



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

Tension is who you think you should be, relaxation is who you are.

- Chinese Proverb

November

Saturday	Nov. 5	9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	* Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting at East Vassalboro
Sunday	Nov. 6	9-noon 8:30 a.m.	Alternative Gift Fair, Skidompha Library, Damariscotta * Creative Listening dialog
Tuesday	Nov. 8	6-8 p.m.	Food Pantry Day * PLEASE VOTE
Thursday	Nov. 10	7-8:30 p.m.	AFSC Maine Committee on Youth and Alternatives to the Military
Friday	Nov. 11	9 a.m.	Lincoln County Peace and Justice Coalition * Maine Veterans for Peace and others invited to join the Veterans Day Parade in Portland
Fri.- Sun.	Nov. 11-13		* NEYM Ministry and Counsel Retreat Weekend, China Lake Conference Center
Saturday	Nov. 12	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Unplugging the Holiday Tree workshop, bag lunch
Sunday	Nov. 13	8:30 a.m. rise of worship	Building & Grounds Committee meeting Meeting for worship for business. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
Monday	Nov. 14		Deadline for submissions to next newsletter
Tuesday	Nov. 15		* America Recycles Day
Thursday	Nov. 17	5:30 p.m.	Ministry and Counsel Meeting
Sunday	Nov. 20	rise of worship	* 10th Anniversary Brunch
Sunday	Nov. 27	rise of worship	Informal meeting for peace and social concerns sharing and networking

* 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.

Visit www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

***The Entirely Unofficial* MONTHLY MEETING NOTES, 10th month of 2005**

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

Clerk Jean Crawford read a passage from Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass". After the reading a brief silence was observed. There were 11 members present. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved with one correction.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL: Deb Haviland reported for the committee. The memorial minute for Marian Dwyer was read to the meeting and approved. It will be in the next newsletter and posted on the meeting's website. Special appreciation to Nancy Booth and Claire Darrow for their contributions to this effort. The first Quaker Dialogue/Creative Listening session was held on October 9th from 8:30 to 9:45 AM. The two additionally scheduled meetings are on October 23rd and November 6th in the same time slot before meeting for worship. The dialogue was very meaningful to the nine attendees as an aid to deepening their interpersonal relations and spiritual life. After the third dialogue a decision will be made about possibly continuing the process in January. A clearness committee has been formed to meet with Katrina Rickermann concerning her request to become a member of the meeting. They will meet with her in November. Meeting members and attendees are encouraged to fill out or update the Emergency Contact Forms on file with the meeting. The form will be enclosed in the next newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: The People to People organization has fallen on hard times. Founded by this meeting almost 30 years ago, it needs re-invigorated leadership and a new vision. Gretchen Hull reported that she is trying to revitalize the board and start making plans for the future. The organization has to move out of its current building in the spring. Gretchen envisions building a central facility which will serve the work of People to People, The Food Pantry and other service organizations. She would like to have at least one other Quaker on the board. Several possible candidates were suggested to her. Carmen reported on the second hour conversation on Gifts and Leadings which attracted the participation of about 20 people. The idea of the process is to "de-secularize" the way we fill our committees and offices. Instead of a Nominating Committee whose members go out and "button-hole" folks and ask them to be on a particular committee, this process is intended to draw out the interests and skills of the meeting community in furtherance of the meeting's business. An important part of the process is a hard look at what we really need in the way of committees and officers. Friends are reminded that on Friday the 28th of October there will be a pizza supper followed by more exploration of our gifts and leadings. Gretchen expressed the desire to see Peace and Social Concerns resurrected as an active committee of the meeting. She wants to ask for volunteers, to see who is truly led to such service. The Clerk observed that this seemed to be a leading of Gretchen's that might revitalize the committee which was disbanded earlier in the year.

The 10th anniversary of the construction of the meetinghouse, which we plan to celebrate on November 20th, was discussed. Initially the thought had percolated that the anniversary would consist of a brunch, a panel discussion/remembrance of the building process and perhaps some music or other "jollity." Nancy Booth suggested that, instead of an insular reminiscence, we open the program up to the wider community and have some sort of fund-raiser for Pakistan relief. Claire pointed out that there is a good written history of the building process and that can be re-published in lieu of a panel discussion. It was agreed that Nancy, Gretchen and Jean would act as a "clearing house" for ideas and suggestions for this event.

