

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714 Damariscotta,
ME 04543

Co-Clerks:

Suzy Hallett, 563-6084 &
David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:

Jim Matlack, 236-0903

Newsletter—December 2011

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December

Sunday	Dec. 4	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Dec. 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

January

Sunday	Jan. 1	10-11 a.m. Rise of Meeting	*Meeting for Worship— Annual Candle-Lighting Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Jan. 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

For New, Revised, and Updated Calendar Items, please see our online calendar at:
<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>

*Look inside for more information regarding these items.

~Calendar events are held at the meetinghouse, unless otherwise noted.~

Sunday Meeting for Worship is held at the meetinghouse,
77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta, 10:00 a.m.
Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757.

Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Rd. (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north—Miles Home Health Care building on the corner). The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, .2 mile from the corner.

Moving? Changing your e-mail address? *Don't forget to let us know. Please remember that when you receive the newsletter by e-mail, you save the Meeting money and you lighten our workload. To receive the newsletter by e-mail, kindly send Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com a request. Thanks!*

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

Minutes (Pending)--Monthly Meeting for Business--November 20, 2011

After a period of silent worship, Clerk Suzy Hallet opened the meeting the 18 Friends present. Minutes of the October 16 Meeting for Business were approved.

Jean Crawford distributed a list of "Officers, Committees, and Representatives for 2012" prepared by the **Gifts & Leadings** Committee for preliminary consideration. A few changes were made, and the list was laid over to the December Meeting for Business for final approval.

For **Hospitality Committee**, the Clerk reported that the usual round-robin format for Friendly Eights will not be followed this year. Instead, special events open to all meeting members will be arranged including a possible worship service and full meal on New Year's Day.

A written **Finance Committee** report was presented by Bill Spock. He followed up with discussion of some insurance concerns and other matters. It was suggested that the committee give renewed attention to the question of whether or not Midcoast Meeting should create an endowment fund. Bill will arrange a session at which others who are interested can join in assessing this issue. Martin Imm then presented data sheets displaying the current financial accounts of the Meeting. He reviewed major expenditures and expected receipts, noting that some members had not yet pledged their support.

A question was raised whether and how the Meeting would join Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting in fundraising for a scholarship at the **Quaker School in Ramallah**, Palestine. Such support has been given in the past including proceeds of a successful yard sale. It was agreed that the Meeting should respond favorably when a formal appeal is sent out.

Brewster Grace reported for the **Peace Center**. He described an event recently held at the meetinghouse and co-sponsored with CONA at which a Somali leader from Portland brought traditional foods for 60 attenders and spoke about current conditions and suffering in Somalia. Roughly \$700 was raised to aid refugees in Somalia. The Peace Center also arranged a talk at the meetinghouse by Norman Olson on Maine's marine resources and how to sustain local industries and people who rely up lobster and fish stocks.

Quarterly Meeting held a successful session at the meetinghouse [*Ed note: see summary, page 4*]. Appreciation was expressed to all who assisted with meals and hospitality and to Brewster Grace, who led an excellent afternoon program on Quaker programs at the United Nations.

The Clerk led an exchange about a **possible Christmas fundraiser** at the meetinghouse. Last year's event yielded \$163, which has not yet been distributed. Making a donation of these funds to the local food bank was approved. Carmen Lavertu will again arrange for a supply of coffee from Haiti [*Ed note: see notice in newsletter, page 3*]. The purchase of bags of this coffee for use at the meetinghouse, and members are encouraged to buy coffee for their own use. A yard sale may be held in the spring, but no Christmas fundraiser is now planned.

Brief discussion was held on how the **social room** at the meetinghouse might be made available as a "Mother and Child Center" once the daycare operation has departed. Some problems were identified along with strong interest in moving this idea toward fulfillment in coming months.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.

--Suzy Hallett, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

The **next monthly meeting** will be held on Sunday, December 18, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. These pending minutes are also available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

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 QUAKER MOTTO CALENDAR

A GIFT FROM THE HAVILANDS

For many years, the Havilands have enjoyed giving family and friends the Quaker Motto Calendar at Christmastime. Once again, Pete and Deb would like to give this gift to all members and attenders of Midcoast Meeting.

