

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—May 2013
Vol. 25, No. 5
Published every month but
August.

Edit/design:
Diane Kirkman, 236-9078,
diane_kirkman@hotmail.com,
17 Grove St.
Camden, ME 04843

Address changes:
Pat Spock, 729-0826,
wspock@zwi.net,
10 Curtis St.,
Brunswick, ME 04011

Web:
Guy Marsden, 443-8942,
guy@artec.net,
61 Delano Rd.
Woolwich, ME 04579

May

Saturday	May 4		“Food and Climate Change: Global Challenges and Maine Responses” 1 st Congregational Church, Camden
			All-Maine Gathering, China, ME
Sunday	May 5	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	May 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	May 26	11:30 a.m.	*Ministry & Counsel Discussion Group
Fri.-Sun.	May 31-June 2		*“Experiments in Holy Conversation” Woolman Hill

June

Sunday	June 2	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	June 16	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	June 23	11:30 a.m.	*Ministry & Counsel Discussion Group

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 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—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—April 21, 2013

Clerk David Cadbury began the meeting with a period of silent worship. Thirteen Friends were present. The minutes of the March Business Meeting were approved. George Chappell reported that his creative writing class for Veterans now meets at the Camden Library.

A **statistical summary** of the Meeting membership carefully prepared by Diane Kirkman was distributed and discussed. The most notable feature was a reduction of thirteen adult members largely due to clarifying the wishes of non-resident former members.

Ministry & Counsel has prepared a **State of the Meeting Report** to be forwarded in due course to New England Yearly Meeting. This text will be in the next newsletter [*Ed. note: see item p.3*], after which it will be discussed at the next Business Meeting. A series of after-meeting **discussion sessions on the writings of Rufus Jones** has been planned for the fourth Sundays in coming months.

Hospitality—The small group who oversee the regular purchase of supplies for the after-meeting “social hour” are seeking a simpler, more reliable way to buy these supplies. After discussion of debit cards and cash advances, it was agreed that members of the Hospitality and Finance Committees would meet together to decide what arrangement would work best.

Martin Imm reported for the **Finance Committee**. He circulated a Budget Tally Sheet showing current-year balances as well as the initial proposed budget for 2013-2014. Given the expectation of somewhat reduced resources, some budget lines have been trimmed. The overall financial situation of the Meeting is sound. A concern was raised as to whether the New England Yearly Meeting Joint Fund, which holds the Meeting reserves, was administered with sensitivity to avoiding investments in fossil-fuel production. Inquiries will be made and a report given at the next Business Meeting.

Outreach—Karen Cadbury reported on behalf of the Ad-Hoc Committee seeking to clarify the feasibility of having a part-time paid Outreach Coordinator to enhance interactions with the local community as well as to arrange for effective uses of the meetinghouse. Karen provided clear documentation on the committee’s thinking with regard to Priority Activities to be facilitated, needed skills to be listed in a job description, and projected budget requirements. It was proposed to attempt a six-month trial period. Sufficient funds will have to be raised. A job description, a hiring process, and an Oversight Committee on behalf of the Meeting will also be required. After some discussion of fund-raising possibilities approval was given to go forward along the lines suggested by the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Carmen Lavertu spoke briefly about the **upcoming Quarterly Meeting** to be held on May 4th at the South China Friends Meeting House with a focus on Rufus Jones. Attention will also be given to the proposal that Quakers have a table at the **Common Ground Fair** in September.

It was noted that a **major report on torture** carried out by the U.S. Government in the wake of the 9/11 attacks was issued last week. This report documents in great detail the full extent of the behavior which violated both U.S. laws and international standards with regard to torture. Leaders in the Bush Administration, up to and including the President, were deeply involved.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

—David Cadbury, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

QUERIES

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?

STATE OF MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS—2012 REPORT

Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends is a small community of Friends who value and enjoy each other's company and continue to maintain a spiritual environment that is supportive and loving for members. Our community also continues to be challenged by an aging and widely dispersed membership. Some members live up to an hour or more from the meetinghouse. Additionally, the meeting laid down the First Day School a year ago because of a lack of children. Occasionally, we have a grandchild attend with a member, but we have been unsuccessful at attracting and retaining families with children who want to attend on a regular basis.

For the past two years, our Meeting has had co-clerks, a system that has worked well. Our co-clerks have encouraged members to accomplish more of the work of the Meeting in the committees of the Meeting. The hope is that this will enable members in Business Meeting and other gatherings to focus more effectively on the Meeting's spiritual needs. We also hope to reduce the length of time spent in Business Meeting on items that are more effectively discussed and implemented by people in the committees who are especially knowledgeable or interested in particular subjects. We want to be able to concentrate the energy and time of members on the larger or more challenging Meeting issues. We believe—with our small and dispersed membership—that this has been an effective way of accomplishing the work of our Meeting.

Many committees are working quite well and very productively under this new system. Three committees whose work has had a positive impact on the Meeting this year are: the Finance Committee, the Hospitality Committee, and the Peace Center Committee. Finance has maintained balanced budgets and explored the possibility of creating an endowment; Hospitality has met the week-to-week hospitality needs, provided support for special events, such as memorial services, and supported a large dinner for Meeting members and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Damariscotta, Maine; and, the Peace Center has sponsored several series of programs on peace and social concerns issues which have been well attended by both members of the Meeting and people from the wider community. Members also completed a workshop on Conflict Resolution, and began a series of discussions on Quaker History for new attenders as well as for regular members.