NEW BUSINESS: The Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy has written urging us to be active as individuals and a community, in opposing the referendum on the ballot next month to repeal the non-discrimination law concerning sexual orientation which passed the legislature last year. Write to the media, check out the "Maine Won't Discriminate" website, reach out in support to gay friends. The business meeting decided to follow the example of Belfast meeting in writing a minute for publication in the media. The minute was collectively drafted by the members present and will be signed by Clerk Jean Crawford and disseminated to media sources. It will also appear in the newsletter. While the creative juices were flowing, it was decided that a minute in observance of George Sparks' 90th birthday on October 23rd was in order. That too was crafted and agreed upon by those present.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be on *Sunday, November 13th, 2005 at the rise of meeting for worship*. A brown bag lunch is suggested. All are welcome to attend.

Emergency Contact Information

Five years ago the Meeting created an Emergency Contact Information Form for members and attendees to fill out. The purpose of the form is to have contact information available to the Meeting in case of an emergency. Having the name of a designated relative or friend on file is important. If you haven't filled one out yet, please do so (see form in this newsletter) and give to Deborah Haviland, Clerk of M&C. If you have filled one out and want to check the information, ask her to show you your form. Thanks for doing this. The form will also be posted on the Meeting website under the Ministry and Counsel tab.



Please Vote NO on Proposition #1 on November 8th

On November 8th, there will be an important referendum issue on the ballot, asking voters whether they will repeal a law currently on the books which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, lending, lodging and education. This ballot question is asking voters to reverse the hard work of our elected officials. LD 1196, an Act to Extend Civil Rights Protections to All People Regardless of Sexual Orientation, was passed this March, with bipartisan support in both houses of the Maine Legislature. Although Maine already has a law that protects people from discrimination, sexual orientation is not one of the categories specified by earlier legislation. LD 1196 thus identifies Sexual Orientation as another category to be added to the existing categories of Race, Color, Religion, Ancestry, Gender, National Origin, Physical or Mental Disability, Age, Familial Status(housing), and Marital Status (credit). If this bill is reversed, Maine will be the only New England state without such language on the books.

On Oct. 21, Midcoast Monthly Meeting approved the following minute on this topic:

"We are the Religious Society of Friends and as people of faith we strongly believe in the dignity and worth of all peoples. Jesus brought to the world the teaching of compassion and we believe that teaching should not be denied to anyone. As Quakers we believe in that of God in everyone. We strongly support existing law, LD 1196, An Act To Extend Civil Rights Protection To All People Regardless Of Sexual Orientation, and urge all voters to Vote "NO" on Proposition #1, the referendum to repeal this law."

Discrimination is wrong and it hurts Maine people. A NO vote will protect all Mainers from discrimination.

Sources: <http://www.mainewontdiscriminate.com/> and "Businesses Against Discrimination," a letter circulated by the NO on 1 Campaign's Communities Against Discrimination, and signed by many local businesses in our area.

Invitation to a Parade

On Veterans Day, November 11th, Maine Veterans For Peace will again participate in the American Legion's Veterans Day Parade in Portland. We gather between 9 and 9:30 a.m. on State Street (on the down hill side before you get to Congress, same place as last year). The parade begins at 10:30 AM. Ceremonies end by 11:30 after which we plan to have lunch at O'Naturals, 83 Exchange St, Portland. We invite all addresses to come and walk with us under our banners. We request all to wear black.

In the Parade Orders put out by the Portland Chapter of the American Legion, sponsors of the parade, the following was stated: "NOTE: There will be no signs allowed of a political or protest nature to be carried or displayed by participants." Maine Veterans For Peace will carry the following banners: Veterans For Peace; "The True Cost of War, 627,000 U.S. military and 250 million civilians died as a result of war 1900 - 2005", (updated from last year). 14 banners depicting the names of every American soldier who has died in the Iraqi War 2; Abolish War. We need close to 50 people to handle all the banners. It is very important that as many Maine Veterans For Peace members and Maine peace activists come out to walk with us. It is an easy 1/2 mile walk down Congress St to City Hall..

