

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



*We are one global family,
 All colors, all races, one world united.
 We dance for peace, and the healing of our planet, Earth.
 Peace for all nations. Peace for all communities. Peace within ourselves.
 Let us connect, heart to heart. Through our diversity we recognize our unity.
 Through our compassion we recognize peace.
 Our love is the power to transform our world.
 Let us send it out NOW!!
 (Then allow yourself to feel the presence of peace everywhere.)*

from <http://Emissaryoflight.com>, by way of Barbara Foust

November

Saturday	November 2	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	* Quarterly Meeting, Blue Hill
Sunday	November 3		Food Pantry Day
Saturday	November 9		* AFSC conference: Alternatives to Militarism for Maine's Youth
Sunday	November 10	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Tuesday	November 12	4:00 p.m.	Peace and Social Concerns committee meeting
Wednesday	November 13	4:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel committee meeting
Sunday	November 17	11:30 am	Meeting for Business. Bring bag lunch. <i>Note change to winter schedule</i>
Sunday	November 24	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group

~Advance Notice~

Saturday	January 25	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	FCMPP meeting, Waterville
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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 first building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

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

Friendly Reminders

Moving or changing your email 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**, 10th month of 2002

based on draft minutes by Jean Crawford

Clerk Carmen Lavertu opened the meeting with quotations and moments of silence. There were 15 present.

Finance Committee

Bill Spock reported for the treasurer and for the Finance Committee. The committee recommends the Meeting consider several questions: Given the likelihood that financial contributions to the Meeting have peaked, the fact that contributions of volunteer time and energy have also peaked, leading to higher expenditures for maintenance services, and the fact that (under certain circumstances, including motivation for a cause) we have worked very hard as a community with significant financial results, do we want to plan a project for the dual purposes of increasing the Meeting's income as well as benefiting a worthy cause?

A related question would be: how will our response to the above question impinge upon the work of the ad hoc Worthy Needs Committee? Friends set January 12 for a meeting specifically to discuss these questions. The Finance Committee may by then recommend that we also discuss whether we want the committee to solicit contributions of time and energy at the same time as it solicits financial contributions from the Meeting community.

Ministry and Counsel

Charlotte Ritter reported for Ministry and Counsel. The committee encourages Friends to visit Erica Welter. It is best for one or two people to visit at a time, between two and four in the afternoon, and to call ahead.

The committee recommended the Meeting approve establishment of our own Internet Web site. Nancy Terrell Hall has been posting the Meeting newsletter and other items on her business Web site, but that is not a permanent arrangement. There was much discussion of the potential of such a project; however Friends were reminded once again of the limitations of time and energy within our small Meeting community.

Query #10

Vocations

Do you respect the value of all useful work, whether paid or unpaid, whether physical or intellectual, whether performed in the home or in the larger community? Does your daily work use means and serve goals which are consistent with the teachings of Jesus? Are you honest and trustworthy in all business transactions, prompt and just in payment of debts? By counsel and example, do you encourage young people to enter vocations which will serve society?

Nancy could help with the changeover to the new Web site, but she has already been shorthanded with preparation of the newsletter, donating many hours over many years. Ernie Foust and Karen Cadbury have volunteered to help with collecting news and editing. Gretchen Hull has volunteered to help with transfer of our homepage. More help is needed. Friends approved taking a first step, that is, setting up our own Web site with a homepage that does not require frequent updating. In addition, the Nominating Committee was asked to seek nominees for the Newsletter Committee.

Charlotte next reported that, in the process of contacting Friends for oversight and membership purposes, a concern was raised about lateness in arriving for Meeting for Worship. The committee recommended and the Meeting approved that the concern merits attention and that it should be handled with sensitivity lest we discourage those who have valid reasons for their lateness or who are usually punctual.

Education

Ernie Foust reported for the Education Committee, expressing its enthusiasm that the long-awaited First Day school at Midcoast Meeting is a reality. Friends are urged to sign up to teach a class; materials and guidance are available. Eventually the committee hopes we will have a discussion of the idea of building an addition to house the First Day school.

Peace and Social Concerns

Ernie also reported for Peace and Social Concerns. Holly Baldwin has been selected to represent New England Yearly Meeting at the Friends World Committee for Consultation program, "Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis: A Friend's Consultation," to be held January 17 - 20 at Guilford College in North Carolina. The committee for support of conference attendance will make financial arrangements with Holly. The Meeting hopes to hear about her experience when she returns.

Meetinghouse Committee

Barbara Foust reported that the fan is being repaired.

