



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

*S*ilence of the heart is necessary so you can hear God everywhere—in the closing of the door, in the person who needs you, in the birds that sing, in the flowers, in the animals.
—Mother Teresa

November

Saturday	November 1	9:30 am - 4:30pm	* Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Bar Harbor
Saturday	November 2	rise of Meeting	* "An Uplifting Event," hosted by Ministry & Counsel
Sunday	November 9	8:30 a.m. noon	Reading Group Winter Discussions, topic: a video introduction to Jonathan Schell
Monday	November 10	5 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
Tuesday	November 11	4:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
Wednesday	November 12	1 a.m. - midnight	* Interfaith Service of Repentance at the UN, chartered bio-diesel bus trip to NYC
Sunday	November 16	noon	Monthly Meeting for Business. NOTE: change to winter schedule
Monday	November 17	asap	Deadline for December Newsletter
Sunday	November 23	8:30 a.m. noon	Reading Group Winter Discussions, topic TBA
Sunday	November 30	noon	Winter Discussions, topic TBA

*** 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

✦ THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEGINS ITS WORK THIS MONTH ✦
HOW CAN YOU EMPLOY YOUR ENERGY AND INTERESTS TO BETTER THE LIFE OF THE MEETING?

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**, 10th month of 2003

based on draft minutes by Earnest Foust

Meetinghouse Committee

Carolyn Miller, clerk of the Meetinghouse Committee, drew our attention to the excellent sign that was made by Steve Gorry. It has been placed by the road so that it can be read from both directions.

Carolyn then pointed out that we have long sought to replace the white plastic chairs that were an affordable choice earlier but take up considerable space and have little aesthetic appeal. Carolyn and others have done significant research to find alternative chairs of quality, with the result that a sample chair will be available for our consideration. Less expensive chairs are available, but the sample represents the best chair they have seen that is attractive, durable, compact, and, they hope, within our budget restraints. Discussions of the desirability of chairs with arms, cost, and financing followed. It was approved that the Meetinghouse Committee and the Finance Committee will confer and make recommendations to the next Meeting for Business.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Diamond provided those in attendance with his report covering financial activity from 6/11/03 to 9/30/03. Expenses thus far are the usual. Discussion on the purpose of Worthy Needs and the need to make decisions on those expenditures followed. Funds are available in the budget for this year, and the Worthy Needs Committee should meet soon.

Copies of Claire Darrow's report on the very successful Container Fund Project were distributed and discussed.

Paul suggested during a discussion of the categories he has been using in his accounting that it might be a good practice, for the sake of clarity, to list meetinghouse funds in two categories with "grounds" as a separate category. He concluded his report by saying that income and expenses are about where they should be for this time in the fiscal year.

Ministry & Counsel

Clerk Jean Crawford reported that the committee had approved Sally Wood's request for membership. In the

Query #9

Stewardship

Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

midst of the resulting expressions of pleasure and excitement, Friends did remember to formally accept Sally into membership.

Jean then turned to plans for the "Uplifting Event" at the meetinghouse, November 2nd. The occasion will feature the group, Castlebay, in a program of Celtic music, and other delights. Another part of the program will feature three owls and accompanying naturalists from Chewonki.

Peace & Social Concerns

Clerk Holly Baldwin reported. There will be an educational forum and discussion on the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) on October 30. It will be led by Logan Perkins who is preparing to participate in the demonstrations against the FTAA meeting in Miami in November.

The Meeting accepted Claire Darrow's preliminary report on the Container Project and approved her suggestion that \$300 dollars from the funds raised by the project be given to the Restorative Justice Program as thanks for their presentation at the fund-raising dinner. Amid expressions of pleasure for the success of the project and of Claire's enthusiastic compassion for the group in South Africa, Friends agreed we will appreciate being kept informed of their activities. Paul Diamond interjected that the Diamonds' friend, Allen Quilly, of Quaker House in Belfast, Ireland, will be going to South Africa. (Some of us have met Allen and heard him speak a few years back.) He will be told about the Quaker Peace Center in Capetown and our contribution to their Restorative Justice center, with the possibility that he would visit while there.

Guy Marsden's proposal, "Many Hands Make Light Work," asks us to encourage the replacement of inefficient lights to reduce energy use as well as raise awareness of new technology and the importance of conservation. The project, explained elsewhere in this newsletter, was approved by Monthly Meeting.