There seems to be a large change in attitudes within America concerning the war. A recent survey indicates only 39% are supportive of the war. We have NEVER received a bad reception in this parade, indeed, year after year our groups encounter more applause and cheers than other groups participating, so our message is noticed and appreciated.

As we approach this Veteran's Day, the body count in Iraq approaches 2,000; the number of U.S. wounded climbs above 15,000; there is a report estimating Iraq's civilian casualties to exceed 100,000; and other, unconfirmed, reports that the actual wounded numbers could be double that reported as many of the evacuees are suffering from mental and physical stress not included in the "wounded" figures. We see no end to the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan nor the war on terrorism. It is time, past time, for the United States to end this senseless violence and fear mongering and try peace for a change.

Let us stop the madness. If we are to survive as a race we must abolish war but first we must abolish the reasons, and attitudes, that lead us to war.

In Peace. Jack Bussell, Maine Veterans For Peace. Give Fay or me a call at 772-1442 or contact us at this email address for additional information: jafabussell@gwi.net

Quarterly Meeting November 5th

Quarterly Meeting will be held on November 5th at East Vassalboro, with a theme of Faith into Action. Here are some statements from the organizing committee:

We seek to study the flow from one's personal, spiritual practice to one's inspired outward action - and also the importance of this action being guided and nurtured by the corporate discernment of a loving, supportive spiritual community.

Here are just a couple of quotes from the many inspirational excerpts they included in their invitational letter. From Sterling Olmstead's *Motions Of Love, Woolman as Mystic and Activist* (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 312): "... if Woolman is both mystic and activist, so are many of us, though we may never have thought of ourselves in these terms. Our inner motions may be less demanding and less powerful, our actions less courageous and less consistent, but in principle they are the same. We, therefore, are in a position not merely to admire Woolman as an interesting person from the past, but to learn from him."

From Steve Smith's *Living In Virtue, Declaring Against War* (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 378): "Just as for each individual there is an appropriate balance of inner work and outreach, of quiet retreat and activist engagement, so within each community of Friends there is an appropriate division of labor that arises naturally when individuals are true to their own specific gifts and callings at each moment in time and at each stage of life. I sometimes describe myself as having the heart of a contemplative and the conscience of an activist, causing me to feel torn between the inner path of renewal and holiness, and the outward path of doing justice and mercy. ... (A friend) shared an image of a community of seekers at the edge of the ocean, holding hands. Some stand solidly on shore, providing anchor; others venture into the shallows, providing essential linkage, while yet others brave the swelling, crashing waves. All are joined by hands of love and support. Roles may shift ... (however), the work of peace and justice is most effective when it is guided by corporate discernment in a loving community. When this linkage of mutual support is broken, those in the swirling tumult of the ocean may lose their bearings and be swept away ... while those on the shore may be tempted to turn their backs upon an engaged life and huddle around small campfires To sustain both inwardness and outreach, we need the support of each other."

For further information please contact Sharon Salmon: Tel: 589-3212; Email loghouse@pivot.net

New England Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Retreat Weekend China Lake Conference Center, November 11-13

From the registrar: Bonnie Norton, 617-524-4647; email bonper@comcast.net

I am looking forward to greeting a large Maine contingent again as we did 2 years ago. I am not the clerk of M&C now, but I am serving as the registrar for the Retreat. Bill How, of Fresh Pond Meeting in Cambridge is the new clerk.

The weekend begins Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. with a brown bag meal. Bring food for yourself or eat on the road. The program begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. and runs through 2:00 p.m. Sunday.

November may be chilly, so bring warm clothing and footwear. Bring snacks and fruit and your favorite herbal tea. Meals will be varied and vegetarian choices will be available. Bedding will be provided by the Conference Center.

The cost of the weekend is \$77 for two nights and five meals. If you can only stay one night, the cost is \$52. Day use packages are also available. Do not let finances keep you away! If you need financial help to attend, first ask your Monthly Meeting for support. If that is not possible, the Yearly Meeting Retreat Fund can help. Just let the registrar know of your need.

Editor's note: Registrations were supposed to have been in by Nov. 5, but if you are interested in attending, please contact her anyway.



Creative Listening Discussions

There have been a series of Creative Listening Discussions on 3 Sundays preceding meeting for worship. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend, here are some queries that were suggested for consideration at the discussion on Sunday, October 23:

Queries on Gifts and Leadings in support of the maintenance and vitality of Midcoast Meeting.