Calendars will be on the credenza in early December. Please take one and enjoy it. It comes with love and wishes for a peaceful and joyous 2012.

Mark your Calendar: NEW YEAR'S DAY AT MIDCOAST

Meeting for worship on Sunday, January 1, will be our traditional candle-lighting ceremony, followed by a potluck meal.

Where Do I Send My Pledge and/or Monetary Donations to Midcoast Friends?

Please send any contributions or mail for the Treasurer to:

Deborah Haviland, Treasurer
33 Stonewood Road
Rockland, ME 04841

From the Pastoral Care Committee:

Let's remember our Meeting friends who have moved away this year--and would love hearing from us during the holidays:

Ernie Foust, Whitehall Manor, 1177 Sixth Street, Whitehall, PA 18052
Alice Lacy, Freeport Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 3 East Street, Freeport, 04032
Viki and Paul Diamond, Friends House, 684 Benica Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409
Maria and Tom Reardon, 119 Culpepper Drive, Blue Hill, PA 19422

Let us hold in the Light all our friends who have special needs. Every time I open the Meeting directory, I spot the names of Friends I haven't seen or reached out to in a while. Please join the Pastoral Care Committee members in remembering Friends from away and those who haven't been to Meeting in a while. This month, we are holding Jean Crawford in the Light for her recovery from hip surgery.

When I talked with Ernie this week, I was reminded of his constant cheerfulness. Let us be mindful of Ernie and George Fox, who both remind us to walk cheerfully upon the earth.

--Carmen Lavertu



Singing Rooster Haitian shade-grown coffee--perfect for gift-giving--will be offered for sale at the meetinghouse at \$10 per 12-oz. bag on Sunday, December 4.

For more information about Singing Rooster coffee, visit:

<http://www.singingrooster.org/index.html>.

Notes on VQM Meeting, November 5

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting met at Midcoast Friends on November 5. Brewster Grace led the afternoon program with a graphic depiction of Quaker service organizations and a report on the conference he attended at the Quaker United Nations Office [*ed. note: see a message on page 6 about Brewster's upcoming report*]. Twenty-two Friends attended, including seven from Midcoast.

Out of the gathered worship, Mark Rains read, "The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions: "Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up—ever--trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?" from Terry Tempest Williams's "Engagement" (in Parker J. Palmer's *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*).

Ramallah Scholarship Fund. It was noted that several individuals and Farmington and Acadia Friends Meetings have sent checks for the Ramallah Scholarship. Additional donations can be sent to Richard Kelly, VQM Treasurer, 1091 Riverside Drive, Vassalboro, ME 04989, with a note that they are to be designated for the Sybil and Eli Jones Ramallah Friends School Scholarship Fund. Two fundraisers will be held over the holidays, and the group determined some program goals. "In Fair Palestine," a Romeo-and-Juliet short film produced by Ramallah students, and "Eyewitness to Gaza," a documentary, might be used as fundraisers. Contact Holly Weidner for the movie, and Skip Shields and Tom Jackson for the documentary. There is a need to send an appeal to Meetings in Vassalboro and Falmouth Quarters, and beyond. Sustainability over the 13 years to raise \$3000 each year is a concern. April is the month the donation is to be sent.

Travel Minute for Ann Dodd-Collins, Winthrop Monthly Meeting was read and approved by the Meeting. Ann explained that this new minute updates and reflects what she does--"joining in fellowship and prayer with Friends from all branches of Quakerism."

Group of Concern for the Missing Generation (Friends in their 20s and 30s) including our participation in Occupation Wall Street being led by the missing generation. It was noted that with Gandhi work, the Arab Spring, and Occupy Wall Street, the world at large has taken over Quaker values; e.g., nonviolent resistance and issues of peace and justice. Many Quakers support this effort. We observe that the balance between faith and practice, which is basic to Friends, finds youth focused on practice alone, and we reflect that many "convinced" Friends who first sought us through our practice and stayed through our faith. It was noted that New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) has active, committed children and youth, How can we get our children and grandchildren to attend our monthly meetings? A query for us to reflect upon is "How would John Woolman approach the issues raised at the OWS meetings, such as the capitalistic economic system, the stock market, and the plight of laborers?"

Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy: Recent concerns include:

- Indian State Tribal Commission's decision to convene a Truth and Reconciliation group to hear the stories of Maine Indians who were taken from their families and placed in non-Indian foster care after 1978, when the federal Indian Child Welfare Act deemed this illegal. Denise Altvader, AFSC staff, has led this effort, and there is great discernment that this is done in a healing way.
- Sharon Tomak, Director of Wabanaki Health and Wellness, serving the needs of non-reservation Indians in Maine, spoke at November's FCMPP meeting. Richard Silliboy, Mi'kmaq Elder, was also present to describe his part in awarding this federal funding to WHW, which has been crucial for many, including those leaving prison and returning to the Bangor community. Governor LaPage has been extremely supportive of efforts of Maine Indians and has attended several events. Joseph Ponte, newly appointed Department of Corrections Commissioner, met with Sarah Walton, Ed Snyder, and Jim Matlack of FCMPP. He has made many positive changes, especially regarding solitary confinement. Prison populations are decreasing and he does not favor building new private prisons in Maine.

A message from NEYM Permanent Board Clerk Edward Baker

Greetings,

Permanent Board – the continuing body that conducts the business of the Yearly Meeting between sessions – has some important tasks this year, and we thought it best to keep in closer communication with the Monthly Meetings about this work. I have been asked to write a summary report after each meeting of the Permanent Board for distribution. These will be more in the nature of “highlights” rather than minutes to keep them brief. However, if more detail is wanted, the advance documents for each PB meeting (including the previous meeting’s minutes) are available on the NEYM website in the Permanent Board committee section.

~Clerk’s Report of a meeting of the Permanent Board, 19 November 2011~

Permanent Board met at Hartford Meeting on Saturday, 19 November, with 32 attending.

In the Yearly Meeting Secretary report, Jonathan reported that the process of creating a budget based on the priorities of the Yearly Meeting had begun and there had already been a “funding our vision” meeting/workshop with treasurers from 12 meetings attending. A second such meeting is scheduled. He reported the staff work plan was complete and posted on the web site and he also shared something about the current work of each staff member.

He reported for the Friends Home Ad Hoc Property Committee that they have met three times authorized a professional commercial appraisal of the property and, after looking at several options, are planning on engaging the services of a commercial real estate broker, Kevin Delany, from the Coldwell Banker Cambridge office, to market the property. We bring four parties who have already expressed an interest in the property to the arrangement.

Ed Mair, in the treasurer’s report, told us that we had ended the fiscal year with a \$9,000 surplus, which is very good as we had budgeted for a \$30,000 deficit. He shared concerns about the ongoing costs of the Friends Home; although they will be reimbursed once the property is sold, expenses are running at about \$6,000 per month. This could create a cash flow problem for Yearly Meeting.

We reviewed and then approved changes to the Yearly Meeting Secretary job description suggested by the Personnel Committee as a first step to begin the process of seeking a new Secretary to replace Jonathan. Jackie Stillwell, the presiding clerk, reviewed the search process from the NEYM Personnel Policy Manual and then brought forward several names to compose a search committee for the Yearly Meeting Secretary position. We approved the nominations; Bruce Newman will serve as the clerk for the search committee.

We approved a recommendation from the Internal Nominating Committee that Holly Baldwin begin service as the clerk of Permanent Board after sessions in August.

In other business, we heard two memorial minutes, we approved travel minutes for Friends travel to Cuba Yearly Meeting, we heard of an initiative to assist in the upgrading of signage for Friends Meetings, and we planned to meet again in January at Westport Meeting.