Library Committee

Deb Haviland reported that many borrowed books are long overdue.

Nominating Committee

Deb Haviland reported for the Nominating Committee that she and Susan Phelps are serving as co-clerks.

New Business

A request was made by Barbara Foust that the Meeting consider having a labyrinth on its land. Friends spoke of the requirement for upkeep once the labyrinth is built and agreed to discuss the subject at a later time.

continued on page 4



Friendly 8s Signup Time

by Barbara Foust

What is a Friendly 8? It's fun, food, and sociability—a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of those nice people you meet after Meeting for Worship—on their own turf and yours. If you sign up to participate, you will be assigned to a small group, usually in your local area (we have attenders living all over mid-Maine, from Camden to Pittston to Brunswick). One person in each group will be asked to get things started by hosting the first gathering at his or her house. The host provides the kitchen, table setting, beverages, and cleanup. The host may assign the other meal components (main dish, salad, dessert, vegetables, breads, etc.) to the other members of the group or leave meal planning to potluck chance. Groups generally meet once a month for either lunch or dinner. A different member of the group acts as host for each meeting. It is up to the group to agree on dates and times and a rotation schedule. After a year there is a new sign-up period, the groups are reshuffled, and the process begins again. Don't miss out! The sign-up sheets are on a clipboard on the meetinghouse credenza. If you have questions, contact the Friendly 8s coordinator, Barbara Foust, 582-8615.



Quarterly Meeting, Nov. 2

The next Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, hosted jointly by Narramissic Valley and Eggemoggin Monthly Meetings, will be held Saturday, November 2, at the Blue Hill Congregational Church. The day-long schedule of activities begins with coffee at 9:00 am and includes Ministry and Counsel, Meeting for Worship, lunch, and a Meeting for Business. The program of the day will be a documentary on Peace Pilgrim followed by worship-sharing on the question, "How does the life of Peace Pilgrim speak to my life today?" An inter-generational activity is also planned. Friends of all ages are urged to attend. This is the best way to get to know other Friends from Maine.

Bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share. Soups, beverages, and snacks will be provided by the host Meetings. For more complete information and driving directions, see the Quarterly Meeting newsletter (pink) on the credenza in the meetinghouse.

Remembering Barbara Cummings St. John

by Kim Cummings

Barbara St. John died peacefully at home at Brookhaven, Lexington, Massachusetts, on Saturday, October 5, 2002. Barbara (Warner Taylor) was born January 25,

1914, in New York City,

where she grew up, attending the Brearley School, in summer visiting her Quaker relatives in Philadelphia. In 1934 she married Charles K. Cummings, Jr. (now deceased), with whom she raised her family in Weston, MA. There she actively participated in town meeting, the



sketch by
Natalie Wriggins

"Cracker Barrel" discussion group, the Weston-Rombas Affiliation, and other civic activities, and for several years helped run the Red Barn Nursery School out of her Concord Road home. She was a mainstay of the Concord Road neighborhood, for some twenty years hosting a Quakerly Sunday meeting with six nearby families.

A birthright Quaker, Barbara for many decades was involved in the Cambridge Friends Meeting, taking on many key committee assignments and exercising wide influence as a spiritual leader. In 1989 she married Jim St. John (also now deceased) and with him was active in Midcoast Meeting in Damariscotta, Maine, until 1994 when they moved to Lexington, MA.

It was at Meeting that she felt most inspired, continuing to speak with passion until just weeks ago. She ardently supported the cause of peace and justice and that of environmental stewardship, contributing to a host of progressive causes. She will be remembered especially for the radiance of her spirit and the tenderness and breadth of her love, extended with special intensity to family but extending beyond to legions of friends and neighbors.

Barbara's daughter Nancy Boyden (formerly of Belmont) is deceased. Barbara is survived by three children: Kim Cummings of Kalamazoo, MI; Rebecca Shovan of North Andover and Lydia Cummings of Arlington, Massachusetts; by 7 grandchildren and a great grandson. A memorial service was held at Cambridge Friends Meeting. Memorial contributions to the American Friends Service Committee or other organizations promoting world peace and justice are welcome.



Dinner with the Mormons

by Carmen Lavertu

After many months of talking about it, with minimal planning and a frenzy of preparations in the final week, we welcomed our Mormon friends to the meetinghouse Saturday evening, October 19. They came in good numbers—many seniors, young couples, and a dozen or so children. The meetinghouse was quite full. We discovered many points of common experience and interests—some were neighbors, or they frequented the same bookshop, or they had lived in the same parts of the country, and so on. Our guests were very curious and eager to discuss our different ways of worship, and there was much interest in our literature and the library. Some books were borrowed. The table conversations were intelligent and animated.