“Many lighted candles, when gathered together in a single place, greatly augment each other’s light and make it shine more brilliantly. In the same way, when many are gathered together into the same life, there is more of the glory of God.” – Barclay’s Apology

Let us ask ourselves:

Am I using all of the spiritual gifts God has given me? Do I seek ways to discover and nourish my gifts and the gifts of others, encouraging us all for the benefit of the meeting? Do I take on the responsibilities appropriate to my circumstances, neither expecting others to carry all the load nor taking on more than is appropriate to my circumstances and abilities? How might my spiritual formation be supported in these ways?

Other queries and guidance:

How am I seeking to change that with which I am dissatisfied?

Does my “comfort level” prevent me from hearing and obeying God’s prompting?

What does the term “leading” mean to you?

Can you remember a time when you undertook a task you felt unable to do and yet found the strength to do it? What contributed to that success?

What are you good at? How did you first become interested in it? Were you always good at it? How did you become good at it? What sort of satisfaction does it give you?

Are you satisfied with your service in the Religious Society of Friends?

Why do you do the things you do for the Society? Is it because you’re good at it, no one else would do it, or you were asked to do it (perhaps to your surprise)?

Are there tasks you would be willing to do if you had training and experience? If so, what tasks would attract you?

Are there any other people you know in your meeting whom you think might have similar responses to you? How will you check to see if you discerned their feelings rightly?

What is it that is uniquely mine to give?

What may have been put into my hands that I may not have been honoring?

What is the specific place that God wants me to work in my faith community? in the world?

How can each individual be helped to develop his or her spiritual gifts, within the Meeting and beyond? Can you think of occasions when you yourself received such help?

How can each individual be helped to develop his or her spiritual gifts, within the Meeting and beyond? Can you think of occasions when you yourself received such help?

“When you have named your talents or gifts, list the risks that you will have to take in order to actualize them.

What will you have to give up if you are to develop these gifts? What are the obstacles that you foresee?”

When we turn our hearts to God, we experience a reorientation of values deep within us. Either we become increasingly astute and wise as we live out our new orientation—we walk in the Spirit—or, if we are not true to the new life that is rising within us, if we deny, repress or live in contradiction to it, we invite internal havoc and trigger war within ourselves. Our lives may take on a frantic quality.

— Paraphrase of a quote by Jan Wood, Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Regarding committee work:

Why did I feel led to serve on this committee?

What can I bring to this committee and its work?

What are my burning concerns, my skills, my leadings?

How can I blend these into the work of the committee as a whole?

Vision

What is our unique contribution to the realm of God?

What is God calling us to do?

Having been led, what do we do with those visions? Friends tend to be good at the first step—discernment, but bad at the second step—taking our leadings and turning them into action.

What do you want from your Meeting? What is your Meeting doing in this direction? What would you like from your Meeting that you are not getting?

What are you willing to give to your Meeting?

“ . . . Everything about spiritual nourishment is intertwined or circular: What opens the heart to others opens the heart to God which opens that heart to others still more. What builds trust in one another builds trust in the community which builds more trust in God which builds more trust in one another. If I work on my own personal spiritual life it nourishes the Meeting which in turn nourishes me more ‘We are all the answers to each other’s prayers.’ ”

— Alison Erikson, New England Yearly Meeting

Pakistani Earthquake Relief

information from Gretchen Hull

Dr Rifat Zaidi, orthopedic surgeon from Miles Hospital, Damariscotta will be returning to his native Pakistan on a humanitarian mission at the end of October with a team that is now reported to include an ER Doctor from Miles, an Orthopedic MD from Boothbay, an OR Nurse from Miles, and some \$30-40,000 of equipment from Miles. The team needs money for medications and single-use OR materials to treat some of the more than 200,000+ total patients likely. Help all you can- any amount will be important. One dose of antibiotic is \$1.00. ALL donations will be spent to help earthquake victims and travel expenses, without overhead or other losses.

Tax deductible checks should be made out to Miles Health Care with 'Pakistan Earthquake Relief' written on the check, and mailed to the Miles Memorial Hospital Development Office, 35 Miles St., Damariscotta, ME 04543. For more information, please call 563-4570.

