or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from your Meeting and from the larger community?

A Success Story

On May 22 a reception was held at Neighborhood House in Northeast Harbor to honor Alma Delic-Ibukic, who graduated May 18 from the University of Maine at Orono with a major in electrical engineering. With the help of the Friends at Acadia Meeting, Alma's parents were able to make a once-in-a-lifetime trip from Bosnia to be at her graduation and to attend the reception.

Acadia Meeting wrote Midcoast Friends to invite us to this reception and to thank us for helping to make this joyous occasion possible.

Midcoast Friends may recall that Alma arrived at Bangor International Airport just before Christmas in 1995. Acadia Meeting had worked with the Fellowship of Reconciliation to identify her as a promising student in war-torn Bosnia. The small Friends Meeting could not have undertaken this project without the support of many individuals, local churches, and civic organizations, and Friends Meetings in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Alma entered Mt. Desert Island High School as a junior and graduated the next year with high honors. She lived with Mt. Desert Island residents Gray and Judith Cox and their twin daughters, Kate and Rachel, who were just a year behind Alma in high school.

Alma was then admitted to the University of Maine with a full tuition scholarship, and during her time there was on the Dean's List each semester.

One summer she returned to Bosnia and worked as an interpreter for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was then preparing for elections in Bosnia. She also worked for six months in Texas for Texas Instruments. Alma graduated UMO with a 3.76 GPA and was elected to Tau Beta Pi honor society. She will be going on to graduate school at the University of Maine.

Acadia Friends Meeting
Box 21, Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Meeting for Worship, Sunday 9 a.m. at
Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor, Maine

Can Love Really Overcome Violence and Hate?

Reflections on Friends Peace Testimony

This address, given by Mary Lord at the annual meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, March 15, 2002, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is available free of charge in pamphlet form from FCNL.

Write to Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, call 1-800-630-1330, or email <fcln@fcln.org>.

A Call to Consider the Spiritual Formation Program

By Deborah Haviland

This past year I was a part of the Spiritual Formation Program that was offered by the Spiritual Nurture Working Group of NEYM's Ministry & Counsel Committee and Orono Monthly Meeting. It was a wonderful program that energized me and nurtured me on my spiritual journey, and it continues to do so, even though the program ended in May.

There is an opportunity for others to participate in the same program starting in September. Among the major components are retreats, individual spiritual discipline, regional monthly meetings for reflection on readings, and small spiritual friendships groups which meet monthly. All participants are asked to commit to all these components. I encourage others to consider enriching their lives in this way. There are flyers on the credenza in the meetinghouse, and I would love to talk to anyone who would like to know more about the program.



Summer Picnics

This year's summer picnics will be:

Sunday, July 14

at Natalie Wriggins', Nobleboro
and

Sunday, September 1

at Carmen Lavertu's, Thomaston.

Mark your calendar and plan
to join Friends for both of
these fun occasions.

CHIP Annual Tent Sale
Saturday, July 13, 2002, 8-11 AM

The Green on New Harbor Hill

Household items, knick-knacks, books,
sports equipment, curtains, linens, fur-
niture, small appliances, and more

Delicious homemade baked goods

Good Summer Reading

by Barbara Foust

Dear Friends,

If you don't know your way around the Meeting library, let us help you. All regular books are arranged on the shelves by the first three letters of the author's last name. At the back of the credenza we have a great many Pendle Hill pamphlets written on a great many topics. There is a fat blue-covered paperback book at the front of the first open file listing (by a check mark) the titles of all the pamphlet we have. These are organized by number, author, and subject.

Recently I finished cataloging the last half of a generous donation of 50 Pendle Hill pamphlets, given to Midcoast by Vassalboro Meeting. A few of these are listed below to give you an idea of the range of subjects covered:

- 189 Simplicity—A Rich Quaker's View
- 180 Apocalypse—Revelation in Theatre
- 179 Light and Love in the Fourth Gospel
- 152 Quakerism and Christianity
- 153 On Being Present Where you are
- 149 Experiments in Community
- 146 The Wit and Wisdom of William Baker Evans
- 144 Bethlehem Revisited
- 134 From Convincement to Conversion

Any of these can be checked out just as you would a book, with date, name, and phone number.