Other items of discussion included the following:

- Holly Baldwin and Andy Burt are planning a program on holiday consumerism and the testimony of Friends.
- It was noted that packages for Iraqi infants are due Oct. 28th.
- After the rise of Meeting on 10/19 there will be a discussion of the casino issue.
- Holly will attend a meeting of area clergy on Habitat for Humanity.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be at the rise of Meeting for Worship on 11/16th.

An Uplifting Event

By Jean Crawford

Ministry & Counsel feels that Friends would welcome a boost to their spirits. It's been an arduous time, especially with the war and with many losses here in Midcoast Meeting. We looked for a program that would be light and that would bring us together in fellowship and we're very pleased with what we found.

There will be a very special event on 11/2nd at the rise of Meeting. Our friends at Chewonki are coming with their wonderful owls. This should appeal to young and older. Then there will be a tasty lunch served by Ministry & Counsel, to be followed by a 45-minute program of Celtic music presented by Castlebay Music. After some songs for fall, Julia Lane, harpist, will tell us about her fascinating research into a 1740 happening in Acadia (involving shipwrecked Irish sailors, merciful Passamaquoddies, and some Quakers in Bar Harbor and—perhaps—Damariscotta) and her plan to set the story to music.

We're excited about this unique event and hope everyone will make plans to attend.



Notes from Friends on the Move

- ✓ From **Paulding and Susan Phelps**: After 13 wonderful years in Boothbay, on October 30, Susan and I move to Kendal-Crosslands, Our new address will be: 414 Crosslands Drive, Kennett Square, PA, 19348, 610-388-7356.
- ✓ From **Aimee Phillippi**: On the occasion that I've run into people from the Meeting, they always want to know about the straw bale house that Mick and I have been building in Monroe. We made a Web site about the house, and I thought that people may want to see it at <http://www.unity.edu/faculty/pages/womersley/intro.htm> Also, here is my new number and address: 42 Town Farm Road, Monroe, ME, 04951. Phone: 234-4168. I'll be doing the dual household thing until the end of November and then I'll be permanently out of Waldoboro.

TV Donation Facilitates Discussion Group

Peace & Social Concerns Committee has proposed a new activity to follow Meeting for Worship on weeks when we do not have Meeting for Business or Ministry & Counsel programs—informal discussions around the videos we have gathered from Friends Meetings or have taped from the current news. The idea of having equipment available for these programs came up before the Meeting many, many months ago. To try out the idea, on Sunday, 11/9 we will show some tapes of interviews with Jonathan Schell. This will also serve as an introduction the book group's discussions of his book, **The Unconquerable World** (see last issue of the newsletter).

In order to facilitate our video viewing, Barbara and Ernie Foust have donated a television set with VCR, all set up on a rolling cabinet. Our thanks go to them for their generous gift.



From the Meeting Earth Stewardship Team

"Many Hands Make Light Work"

by Guy Marsden

My first action of Earth Stewardship for the Meeting comes as a result of my participation in the Environmental Justice Program sponsored by the Maine Council of Churches at Chewonki.

My idea, which has been approved by Monthly Meeting, will replace the incandescent lamps in the meetinghouse with compact fluorescents (CFLs). I call it the "Many Hands Make Light Work" project!

Friends will have the opportunity to sponsor each Compact Fluorescent replacement. This will foster a sense of participation while also keeping this expense out of the general fund. We need to replace 23 lamps in total at a total cost of around \$400.

I plan on putting a board up on an easel in the lobby showing a floor plan of the building and circles identifying all the lamps. Sponsors can fill in the circles with a yellow marker and sign their name to each lamp they sponsor. A collection box will be placed near the board to receive the contributions.

I will search for warm tone lamps more pleasant than the typical blueish CFLs. There are 12 lamps on the dimmer in the meeting room that will require special dimmable CFLs that are more expensive. I have located a source at \$17.88 each, but hope to find less expensive ones with more research, the other non dimmable lamps are available for under \$12.00 each.

We plan to request \$20.00 per lamp and use the extra funds to acquire spare lamps. This round number would make cash contributions simpler.

Farewell to the Phelps

On Friday, October 10, the Meeting held a farewell party for Susan and Paulding Phelps, who are moving to Crosslands in Kennett Square, PA. It was a time to thank them for all they have contributed to Midcoast and to wish them well. The gathering was joyful, the food was delicious. They will be so missed, but we are happy for them as they start out on this new path. Pete Haviland spoke for the Meeting when he read this tribute to them:

Susan and Paulding Phelps—members of the Midcoast Meeting family for over ten years during an extremely adventurous period in the history of this Meeting.