This is a very direct way to offer help. The AFSC is not directly addressing this tragedy but instead is referring us to other agencies.

A Letter from Pakistan

submitted by Gretchen Hull

This letter came to me from my close friend in Pakistan this morning, with whom I have been corresponding over the last three years. I would like to share it with the meeting. I think the letter speaks of what is in my heart- she calls me her Moslem Quaker and I often write her as my Quaker Moslem.

Dear Gretchen, I am back. First of all please convey my thanks and gratitude to each and every person present in that Quaker meeting where funds are being raised for my poor countrymen. Every effort for relief can never be small because it conveys the message that humanity cares for the suffering of other humans and at such tough times we stand before each other just as humans irrespective of our religious, cultural, ethnic or creed differences.

There is a story that when Namroth, a king, made a big fire to throw Prophet Abraham in it, a small bird flew above the fire and dropped a drop of water from her beak in the fire. Someone asked her, "Little bird, do you think your small drop of water can put out this great fire?"

She replied, "I know that my drop of water will not extinguish the fire but I want my name to be written among those who made effort to put out the fire and not amongst those who joined hands to kill the prophet."

So here also, yes, the disaster is so big that I can't think or grasp what will happen, how will we overcome it, but each effort shows that we care. A very beautiful verse comes to my mind regarding this great fire made by Namroth and the belief of Abraham in God that he threw himself in it without second thought.

" Without fear love threw itself in the fire of Namroth -
wisdom is still standing stunned on the brink yet."

It shows that love makes us do things which reasoning or wisdom will never approve. Yes, the joining of hands is so important that it brings us closer to each other and dispels those mistrusts that we have for each other. A verse from Quran that whoever saved a human life saved humanity and whoever killed a human life killed humanity is exactly that joining of hands towards our belief in saving humanity. - T

Our Tenth Anniversary

by Claire Darrow

It seems hard to believe that we have been here in our home for ten whole years, but that's the truth, and the meeting has decided to hold a celebration to commemorate this fact.

At first we planned to ask a panel of Friends who were in on the building process to tell us of the history. But last Meeting for Business we deemed it better to make the gathering a fundraiser for aid to Pakistan and to invite the public. As of this writing we are working to ask someone who knows about the situation to speak. There's a doctor from Miles who has just gone over there and will be back by November 20th who might be persuaded to serve. We will have food to serve, and perhaps print tickets. The plans are still being formed, and if you have any bright ideas please share them with Jean Crawford, Nancy Booth, Gretchen Hull or Claire Darrow, and we will see what we can do.

We're excited about the triple role of this enterprise. First, it is to celebrate the effort that went into raising the building and establishing a permanent home for us. Second, it will serve as outreach to the nearby community to publicize our presence. And third, it will raise funds for a worthy cause and encourage others to do the same. A win-win-win situation!

Regarding Prison Conditions at Guantanamo: A Letter of Protest

In protest of torture of prisoners and in support of those prisoners who have been engaging in a hunger strike at Guantanamo, Cuba, members of Midcoast wrote and disseminated the following letter:

We, members of the Midcoast Friends Meeting (Quakers), commend the ninety senators who recorded their opposition to the torture of prisoners by amendment to the appropriations bill for the Department of Defense.

We urge the House of Representatives to concur in this action taken by the Senate, and we hope the President will clarify his position against torture and withdraw his threat of veto.

At this time we are writing to our elected leaders, newspapers, and our neighbors of the concern that we have about the hunger strikes by prisoners at Guantanamo.

We have garnered on the Internet reports that hundreds of prisoners have been on a hunger fast in rotating shifts since the beginning of August. A Reuters report of Oct. 5 quotes Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, the spokesman at Guantanamo, as saying that "26 detainees were taking part in a 'voluntary fast', including 22 hospitalized for 'involuntary feedings'. These "involuntary feedings," reports Reuters, are food given through a nasal tube and fluids given intravenously.

A lawyer, representing three of the men on hunger strike, has issued a graphic, detailed report of the forced feeding that require extreme restraints, painful and unsanitary procedures, and consequent sickening reactions to the procedures.

The hunger strike at Guantanamo has been witnessed and reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and lawyers who represent some of the prisoners.