The Wabanakis of Maine and the Maritimes

The revised third printing by the Maine Wabanaki Program of the American Friends Service Committee is now available. It is a resource book about and by Native Maine and Maritime peoples. It is a valuable curriculum guide for classroom teachers as well as interesting reading for the general public. For more information visit www.afsc.org/resource/htm or call toll free 888-588-AFSC (2372).

Quite recently we ordered a lot of books. Most are titles suggested by Meeting members and attenders (via the little tin file case atop the piano. Feel free to suggest your very favorite spiritual readings). Here are the titles and authors of recent additions to our book collection:

- Daniel Quinn. **Ishmael.**
- Stephen Mitchell, editor. **Book of Job.**
- Pema Chodron. **When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times.**
- Catherine Whitmire. **Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity.**
- Sue Bender. **Plain and Simple: A Woman's Journey to the Amish.**
- Parker J. Palmer. **The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring.**
- T. J. Pickvance. **A Reader's Companion to George Fox's Journal.**
- David Nyberg. **The Varnished Truth: Truth Telling and Deceiving in Ordinary Life.** (By a Midcoast attender.)
- Eckhart Tolle, Russell E. Dicarlo, and Marc Allen. **The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment.**
- Suzanne G. Farnham, Stephanie A. Hull, and R. Taylor McLean. **Grounded in God: Listening Hearts Discernment for Group Deliberations.**
- Barbara Ehrenreich. **Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America.**



A Plea for Forgotten Books

Members of the Library Committee would like to remind Friends that the Meeting's collection is available for borrowing. With only a few exceptions, the books and pamphlets may be taken home for reading. While we do not enforce strict policies for the length of time books may be kept, it is expected that Friends will return items they borrow within a reasonable length of time. Indeed, it is imperative that books be returned in a timely fashion, so they may be available for others to use.

The Advices

Let your lives benefit from the power of friendship and the solace of solitude. Rejoice in the beauty of those friendships which grow in depth, understanding, and mutual respect.

Friends are advised to seek divine guidance when considering marriage and to enter marriage with a commitment to cherish each other for life. In marriage, treasure the joys of intimacy, share the sorrows of losses, and mediate differences with patience. Be ready to seek the counsel of your own parents or of other experienced persons as it is needed. Consider together the responsibilities of parenthood.

Let us trust in the Light and witness to it in our daily living. We and our families are children of God with a rich accessible record of God's dealings with humanity. In dress, in furnishings, in manners, in diet, and in entertainment, let us choose the simple, the wholesome, and the beautiful. Let us be cooperative and creative in family recreation so that it encourages mutual activity and sharing.

Let us dwell with thankfulness on the blessings and happiness that life has brought us. Friends are advised to try throughout life to discern the appropriate moment to relinquish responsibilities to others. Let us face with courage the approach of old age, both for ourselves and for those dear to us, realizing that even as our outward activity lessens, our seasoned thought and prayer may liberate love and power in others.

Friends are advised to make provision for the settlement of their affairs while in health so that others may not be burdened. Such provision may include maintaining an up-to-date will and discussing with family and doctors our wishes in the event of serious illness or death.



Mother's Day Speechcontinued fr. back cover

their problems by understanding each other's viewpoints. Each kid involved in the fight would be asked how the fight started, what he or she had done about it, and what he or she wanted the other person to do. And I must say, there wasn't a single time that this did not work to resolve the conflict. People went away feeling satisfied that they had been heard by the other person. They weren't resentful. They didn't hold grudges. The world is really just one big schoolyard. If us kids could do it, then why can't you?