Friends came with an abundance of food; it was truly a harvest celebration as well as a sociable affair. It was a most congenial meeting. Each of us made personal connections that will allow us to continue to interact as friendly neighbors and friends. It was a very good thing to do.



Congratulations...

To Judy and Reuben Bailey on the birth of their daughter, Marie Madison Bailey, October 13th in Portland. Both mother and baby are reportedly doing well.

The Advices

In our relations with others in our daily work, let us manifest the spirit of justice and understanding and thus give a living witness to the Truth. While trying to make provision for ourselves and our families, let us not be anxious, but in quietness of spirit trust in the goodness of God. When we suffer from unemployment, let us seek the support and encouragement of our Meetings. When we have a choice of employment, let us think first of the service that we may render. Let us be ready to limit our engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from a business that we may be free for new service as God appoints it.

New England/Maritime Friends Fall Retreat

by Diane Phipps, Acadia Monthly Meeting

Twenty-six Friends gathered at Camp Tulakadik on the shore of Lake Cassidy in New Brunswick, October 11-14, to share a Canadian Thanksgiving. There were times of great seriousness, a worship-sharing on coping strategies for the global political situation, a circle outside to pray the Peace Prayer (see opening quote on page 1 above calendar) at exactly 1 pm New York time, and a memorial to reflect on the lives of Jean and Hobart Mitchell and Kay Bidell, Friends who stepped beyond the threshold of life this year.

There were times of great joy—when we embraced old friends and welcomed new ones, as we worked together to prepare the Thanksgiving feast. There was music, music, music: our weekend was blessed with music from beginning to end. Michael Miller shared his premier performance CD of his *Peace Cantada*. Musicians Harry, Charlotte, Vivian, Sandy, Vince, and Charlie played tune after tune as we sang into the wee hours of the night.

We included time for play with walks to the lake and our annual after-turkey-dinner drive to the Fundy Trail. The tide was low at St. Martins when we arrived, and several people explored the famous caves.

Although it has been our custom to rotate the location of the weekend gathering between the US and Canada, it was decided to hold it at Camp Tulakadik again next year because of the low cost of \$8 per person per night, making it possible for more Friends to join us.

Charlotte Ritter traveled to and from the gathering with Diane and shared her report with us. ED

Monthly Meeting Notes.....cont'd from p. 2

An informal time of remembrance is being planned for Barbara St. John here. Bar was a beloved member of this Meeting for a period of years.

Plans for the Christmas benefit crafts show have begun. Jayne Dwyer and Sylvia Tavares have once again agreed to lead. It is recommended that planning include First Day School co-clerks Sally Wood and Sarah Ewing and the children.

The clerk reported that the telephone and e-mail chains are being updated. She shared correspondence received by the Meeting, including a note of appreciation from Carolyn Miller (*see next page*).

NOTE CHANGE TO WINTER SCHEDULE: The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Sunday, November 17, at 11:30, following Meeting for Worship. Bring lunch if you wish. ALL WELCOME.

Alternatives to Militarism for Youth in Maine

A conference and workshop on
Saturday, November 9,

held at Bates College from 9 am to 4 pm.

Young Mainers searching for nonviolent ways to resolve conflict, especially wars, and nervous about a military draft, are invited to attend this event. Older adults are urged to participate to provide information and support for Maine youth in our families, schools, and faith communities.

The keynote speaker will be Kevin Ramirez, a field worker for the Central Committee of Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) based in Oakland, CA, and Philadelphia, PA. He has also been active in CCCO's Military Out of Our Schools (MOOS) program.

Information about military services recruitment in the schools and the possibility of a draft (under Congressional House Bill H.R. 3598) will be addressed. Resources will be available. There will be group discussions to share experiences and views of war and peace with high school students, young adults, and older persons who have experience in draft counseling as well as veterans of past wars.

The workshop is offered by the Maine AFSC Peace and Justice Clearness Committee and is also sponsored by the Maine Veterans for Peace, the Department of Philosophy and Religion of Bates College, and the Maine Draft and Military Counselors. The conference is open to people of all ages. Cost for the conference is from \$0 to \$20, which includes the cost of workshops and speaker (but not lunch). For more information about registration, transportation, and cost, call 207-442-0907, or email <natkempner@gwi.net>, or speak with Carmen Lavertu (354-9556) or Ernie Foust (582-8615) in our Meeting about registration, help with the cost, and transportation.

