

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Damariscotta, Maine

NEWSLETTER



“So instead of loving what you think is peace, love other men and love God above all. And instead of hating the people you think are warmakers, hate the appetites and the disorder in your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed—but hate these things in yourself, and not in another.”

Thomas Merton wrote these words at the end of his essay “The Root of War Is Fear”

March

Sunday	March 7	9:15 a.m. 12 noon	Food Pantry Day Maintenance Committee meeting Winter Discussions: Civil Liberties
Sunday	March 14	8:30 a.m. rise of Meeting	Reading Group: Spirit Matters * Second Sundays: <i>When Is It Time to Consider Membership?</i>
Thursday	March 18	10:00 a.m.	* Finance Committee meeting
Saturday	March 20	12 noon - 2 p.m.	* Peace March and Rally, Augusta
Sunday	March 21	rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Business
Monday	March 22	asap	Deadline for April newsletter
Sunday	March 28	8:30 a.m. 12 noon	Reading Group Winter Discussions: TBA

Dates and times of committee meetings TBA until regular scheduling is set for the year

~Advance Notice ~

Saturday	April 3	9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Silent Retreat
Saturday	April 17	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for Pat Geiringer

* 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

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**, 2nd month of 2004

based on draft minutes by Bill Spock

Meetinghouse Committee

Caroline Miller reported that she was making available mounted photos taken by Cully Miller for anyone interested. A donation can be put into the contributions box, but prices are left to the judgement of each individual. Caroline was thanked and given enthusiastic approval for her work to provide the new chairs, available at this meeting for the first time.

Peter Haviland reported that additional portable hearing devices for the meeting room are needed and can be purchased for \$85 each. Users should check that they are turned off when returned to the closet, as leaving them turned on quickly drains their batteries. Purchase of more of these devices, along with the option of making a similar capability available in the social room, will be decided after more research.

The committee is considering a better method than the folding table for storing and displaying the name tags.

Barbara Foust recommended a change in the sign warning that bringing pets into the meetinghouse should be avoided because of the problem of serious allergic reactions. She is checking the wording further and will then post it.

Guy Marsden reported that the re-lamping process had uncovered several new issues. His suggestion, to use less expensive lower-power non-dimming bulbs in the meeting room, was accepted. This will save money on bulbs and electricity over the long term, and since the new lights will not be as bright, dimming will be less necessary. It was noted that the decision could be reversed in the future if the lighting does not prove to be satisfactory. Since the lights in the lobby have been replaced, it has been noted that it is less bright. When the new (somewhat brighter) lamps for the meeting room are ordered, we will order a few extra for the lobby to place in reading areas. Most of the incandescent lamps removed from the meeting room will be donated to Chewonki for outdoor motion-sensor applications that see minimal use. The remaining lamps will be available to members who request them.

A discussion was held about replacing the fluorescent lights in the social room. A budget surplus of more

than \$200 is available from the sponsored lights to apply to the re-lighting of the social room. No decision will be made until further information is available. Guy will research options. The question of improving acoustics with new ceiling tile will also be explored.

The Maintenance Committee meets next on March 7, at 9:15 a.m. prior to worship.

Finance Committee

No formal report was made. A request was made that at their next meeting on March 18 the committee consider the issue of expansion of the meetinghouse with the wing that had originally been planned.

Worthy Needs

Carmen Lavertu distributed the report of the committee recommending a change in the uses of the funds. Several local charities would receive direct contributions, the First Day School holiday project would be supported (this year, the Heifer Project), and the remainder would be set aside for a significant project bringing the Meeting together, such as the recent Seeds of Peace and Ramallah fundraising projects. For the future, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee would filter requests for funds and recommend projects for the Meeting to consider.

There was a favorable reception for the Worthy Needs proposal and it will be considered further at the next business meeting. In any case, the \$1,600 allocated to Worthy Needs in the current year's budget will be spent in this fiscal year. [See the complete committee report elsewhere in this newsletter.]

Ministry & Counsel

Jean Crawford has been chosen clerk, with Deb Haviland as recording clerk. Jean reported that a letter of application for membership had been received and a committee was formed to review it.

A memorial service for Bronson Clark will be held at the meetinghouse on Monday, July 5, at 11:00 a.m., as requested by his family. The American Friends Service Committee will hold a memorial service in Philadelphia on February 19.

On Sunday, March 14, at the rise of meeting, the third and last session of the winter series on Quakerism will be held. The committee was thankful for the good attendance at the second session on February 8.