FCMPP Statement

Indian Sovereignty and Gambling

Friends have a long record of supporting the right of Indians to self-determination and sovereignty. FCMPP has consistently supported the right of Maine Indians to make decisions affecting their own welfare. This view is based in part on our understanding of the sad history of injustices committed against Indians by the white community, and because of respect and empathy we feel for the difficult problems facing Indian leaders today. We are also acutely aware of the high unemployment rate among Maine Indians and the need to develop an economic base that supports the values of the Indian history and culture.

Currently some Tribal leaders are considering purchasing land in Southern Maine where they would build a large casino, which would generate jobs and income for Maine tribes, the state government, and other citizens of Maine.

Friends have a long tradition of opposing gambling on moral grounds, in part because it concentrates the mind on disproportionate gain and sudden wealth and diminishes spiritual strength. Gambling can cause serious harm in families where someone is addicted. It is especially harmful to the poor and has a record of creating a host of community problems including increased crime. Friends have also been concerned about the use of the lottery as a way to raise state revenues.

These two important Friends' values-support for Indian sovereignty and opposition to gambling-are in direct conflict and serve as a serious dilemma among Friends. In response to this dilemma, we are committed to envisioning and supporting alternative economic opportunities for Indians that would provide jobs and ultimately enhance their cultural and community life.

We continue to search for light on this difficult question, and we ask Friends Meetings in Maine to consider this issue and report their recommendations to us.

APPROVED May 4, 2002, at the FCMPP meeting in Waterville for circulation to Friends Meetings in Maine.

**Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy
15 Otter Cliffs Road, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609,
207-288-8968**

Edward F. Snyder, Clerk Acadia Friends Meeting
Earnest Foust, Vice Clerk Midcoast Monthly Meeting
Libby Darlington and Rita Kimber, Co Clerks,
Legislative Committee, Farmington Monthly Meeting
Leslie Manning, Treasurer Durham Monthly Meeting
Avery Harrington, Recording Secretary Vassalboro Monthly Meeting

Mother's Day Speech

Charlotte Aldebron - Bath, May 12, 2002

*Charlotte Aldebron is a young student in Presque Isle, Maine. Her piece on patriotism/American flag was published in the April issue of **Peacework**, and in May she delivered a short speech at the Mother's Day March in Bath. It seems to be equally appropriate for the 4th of July. Here's the speech and the flag piece. Carmen Lavertu talked with Charlotte's mother and got permission to print it in our newsletter.*

Good afternoon, everyone. The first thing I'd like to say is: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! I would like to start by reading you an essay I wrote for school called...

What the American Flag Stands For

The American flag stands for the fact that cloth can be very important. It is against the law to let the flag touch the ground or to leave the flag flying when the weather is bad. The flag has to be treated with respect. You can tell just how important this cloth is because, when you compare it to people, it gets much better treatment. Nobody cares if a homeless person touches the ground. A homeless person can lie all over the ground all night long without anyone picking him up, folding him neatly, and sheltering him from the rain.

School children have to pledge loyalty to this piece of cloth every morning. No one has to pledge loyalty to justice and equality and human decency. No one has to promise that people will get a fair wage, or enough food to eat, or afford-

able medicine, or clean water, or air free of harmful chemicals. But we all have to promise to love a rectangle of red, white, and blue cloth.

Betsy Ross would be quite surprised to see how successful her creation has become. But Thomas Jefferson would be disappointed to see how little of the flag's real meaning remains.

* * *

What I am trying to say in that essay is that we need to think about what is really important in life. And we need to think about the things we do and the consequences of our actions. Like using violence to control people. Human beings are born with the ability to reason, not with guns in their hands. When I was in elementary school in California, we had a program that taught kids to solve problems by using words instead of fists. Kids were trained to be conflict managers. I was one of them. The conflict managers went around the schoolyard during recess and, if there were kids fighting, the conflict managers would help them solve

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

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