Edward Baker. Clerk, Permanent Board (edw.baker@cox.net)



Jayne Dwyer invites Friends to the "Festival of Joy" at the Mobius building in Damariscotta, Saturday, December 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The festival includes everything from handmade jewelry, pottery and puppets to non-toxic beauty care and blown glass. Jayne wants to encourage local shopping for the holiday season this year: "When we support local people, everyone benefits." She will be selling her distinctive Paper Moon jewelry, her daughter Olivia, a budding photographer, is planning to exhibit her work and print cards, and Midcoast Friend Sylvia Tavares will introduce the new Ava Anderson non-toxic personal and beauty care products.

The Carpenter's Boat Shop will be the festival's featured guest, offering Adirondack furniture and post-and-rung chairs and stools made by the Boat Shop, available for pre-order.

Come enjoy the music and food, beautiful gifts from a variety of local artisans, and celebrate the season!

TOWARD PEACE & JUSTICE A Message from AFSC



American Friends Service Committee

A recent message from Shan Cretin, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, begins:

Dear Friends,

At this time each year we reflect on the work we did during the past twelve months, and report to our supporters on the progress made by the amazing people our staff work with all around the world each day. Please take a minute to read our 2011 Highlights and see how important the work of the American Friends Service Committee has been in so many people's lives.

Highlights include "Listening to Young Leaders," "Addressing Unseen Wounds of War," "Using Art to Educate," "Righting the Wrongs of Injustice," and "Connecting with Friends." Read the complete report at: <http://afsc.org/sites/afsc.civicactions.net/files/documents/AFSC-year-end-highlights-2011.pdf>

Quaker Work at the UN: A Preview for the January Newsletter

At last month's Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Brewster Grace talked about the Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNOs) at UN headquarters in Geneva and New York and the work they do on behalf of Friends worldwide.

The two offices were established in 1947, only two years after the founding of the United Nations itself. Quakers have a special relationship with the UN by virtue of the formal representative status of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) with the UN Economic and Social Council, one of the four main UN bodies (the others being the General Assembly, the Security Council and the UN Secretariat). This status gives our representatives in Geneva and New York unique access to official UN activities, enabling them to attend UN meetings and negotiations and provide Quaker concerns and experiences to the world of UN diplomacy and policy making. Quaker initiatives have focused on human rights, peace and disarmament, and economic justice issues in the UN.

Brewster--who served at QUNO Geneva as its Director and Representative for Trade and Development from 1993 to 2005--is preparing a report for the January newsletter on Quaker UN Office work, based on his talk at the VQM.

What is the Meeting's e-mail chain, and how does it work?

The emergency e-mail chain—like the emergency phone chain—is intended to get time-sensitive information to Meeting members and friends. Diane Kirkman sends out messages, but they first must be submitted through one of the co-clerks, Suzy Hallett or David Cadbury.

If you wish to get such bulletins by e-mail, please advise Diane, diane_kirkman@hotmail.com.



WORD FROM WOOLMAN HILL



WINTER STILLNESS

WOOLMAN HILL
Quaker Retreat Center
107 Keets Road
Deerfield MA 01342
413-774-3431
www.woolmanhill.org
info@woolmanhill.org
Program cost of \$295
includes program, meals
and accommodation
Thursday dinner
through Sunday lunch.
Scholarships are
available - please ask!
For registration info:
www.woolmanhill.org
or 413-774-3431.

Winter Solstice Program

OUTER STILLNESS, INNER RENEWAL

*Katherine Fisher and Frederick
Martin
Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011 - Sunday,
Jan. 1, 2012*

When the earth is still (winter), and the sun is still (solstice), come let your schedule and to-do list be still -- and your body and mind too!

During this time of turning and renewal, allow your spirit to gestate and your heart to be refreshed in some uninterrupted time with God. As we quiet our outer life, we might find way opening in our inner life for sacred unrest, deep peace, closures, or new unfoldings. You may find your own ways to engage with the silence. Also, we will provide some entry points: walks in the woods, visual art, prayer practices.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

--Luke 2: 10-11 (KJV)

ADVICES

Stewardship— 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.

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