Dear Midcoast Meeting Family,

Words fail me as I attempt to thank the Meeting family for the love and support shown me throughout the last four years of stress and loss in my life.

As I struggled with the death of my daughter, the decline in Cully's mental capacity and his unanticipated and devastating last illness, I have been strengthened by the kindness and care shown me in countless ways by Midcoast Meeting.

Know that I am forever grateful for the community, for their friendship, and for the caring shown by all concerned.

Sincerely and with love,
s/Carolyn Miller

Finance Committee

Building Community: Time-versus-Money Trade-offs

It was recognized that there has been a trend toward paying for services because not enough volunteer time has been available. Examples are meetinghouse cleaning (Silvia Tavares now does that twice a month), shoveling snow and ice to keep the doors clear (now done by the snowplowing firm), and the current decision to hire a contractor to assist with landscape maintenance.

This is a small meeting, and volunteer activity is extensive for many different committees and for other services, such as opening and closing the Meeting—services that cannot be bought. At the same time, we are losing long-time members who have been good financial contributors. Some new younger people with energy but less ability to contribute financially are beginning to attend regularly.

The Finance Committee noted two related activities. The "Hearts and Hands" project considered what activity the members of the Meeting could jointly share, which would help to bring members together and provide some needed service to the local community. That process did not result in a project, because the members are geographically dispersed, already very busy, and often engaged in their own community service projects. This search for some community-building activity overlapped the consideration to change how Meeting funds should be dispersed to other charities. These charities might be ones that members were already supporting. The Worthy Needs Committee is now appointed annually to allocate an amount of our total budget to local, national, or foreign groups. Currently, the Meeting has no focused community activity but does contribute funds to other groups each year.

This fall, in response to a desire to contribute to the Friends School in Ramallah, the Meeting held a very successful yard sale. The energy and broad contributions made it clear that under the right circumstances the members of the Meeting are willing and eager to gather together and contribute a substantial amount of time to a worthy cause, with significant financial results.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Monthly Meeting consider all these related topics and discuss how we might best use our time, energy, and funds both for our own needs and for the needs of the less fortunate. In particular, the suggestion was made that the spring letter from the Finance Committee asking for pledges might also request members to consider their contributions of volunteer time, not as an alternative, but as an additional contribution. Further thought and discussion of these ideas are needed.

Thinking about Peace

by Earnest Foust

At the fifth meeting of my class at the Senior College, University of Maine, Augusta, I gave an assignment due at the eighth and last class. A condensation of that assignment appears below with the idea that we consider how truly significant and how timely Fox's assertion is today. People who are puzzled by the hatred for this country demonstrated a year ago last September and who are now concerned about reservations expressed even in friendly countries about our response to that attack may find here a basis for deeper questioning.

In 1650 George Fox, out of whose life and teachings the Religious Society of Friends emerged, was being held in an English prison. He was offered release on the provision he accept a commission in the army. He refused. In his journal Fox reports, "I told them that I live in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion for all wars." In many ways George Fox was a universalist. That is, although he used the language of Christianity, his vision was all-encompassing and led to the most deeply held position of Quakerism, that there is that of God in all people.

Let us focus on this statement of George Fox in an effort to express his position in more modern terms, if

necessary, and to determine how an individual in our times might achieve that quality of life. Is it accessible from within any and all religious beliefs? Without religious belief? How would such a person function in our society? And finally, can you envision and describe how a nation (perhaps ours) would behave on Planet Earth if that nation followed Fox's precept?

Ponder this famous statement from George Fox and others, *A Declaration from the Harmless and Innocent People of God called Quakers*, presented to King Charles II in 1661.

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. The spirit of Christ by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight any war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world...Therefore we cannot learn war anymore.

Midcoast Meeting of Friends
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Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends • Clerk: Carmen Lavertu, 354-9556 • Recording Clerk: Rob Patterson, 236-9551 • Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283 • The Newsletter • November 2002 • Volume 14 • Number 9 (This year the January and February issues were combined.) The Newsletter is published every month except August. The copy deadline is the day following Monthly Meeting for Business. Editor/design/production: Nancy Terrell Hall, phone/fax 529-5771, E-mail: moonlite@incoln.midcoast.com Mailing list: e-mail changes to Nancy @ moonlite@incoln.midcoast.com or USPS mail to Nancy @ 216 Waldoboro Rd., Bremen, ME 04551