We object to the unconstitutional holding of these prisoners and the egregious human rights violations. The prisoner protest is said to be a desperate call for public trials or release as well as abuses by warders. Some of the prisoners have been in Guantanamo since the early months of the invasion of Afghanistan. One prisoner is quoted by a Center for Constitutional Rights lawyer: "Now after four years in captivity, life and death are the same." The Reuters article we refer to reports on a visit in September to Guantanamo by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, writing that their mandate includes the terms of the 1975 Tokyo declaration by the World Medical Association that doctors should not take part in force-feeding of prisoners.

We would be appalled but not surprised if such abuse were reported in other parts of the world, but it is shocking to find our own government engaged in this immoral and illegal behavior. The only indication of a moral view on the part of government and military leaders lies in the efforts to conceal its shame. In that area newspapers and television news are avoiding their responsibility to inform the public about continued torture of prisoners. We should have the courage to acknowledge this criminal practice and to join the Senators in calling for an immediate end to all forms of torture. We believe we owe it to the men and woman serving in the military to protect them from the moral and spiritual corruption of obeying orders to carry out these evil practices apparently designed and commanded from the highest offices in the land.

Members of the Committee:

Nancy Booth (Newcastle), Ernie Foust (Pittston), Gretchen Hull (Newcastle), John Lacy (New Harbor), Alice Lacy (New Harbor), and Carmen Lavertu (Thomaston)



A Letter from Kakamega

Holly Baldwin

Dear Friends and Family,

Here is a quick note to let you all know that I am alive and well in Kakamega, Kenya!

The gathering in Kanamai (Mombassa) was a beautiful opportunity to share experiences with Friends. It was different from the Lancaster Gathering in so many ways, but here too we were able to experience a deep sense of unity, love and community.

I look forward to sharing more with you on the Gathering itself when I get back home and am not wasting valuable time and money to sit in a room and write to you all when I could be outside meeting people and experiencing life in Western Kenya!! We are in the middle of a couple of days of home stays here in the western area of Kenya, where most of the Quakers are. We got here on a grueling bus ride, 15 hours or so, very bumpy, like nothing I could have imagined!

This was further complicated by an intestinal issue that had me vomiting as I boarded the bus, and also immediately upon my arrival in Kisumu. But I was quite blessed to have a relatively calm stomach on the bus-- Phew! Praise God! Nevertheless, I spent most of Tuesday in bed and taking it easy at the Graces' house.

I'm back on my feet again, and very excited to be having fruitful conversations with Kenyan Quakers, and with the others from the international team. So much interesting stuff to share with everyone!

Thanks to all of you for your support. I'm carrying you in my heart. And I'm looking forward to seeing my local friends, Friends and family soon.

With much love!

Holly

To read more about the group's experiences in Africa, go to <http://www.wgyf africa.blogspot.com/>

“Keep ME Warm Fund” Charitable Fuel Fund

submitted by Andy Burt

The following is a description of the charitable fuel fund the Governor announced recently. We anticipate that he will also seek state funds to supplement the federal fuel assistance program because the federal funding is woefully inadequate given the near doubling of heating costs in the past 2 years. Our hope is that this will stimulate local communities and groups to develop local ways to help raise funds and, most importantly, to know who in their community are at-risk because they lack sufficient funds to stay warm this winter and how they can assist.

Goal: Creation of a statewide charitable fuel fund to supplement the current LIHEAP program and to provide emergency fuel assistance funds to Maine people whose incomes are just above the LIHEAP eligibility level, but who also face difficulties this winter in affording their heating fuel.

Problem: Federal fuel assistance funds are not projected to keep pace with fuel price increases. In addition, we project that we will see more applicants for LIHEAP. Moreover, we believe that fuel assistance needs will go beyond the LIHEAP eligible population (LIHEAP serves persons who are at or below 60% of area median income)

Proposal: Donations will be collected by a 501(c)(3) entity. Maine Community Action Association has offered their 501(c)(3) to be the recipient of funds and to handle back-office tasks including accounting, acknowledgments, processing and reporting. The Community Action Agencies will distribute funds based on eligibility criteria to which they and the Maine State Housing Authority agree. Donors can earmark funds to specific geographic areas; if not so designated, funds will be allocated equitably by the Housing Authority to meet statewide needs. To make a donation for a specific person, gift certificates can be purchased from fuel vendors.