New projects include a new edition of the Final Choices packet of information, which includes forms for advance directives, forms to list pertinent information, and a pamphlet on preparing for a memorial service, among other helpful pieces.

Another project is a new edition of the Meeting Handbook, which describes the workings of the

continued on next page

Query #1

Spiritual Life

Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way? Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?

Budget Planning Underway

Members of the Finance Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 18, 10 a.m., to begin planning the 2004-05 fiscal year budget. All committee clerks are asked to submit the budget requests for their committees to Finance Committee Clerk Bill Spock (wspock@gwi.net) prior to March 18th.

Ministry & Counsel

Second Sundays

The third session in a series of monthly discussions convened by Ministry & Counsel, designed to encourage a dialog between seasoned members, interested newcomers, and those who find themselves somewhere in between, is scheduled for March 14 at the rise of Meeting. It is entitled "When Is It Time to Consider Membership?" All members and attenders are encouraged to attend and join in what is sure to be a lively and interesting discussion.



Friendly Eights

It's not too late to sign up to join a Friendly Eights group. The sign-up sheet is still posted on the bulletin board in the meetinghouse. If you haven't been in a Friendly Eights group before, this is a great way to get to know other folks in the Meeting and share some great meals. If you were thinking about signing up but thought you were probably too late, do it now! If you don't want to wait for the next time you're in the meetinghouse, call or e-mail Barbara Foust (582-8615, barbkfoust@aol.com) who's organizing the groups.

Woolman Hill Offerings

March 5-7 • **MINDING THE LIGHT: GUIDANCE FROM EARLY QUAKERS** *Brian Drayton & Maggie Edmondson*

March 26-28 • **PASTORAL CARE—A CIRCLE OF LOVE** *Cornelia Parkes & Nancyrose Logan*

April 16-18 • **ALIGNING YOUR MONEY WITH YOUR VALUES** *Penny Yunuba, Carolyn Hilles, Jeffrey Kerekes*

April 18-23 • **IN SOLITUDE ALONE, IN SILENCE TOGETHER -- WEEK-LONG SILENT RETREAT** *Sirkka Barbour Yunuba, Carolyn Hilles, Jeffrey Kerekes*

April 30-May 2 • **I'M GONNA SIT AT THE WELCOME TABLE—A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IN SONG**

May 9-14 • **ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE WEEK** *Arthur Fink*
FMI: www.woolmanhill.org

Anniversary of a War and Bridges for Peace on March 20

Maine will be joining an international action, "The World Still Says No to War," on Saturday, March 20. A whole long year has gone since we awoke to the first pictures of "Shock and Awe" in Baghdad. Throughout the world, in many major cities, people will take to the streets to mark the anniversary and to speak out against the policies that brought our country to that moment.

In Maine, the Coalition for Peace and Justice, a loose network of organizations throughout the state, will join with Bridges for Peace to observe the day the war began.

A "March for Truth: Maine Still Says No to War" that will begin at the State House in Augusta at noon will be followed by a rally with speakers and music. Around the state, others will stand between 12 and 2 p.m. on many of the bridges, as they did a year ago, to bring the anniversary and the call for peace home to their own communities.

Bridges for Peace was begun by Midcoast Meeting in October 2002 and spread throughout Maine and to several other states as the momentum toward war built and became reality. On February 28, 2004, Peace Action Maine awarded its Individual Peace Award to Gretchen Hull and Bridges for Peace at its annual dinner in Portland. For more information on actions for March 20, please visit www.MarchForTruth.org and www.peacebridges.org

Monthly Meeting Notescont'd fr. p.2

Meeting, including the responsibilities of the various committees.

Hospitality

It was reported that Mary Myers is reorganizing the hospitality responsibilities and will be contacting members to request assistance, particularly for the social time following Meeting for Worship. Help with time and money is needed, including the duties of making coffee and cleaning up afterwards. It was suggested that the budget for this committee may be too low.

Other Items

A memorial service was held in the meetinghouse at the request of a member of the community. Unfortunately, it fell on the day of the bad snow storm. With the help of Dick and Jean Harris, the group was able to proceed in spite the very difficult conditions.

Members are reminded that there are still sign-up sheets for Friendly Eights, and other board postings should be noted.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be at the rise of Meeting for Worship on March 21st.