They joined in without stint or reserve in planning and building and furnishing the new meetinghouse, in finding the financial support, as well as the human support to make things happen.

During their stay here, Susan has been active on six committees: Ministry & Counsel, Finance, Meetinghouse, Hospitality, Nominating, and Landscaping. Her cheerful, quiet competence shows inside and outside our building.

Paulding has served on the Meetinghouse Committee, headed up the capital fund-raising effort, helped to find the property and to design these comfortable spaces that we are beginning to take for granted. He served on the Finance Committee—for five years as Treasurer, then five more as a “sage.” Leading the Maintenance Committee, he and a crew of volunteers painted the outside trim a few years ago. He has been a member of Ministry & Counsel, he designed and led the Workshop on Aging, and he started and led the Book Group.

To say that we will miss them goes without saying: they leave a void in our Meeting family, which we must fill with fond remembrances and renewed energy. Between them, they have been vital participants in almost every aspect of Midcoast Meeting.

We wish them every success and happiness at Crosslands, where it is my guess they will quickly be involved in the life and activities of that community. It is wonderful they will be nearer their children. It is sad that they will miss the coast of Maine, but they will be back, as they go on sharing their lives with others. We all look forward to their visits with us.

10 October, 2003

Who is there big enough to love the whole planet? We must find such people for the next society.

—E.B.White

Maine Fair Trade Campaign Free Trade Area of the Americas Teach-In

Maine has lost more manufacturing jobs than any other state in the country in the last ten years. These jobs have largely been outsourced overseas, to places where corporations can pay less for labor and increase their profit margin. The practice of moving jobs overseas has been made possible and encouraged by trade deals such as NAFTA and the World Trade Organization. Now the Bush Administration is preparing to expand NAFTA to the entire hemisphere. A new trade agreement called the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is being negotiated in secret by trade ministers and powerful corporate lobbies.

Are you concerned about job loss in Maine, increasing environmental devastation here and abroad, rampant poverty and unequal distribution of wealth in the world? Friends are urged to learn how all these issues are connected and what we can do about them. For more information, contact Logan Perkins, 882-7323 Ext. 58, or logan@planet-save.com.

On October 30th Logan Perkins offered a teach-in on the Free Trade Area of the Americas and its implications on social justice at home at Midcoast Friends Meeting.

Fall Workday a Success

by Pat Spock

On this gray day, with intermittent showers, we had 18 people who stayed after the rise of Meeting and helped with the various tasks necessary to put the grounds to bed for the winter—a wonderful response to the call for participants, and we had a good time in the bargain. Thanks to all. Take a moment to enjoy the “kempt but not manicured” look we achieved with all that effort. Workers were: Andy Burt, Jean Crawford, Sarah Ewing, Ernie Foust, Louisa Gray, Conor Griffin, Jake Griffin, Michael Griffin, Steve Gorry, Dick Harris, Will Holme, Carmen Lavertu, David Nyberg, Nancy Nyberg, Kit Pfeiffer, Bill Spock, Pat Spock, Patience Thomas.

The Advices

Friends are advised to consider our possessions as God’s gifts, entrusted to us for responsible use. Let us free our time and our abilities to be able to follow the leadings of the Spirit. Let us cherish the beauty and variety of the world. Friends are urged to speak out boldly against the destruction of the world’s resources and the difficulties that destruction prepares for the future generations. Let us guard against waste and resist our extravagant consumption, which contributes to inequities and impoverishment of life in our own and other societies. Let us show a loving consideration for all God’s creatures. Let kindness know no limits.

Global Warming: An Interfaith Service of Repentance and Renewal at the United Nations

Come to the United Nations on November 12 for the healing of the Earth—and ourselves.

There will come a time when the nations of the world will work together to protect this magnificent creation.

There will come a time when the nations of the world will honor the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and all creatures of the Earth as precious and holy.

There will come a time when the leaders of nations will weigh the impact of their decisions upon the most vulnerable of Earth's peoples and upon our children and grandchildren and generations to come.

There will come a time. And that time will come only when the people of the world speak with love and courage and strength and say, "The time is now. Creation is in peril. Our atmosphere, our oceans, our rivers know no borders. We must work together. It is time to care for this wonderful planet that has given us everything." November 12, 2003 will be such a time.