Seeding the Fund: Requests will be made in the next two weeks to potential donors of significant contributions. Local and regional fund raising activities will be encouraged. Central Maine Power has offered to provide a means on their electric bill to allow their customers an easy way to make contributions. Other electric utilities will be asked to offer a similar service.

Promotion of Fund: Radio and television PSA's. Possible assistance from the Maine Oil Dealers, Maine's energy utilities, and others.

For more information, contact

Richard Davies

Senior Policy Advisor

Office of the Governor

(207) 287-3531

Richard.Davies@maine.gov

Happy 90th Birthday, George Sparks!

by Esther Cope

George Sparks figures prominently in my memories of my five and a half years at Midcoast Meeting. His warm smile, his twinkling eyes, and his firm handshake invited friendship, and, through his presence on the bench beside me, I found a special depth in Meeting-for-Worship that I also sensed in the messages that he offered. I missed him when he was not there.

As we became better acquainted, we discovered that we were not only neighbors in Bremen but had connections in the same parts of Pennsylvania. Often on an afternoon, George would stop in for a visit. Seated in the rocking chair in my living room, he held me spell-bound with stories of his many experiences and with bits of wisdom he had accrued over the years. His modesty and many talents continue to amaze me.

An interview that was published recently in the *Chase Point Chat*, listed George's accomplishments as including: "inventor, entrepreneur, manufacturer, successful investor, aircraft pilot, artist, and certified gemologist." They might also have added: worldwide traveler; well-informed, wildflower amateur (if not expert); occasional poet; and seasoned Friend.

George keeps in touch with a network of acquaintances and takes particular joy in his family whose gathering to celebrate his ninetieth birthday he's very much looking forward to.

I believe it was on his birthday in 2001, when he had recently moved to Chase Point, that George held an Open House for his new neighbors. Nancy Terrell Hall and I arrived that day to find him telling his guests about his paintings. Later, in the lounge, where the staff served birthday cake, George played his ukulele, sang songs, and told stories to the great delight of everyone present.

My most recent visit with George occurred a month ago, when Maria Reardon and I dropped in unannounced. George was, as always, the very congenial host who welcomed us warmly, gave us copies of some wise and humorous words about old age, and told us stories.

George has much to celebrate on his birthday, and so do those of us who have had the gift of his friendship.

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?

Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, Nov. 5, 9-noon (following the Early Bird Sale)

Skidompha Library, Damariscotta

Make Thoughtful Holiday Choices: Unicef cards, gifts and memberships in local, national and international charitable organizations, Fair Trade coffee and cocoa, and more...Sponsored by the Midcoast Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Edgecomb, and Midcoast Meeting of Friends.

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 moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com

Consumerism, a continuing series
November 15 is America Recycles Day
by Betsy Terrell

"America Recycles Day (ARD) is a national all-volunteer, non-profit organization. The goal of their annual campaign is to encourage Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products. Since its inception in 1997, the ARD campaign has grown substantially. Last year, residents in every state of the nation participated in America Recycles Day and pledged to recycle." "Pushing Recycling Since 1997, ARD's stated mission is to hold an annual national awareness event to promote the social, environmental, and economic benefits of buying recycled and recycling, with the goal of increasing the purchase of recycled content products and recycling throughout America."

Here are some very interesting facts about things that are being made from recycled materials:

"Glass beverage containers can be recycled over and over again. But they can also be used for other things you may not expect: Like roads, marbles, decorative tiles, surfboards, and a host of other products and materials.

"In 1995, the recycling of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles reached a new high. 34% of all the bottles produced were being recycled. These bottles are turned into everything from rugs to goggles, park benches and fences to fiber for filling ski jackets.

"Steel and aluminum cans can be easily recycled for use in other steel and aluminum products. This not only conserves mineral resources, but the recycling process also uses about 75% less energy than using virgin materials. Recycled steel and aluminum finds its way into new cars, bikes, appliances, cookware, and a whole lot more."

In reading their highly informative website, I was amazed and dismayed to find that Maine was one of only four states which did not have any America Recycles Day events or coordinators listed (the others were Alaska, Arkansas, and Oregon). I do hope this is not indicative of our level of recycling commitment as a state.