Daffodils

by Mary Hoxie Jones

With apologies to Wordsworth ... January 30, 1944

I dripped as full as any cloud
with moisture. Eyes and nose did run.
My throat was sore. I coughed aloud.
The Kleenex vanished, one by one.
But surely cure for all my ills
Are thirteen golden daffodils.

Continuous as the stars that shine
My brief case brought me purple sheets
Which stretched in never ending line
From Eric, Ross-and some repeats.
When I was purple to the gills
Came thirteen yellow daffodils.

The purple menaces away
Forget the cold that's in my head.
A poet cannot but be gay
After the note and what you said
For better than a thousand pills
Are thirteen glorious daffodils.

And oft when at my desk I sit
In vacant or in harassed mood,
Reviewing something I have writ
And find, as often, it's no good.
No tear from drooping then spills.
I'll think of thirteen daffodils.

The recent death of Mary Hoxie Jones, daughter of Rufus Jones, prompted Carolyn Miller to remember a poem which Mary wrote and sent to Carolyn Miller's parents, Clarence and Lilly Pickett, as a thank you for flowers they had sent to Mary when she was sick.

Visit

www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

The Advices

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, which are the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It is God's redemptive love that draws us, a love shown forth by Jesus in all his life, on the cross, and in his abiding presence. Friends are advised to make a quiet place in their daily lives for prayer and communion with God and to be constant in the reading of the Bible and other devotional literature.

Let us cherish the seed of God in ourselves and in others, that we may be open to new revelations of truth. Let us look to our meetings to guide and stimulate our spiritual growth.

Thoughts on War & Peace

The following, contributed by Carolyn Miller, is from a talk given by Richard R. Wood at Moorsetown Meeting, March 15, 1981, and it still seems appropriate today.

When Hecate and the witches were preparing the destruction of Macbeth, Hecate remarked, "Security is mankind's greatest enemy."

Macbeth's search for security on the throne he had usurped did bring about his destruction. He arranged the deaths of so many men who, he feared, might become dangerous to him, that the number of vengeance-seeking relatives eventually overwhelmed him.

In the Prologue to Act II of Shakespeare's *Henry V*, there is a line which describes what war does—what we are doing now:

"The pasture now they sell to buy the horse."
Sacrificing permanent productivity in order to obtain a very transitory weapon.

Linn White, former president of Mills College and, unless he has retired, professor of history at the University of California, Los Angeles, in his book *Educating our Daughters*, pointed out that war and preparation for war is a socialist enterprise, a government monopoly, and that as we proceed with it, we become more and more like the totalitarian government which we say is our enemy.

Toward the end of the Civil War, a group of patriotic ladies called on President Lincoln and berated him for wasting time and energy on planning a reconciling settlement when he ought to be engaged in destroying the nation's enemies. President Lincoln replied, "Am I not destroying our enemies when I change them to friends?"

In the 30th chapter of the rather grim book of Deuteronomy, there is a passage which suggests the attitude we should maintain:

This commandment which I command you this day is not hidden from you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven that you should say, "Who shall go up for us to heaven and bring it unto us that we may hear it and do it?" Neither is it beyond the sea that you should say, "Who shall go over the sea for us and bring it to us that we may hear it?" But the word is very nigh unto you, in your mouths and in your hearts, that you may do it.... I have set before you this day life and death, blessing and cursing: Therefore choose life, that both you and your heirs may live.

HEALING THOUGHTS

Our thoughts and prayers are with George and Rowan Rowntree this winter in Walnut Creek, California. George is undergoing therapy for multiple myeloma which was diagnosed in December. We hope to welcome them back to Maine in early summer or when the time is right.

Committee Recommendations

The members of the Worthy Needs Committee for 2003-2004, Nancy Booth, Ernie Foust, Carmen Lavertu, and Bill Spock, have met, and their report follows.

At meeting on January 27, we decided to recommend to the Monthly Meeting some significant changes, as follows:

1. We propose giving outright gifts to only three organizations. They are local groups, in which we have members involved, and secondly, they serve the needs of poor people:
 - CHIP (Community Housing Improvement Project in New Harbor): \$200
 - People to People: \$100
 - Ecumenical Food Pantry: \$300
2. The remaining \$1000 would be available for good causes, but we would require that it originate in the Meeting, the idea of one or more people who could generate some interest and possibly do some programming (such as the Ramallah or Cape Town projects).
3. From this general fund, we want to support the efforts of Holiday Program members, Sylvia Tavares and Jayne Dwyer, in the fund-raising for the Heifer Project. We want to encourage this on behalf of First Day School, and we would like to propose to the Monthly Meeting that First Day children and their teachers may make their selection for the Heifer