On November 12, five years after the United States signed the Kyoto Protocol, U.S. citizens will gather with members of the world community to speak with one voice about global warming and climate change.

Religious Witness for the Earth invites you to join in repentance, renewal, and solidarity with the rest of the world. We will gather as an interfaith community at the Community Church of New York and walk together, as brothers and sisters, to the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the United Nations. There we will hold a Service of Repentance and Renewal.

We have invited members of small island states and other low-lying nations to join with us there. We have invited members of the world community whose governments and people have chosen to work toward the Kyoto standards even before the treaty is ratified. We come to ask forgiveness and to offer our gratitude and support. We come to recognize our interconnectedness and interdependence.

After our service, we will visit various UN missions. We will visit nations like Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands that are curbing their greenhouse gas emissions to learn from them and offer our appreciation. We will visit nations like Bangladesh, Tuvalu, and Honduras—those most threatened by global warming—to offer our support and solidarity. And we will strategize together how to bring change.

We will work with other nations to bring a human face to the issue of global warming, using intercultural tours and international gatherings.

Here in the United States, where 4% of the world's population consumes 25% of its fossil fuels, we will consider how to change our government's policies and

our personal way of living.

There will come a time when the nations of the world will work together to protect this magnificent creation.

Help us make it soon.

Join us November 12.

For more information about the event and to sign a call, visit the Religious Witness for the Earth Web site: www.religiouswitness.org.



The Value of Truth

Governor Baldacci's friend, Warren Cook, attempted to enhance his resume by saying he had won both a military medal and a graduate degree. He was forced to admit that both these assertions were false. He also admitted that, in so doing, he had let down his friends. But he said nothing about lying in itself being wrong, nothing about honesty and integrity as values by which we should live in community together. It seems to me, not only Mr. Cook but many of us today overlook important values that give credence to each person as a caring and thoughtful individual. I suspect integrity is only surpassed by kindness and courage, yet both of these personal goals must be infused with integrity. Simply for viable democracy, all of us, especially our leaders, should try to live by these values. A hint of humor and even a whiff of wisdom might help, too. Right?

—Sally Cartwright

This piece was previously published in The Free Press.

ECUMENICAL CRAFT FAIR & TEA

Monday, December 1st, 2-4 P.M.

at 2nd Congregational Church, Newcastle

Friends have a table reserved at no charge.

Jayne Dwyer will be selling Gingerbread and Jewelry. Crafts people interested in participating should call Jayne at 563-1660.

Proceeds from donated items will go to the Heifer Project, as in past years.

An Interfaith Bus Trip to the UN

By Andy Burt

The Maine Council of Churches' Environmental Justice Program and its Interfaith Climate Change and Energy Initiative is organizing a charter bus powered by biodiesel fuel to take concerned Maine people to the United Nations in New York City on November 12 for an Interfaith Service of Repentance and Renewal sponsored by Religious Witness for the Earth.

Joining national religious leaders and other people of faith and concerned citizens, we will march from the Community Church of New York to the UN, where we will hold a service, followed by meetings with delegations from islands and other nations impacted by global climate change, delegations from countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, and visit the BP Corporation. The day will conclude with a debriefing session.

The Maine bus (VIP charter line with video screens and comfortable seats) will leave on November 12 from the Park and Ride on Marginal Way in Portland at 1 am. We will stop for breakfast outside New York City. We will leave New York at 5:30 pm and arrive in Portland around midnight November 12. The cost for the roundtrip is \$55 per person, which includes a small fee to purchase Green Tags to offset the greenhouse gas emissions of the trip.

To make final reservations for the bus, please e-mail or call Andy Burt by October 29 at 882-6848, or adburt@gwi.net, and send a check for \$55 made payable to the Maine Council of Churches, 15 Pleasant Avenue, Portland, ME 04103.

This is a historic, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness to your concerns about global warming, to join with others in a powerful demonstration of compassion and action on behalf of our fellow Earthling as we reach out to those bound together by the will to turn back global climate change. We can celebrate the nations and peoples who are committing themselves and their resources to mitigate global warming; we can express our deep regret and ask forgiveness of those nations and their people who are already suffering severely from the effects of climate change. Please join us on the "bean" bus on November 12. It will lift your spirits and bring us all hope for the future.

See related piece on page 5.

Visit
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

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