Maybe some of us will feel inspired to organize a local event of our own, but in any case, we could use the day as a reminder to review our own buying and disposing practices. Do we buy in such a way as to minimize unnecessary packaging? Do we reduce, reuse, and recycle and BUY recycled whenever possible? In making a decision to buy recycled items that may seem to cost more, do we bear in mind the long-term environmental and other costs as well as the immediate price we pay today?

All quotes taken from the ARD website: <http://www.americarecyclesday.org/home.html>

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Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price

If Wal-Mart comes to town, what will happen -

to the local economy? Local businesses? Where are Wal-Mart's revenues spent?

to Main Street? The character of our town?

to jobs, wages, employee benefits?

to our taxes? Who makes up the shortfall between a Wal-Mart wage and what it takes to make a living?

Increased town services? etc.

to our environment?

CONA At The Movies, OurTown, Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Lincoln County Peace and Justice Coalition present a showing of the film "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price," at the Skidompha Library, Porter Auditorium (Elm Street entrance), Damariscotta, Sunday, November 20, 7:00 p.m., and Monday, November 21, 1:00 p.m. This film takes you behind the propaganda image into the real life of workers and their families, business owners and their communities, in a journey that will challenge the way you think and feel about shopping -- and bargains.

A must see: Wal-Mart is negotiating for a parcel of land at the northern intersection of U.S. Route 1 and Business 1 in Damariscotta, intending to build a mega-store with a shop floor of 109,000 square feet (the expanded Hanaford will have 55,000) -- if we let them. We must get educated, for soon enough we will be asked to vote on what, as a town (and neighboring towns), we are going to do.

Free and open to all. Donations are encouraged. Discussion and the latest local news follow the screening.

Memorial Minute for Marian Halo Dwyer, September 23, 1929 - May 11, 1994

Marian Halo Dwyer was born to parents of Armenian and Assyrian descent who had emigrated to the US. Marian never forgot about the political and human tragedy that her mother left behind in Armenia, a time which was described vividly to her. This memory was the basis of her strong pacifism throughout her life. She marched, she encouraged others to get involved and she never gave up. She was very active during the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War.

While living in New York City she studied music and theater at Hunter College. Later, on a whim, she took an art class that planted a seed that was to develop in her later in life. She spent some time at the Art Students League, a hotbed of up-and-coming artists and a central meeting place for artists who had already achieved fame. She worked with Pizarro, Jacques Lipschutz and William Zorach among others. It was a heady time for her, and it cemented her love of all art, drawing, painting and sculpture, which enriched her life immeasurably. She shared this love of art with her children, taking them to museums and inviting distinguished artists into their home.

As her children grew she became increasingly uncomfortable in New York, particularly disturbed by the race riots in Newark, close to where they lived. Considering it not a safe and healthy place to live, she moved to Maine in the 60's. There she became involved with the program called Treasure Hunt, which went around to area schools producing plays, concerts and demonstrations of carving among other exciting things. In this rich program she worked alongside other local artists such as Chouteau Chapin, Adolph Ipcar, Bill Glennon and Bill Bonyun.

Through her friendship with Chouteau she found Midcoast Meeting of Friends, and there made many good friends for life. She worked with others on Peace issues, and was a valued member of the community.

As well as being a fine artist Marian had a beautiful voice, which she shared willingly. She was deeply engrossed in classical music, and worked hard on perfecting performances of works by the great composers, either as a soloist or as a chorus member. She went around giving concerts with her pianist friend Alan Hynd in the midcoast area. One engaging memory of Marian occurred one early summer day in Naples, Italy. She was being driven in an open car and was so enthralled with the country, the people and the beauty of the day that she rose and started singing at the top of her voice "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" to any within hearing. The Neapolitans loved every minute of this impromptu concert, shouting "Bravo! Bravo!" There is joy and sunshine even in the retelling years later.

Marian is survived by a daughter Alison and granddaughter Caralyn in Nobleboro, a son Glenn and his wife Jayne, members of Midcoast Meeting, and granddaughter Olivia in Newcastle, and a son Robert and his wife Sally, who live in the Boston area and summer in Bristol Her spirit lives on in them and in the community where she brought so much light.

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.

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