The Lord's Prayercont'd fr. back cover

May your yearning for us, and our yearning for you,
 come into Being...
On earth as it is in heaven.
 Just as it is in the fluid places, so may it be in the
 material.
 May the world become divine.
Give us this day our daily bread...
 Satisfy our inner child...
 Give us enough for today, to be shared...
 May our positive energy be given leaven...
*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our
 debtors.*
 Forgive our unfulfilled obligations.
 Forgive us for what we know we should do, or are
 called to do, but haven't.
 Forgive us, as we forgive others.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 Do not cause us to come into the sense of evil or the
 Evil One.
 Do not put us to the test.
 Do not cause us to be put into the hands of the Tester.
 Lead us to wholeness, perfection, completeness, ful-
 fillment: Shalom!

Project and make a request directly to the Treasurer. (They could be guided by the amounts raised in previous years.)*

4. We are mindful that the budget for Worthy Needs may not be \$1600 in future years. The Finance committee will be considering this.
5. We think that by having an undesignated fund, we have found a way to do "Hearts and Hands" projects that we spent so much time discussing a few years ago without ever arriving at commitments. We now have examples of programs that, originating from one or more members, can achieve Meeting participation and raise more money for the causes we support than the few hundred dollars that can be budgeted. (Cape Town, Seeds of Peace, Kakamega)
6. We will ask Peace & Social Concerns to become more involved by being the clearinghouse for all the mail that comes to us from good causes or directly from individual members who have a project they would like the Meeting to adopt.

* Since this meeting, we have learned that Sylvia and Jayne have submitted to the treasurer a check for \$121—proceeds from the 2003 holiday craft sale and program (\$100 from crafts and \$21 from donations), as well as a check for \$100 from 2002 (an amount left in the Heifer collection box and never processed at that time). The minutes of First Month 2002 show the amount of \$697 raised in twelfth month 2001 donated to the Heifer Project. We have asked the Treasurer for a review of past years.

Submitted to Monthly Meeting by Carmen Lavertu Second Month 2004

The Quaker Way

The Quaker way says neither yea nor nay—Hey!
 Let's weigh.
 The truth is in the balance.

—Jerry Wood

CONA news

Upcoming CONA Programs

The Currents of Our Events

A small-town reporter analyzes the twists and turns of current events. Joel Steinberger, of the *Free Press* (Rockland), 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 10th, at Skidompha Library (rear).

Divided We Fall

A full-length Czech film. The setting is Czechoslovakia in the time of Hitler. Skidompha Library (rear) at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 21st.

FMI: www.conamaine.com

The Lord's Prayer: Another Version

Notes from Rebecca Mays's Gospels class with Rabbi Marcia Prager
November 1992 (Pendle Hill), contributed by Louisa Gray

During the Exile, Jews learned that God's presence goes wherever we are. Our hearts are temples, and prayers of the heart are vitally important. In Hebrew, the word "pray" is a reflexive verb; you "pray yourself," or prayer is something done in or upon or to ourselves. Worship is a process of closeness-making with God, of channeling divine energy into ourselves, so heaven and earth are brought closer together. Prayer is relational, an asking and a receiving. Jewish prayer also has a melodic underpinning, stemming from the belief that scripture is sung into your heart, whereas words from a text can just stay in your head. Go deep into the inner chamber of your heart, and let speech express/press the divine energy into/onto form/creation. As Jesus says the "Shema Yisrael," hear (an imperative!) not just with your ears but with every fiber of your being/heart. The ultimate state of oneness is available to each one of us if we are able to receive God's flowing love. What then did it mean for Jesus to say the Lord's Prayer as a Jew? Here's an offering:

Our Father who art in heaven...

O Power of Creation that dwells in the fluid spaces...

O Creative Energy whose Presence moves in us...

Our Creator who gathers us into community and with whom we are in constant relationship...

Hallowed be thy name.

Holy is thy essence, that which calls us into being.

Praise and protect thy being, which gives us breath and life.

Sacred is thy inexpressible name.

Thy Kingdom come...

May your divine spirit be earthed among us...

Let your divinity become manifest in its fullness in this world...

May we love, incarnating thy Divine Energy's love for us and for one another...

Thy will be done...

May your yearning be fulfilled...

May your longing come into being...

May your Holy One's desire become a reality...

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