Since our members and attenders are both aging and geographically scattered around the region, we have been creating various opportunities for social events at the meetinghouse or in the homes of members. This has worked moderately well. Our potluck lunches after Meeting for Worship are well attended, and several events in the homes of members were also very successful, but some members still feel that we need more opportunities to socialize with each other in small groups outside the Meeting.

The Ministry & Counsel Committee is gathering materials written by Rufus Jones to use in three discussion groups to be held in April, May and June 2013. Each discussion will have a different topic. These will include: 1.) Mysticism, 2.) Religion as Reality, 3.) Quakerism and the Church. (This program has not been announced to members yet.)

In summary we feel that the Meeting at this time continues to undergo transition as we try to respond to the challenges of an aging membership and the distances posed by living in rural communities, but that we continue to serve the spiritual needs of our members.

**MINISTRY & COUNSEL
DISCUSSION GROUP**

The second of three discussions honoring Rufus Jones's 150th birthday, May 26, will be on Jones's writings the "Gospel thru the Church." Access the writings by going to <http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/forum.htm>. There you will find the information to be discussed. Each discussion will be on the fourth Sunday of the month and begin at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is invited whether they have read the material or not!

**Veterans Writing for Life Group
Fridays in Camden**

Veterans of war, any war, or veterans of the wounds of living, or their families, are invited to join a group of people who are "writing their way whole again," in memoir, fiction or poetry, following a method developed by poet Maxine Hong Kingston in her veterans' writing workshops. The class meets from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays in the History Center (2nd floor) at the Camden Public Library. There is no charge, and confidentiality is respected. Midcoast Friends member George Chappell, a poet and journalist, is the instructor. For information, call him at 701-5005 in Rockland.



Friends Camp 2013 Work Weekend

Please join us for the upcoming Friends Camp Work Weekend, May 24-25 to help get camp ready for the 60th Reunion Gathering (May 26th) and for the summer camp sessions. Plan on coming to work, enjoy good food, and share Vespers together. This spring, we have some important work projects: taking out a few tree stumps, moving Pooh Cabin, raking, mowing, building two small wood sheds, and —always and of course—cleaning everything!

You are welcome to arrive on Friday afternoon or evening or come up to Friends Camp early on Saturday morning. The Friday night buffet dinner will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Please let us know the number of youth and adults in your party and what meals you plan to share with us. RSVP before May 22nd at director@friendscamp.org.

To help us cover some of the food costs, please plan on making a donation of \$15 per person. If you volunteer for the work weekend or the reunion gathering you will receive a 25% discount on all of the 60th Reunion Gathering fees. The Reunion activities will start after breakfast on May 26th.



EXPERIMENTS IN HOLY CONVERSATION:

CONNECTING WITH THE SPIRIT THROUGH
PRAYER, LISTENING AND EXPECTANT WORSHIP

BETSY BLAKE AND SADIE FORSYTHE

MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2013

An offering in the program series **CRACKED OPEN:**
GOING DEEPER INTO THE WHY, WHAT AND HOW OF OUR QUAKER PRACTICE

Sliding-scale cost includes program, housing and meals, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Scholarships are also available.

A PROGRAM SERIES
JOINTLY OFFERED BY

NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
MINISTRY & COUNSEL

QUAKER STUDIES
PROGRAM

WOOLMAN HILL
RETREAT CENTER

WOOLMAN HILL
Quaker Retreat Center

www.woolmanhill.org
info@woolmanhill.org
107 Keets Road
Deerfield MA 01342
413-774-3431

In this workshop we will explore new ways to pray, that is, speak to God, as well as the balance of being a faithful listener in and outside of worship Opportunities. We will spend a weekend in worship, story-sharing, discussion, creative fellowship and hands-on activities to develop our connection to the Divine.

Led by Friends from programmed and unprogrammed traditions, we invite you to come as you are, while being open to the discovery of new language and practices. Together, we will listen. How is the Spirit prompting you?



Sadie Forsythe is a member of Putney (VT) Friends Meeting, though currently sojourning in Philadelphia. Sadie has worked with emerging adults in a variety of capacities for the last decade, including for several Quaker organizations, helping to support their ministry, listen to their hurts, and helping build bridges across theological, geographic, and age divides. In this work, Sadie has found that it is not just young people who yearn for a renewed vital experience among Friends, and she enjoys holding space for conversations about our deepest longings. Building on the listening experience among Friends, Sadie is now completing an MSW degree, and working as a therapist for emerging adults.

Betsy Blake is a member of First Friends Meeting of Greensboro, NC. A lifelong Friend and frequently requested speaker, Betsy has served in campus, workshop, and itinerant pastoral ministry settings for many years. She is in the process of becoming a recorded Friends minister under the care of NCYM-FUM. Betsy was the North-American Based Co-ordinator for the World Gathering of Young Friends which took place in England in 2005. She is co-producer of 'Can We All Be Friends,' a documentary on Quaker diversity. Currently residing in Philadelphia, Betsy is self-employed as a business, marketing and communications consultant for progressive businesses and organizations.



ADVICES

Spiritual Life--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.

**MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS**

P.O. Box 714

Damariscotta, ME 04543