

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—July/August 2012
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July

Sunday	July 1	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch—followed by Work Group
Sun.-Sat.	July 1-7		*FGC Gathering, Rhode Island
Friday	July 13	7 p.m.	*Medea Benjamin Program
Sunday	July 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

August

Sunday	August 5	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch—followed by Work Group
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September

Sunday	Sept. 2	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch—followed by Work Group
Sunday	Sept. 16	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 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

DRAFT MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—June 17, 2012

After a period of silent worship, Clerk Suzy Hallett opened the meeting with sixteen Friends present. Following an agenda review it was reported that **John Lacy** is moving to North Carolina.

The **FINANCE COMMITTEE report** was shared by Deb Haviland, Martin Imm, and Bill Spock. In the 2011-12 budget year 100% of pledges by Meeting members were paid in full. When the budget year ended on May 31, overall contributions were down by roughly \$500, but the total budget had a surplus of \$1,100 for the year.

In the **proposed BUDGET for 2012-2013**, \$2,000 will be drawn from Reserves representing 1.7% of the corpus. Some small changes were noted; e.g., AFSC will receive \$400 rather than \$600. Considerable discussion focused upon the annual contribution—some regard it as an assessment—given to New England Yearly Meeting. Uncertainty as to how this contribution should be computed arose from the varied definitions as to who should be counted as “current members” or “active members” or “resident members” of the Meeting. Budget Committee settled on a figure of \$4,200 for the coming year—down from \$4,800. In the end the proposed budget for 2012-13 was APPROVED.

A **letter to solicit annual donations** will soon go out to Meeting members with a footnote that bequests to Midcoast Meeting would be welcome and, if given, will be handled as Endowment Funds in future years.

A **request for financial support from Ramallah Friends School** in Palestine will be taken up more fully at the July meeting for business.

A notice from New England Yearly Meeting alerted everyone to the **scholarship support available to Meeting members who attend annual sessions** August 4-11 in Rhode Island.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to discussion of an informal proposal that the Meeting explore the **possibility of sharing the meetinghouse with the local Unitarian Universalist congregation** so that their worship services might also be held at the meetinghouse. The UUs lost their building to fire and currently gather for their services in cramped, borrowed space. A range of views and concerns were expressed regarding such a possible sharing scheme. Many Friends welcomed in the abstract the goal of sharing the meetinghouse with a local group of like-minded Unitarians who have many values and issue concerns in common with Friends. On the other hand, practical arrangements for time-sharing in the meetinghouse seemed a formidable challenge—especially if both services were intended to be held on Sunday morning. Perhaps the Unitarians would consider holding their service on Sunday afternoon or Sunday evening. In the end it was agreed to invite the Unitarians to join Midcoast members at our next regular potluck lunch (July 1). This would enable the UUs to get acquainted both with Meeting members and with the meetinghouse. The shared meal would be followed by a focused discussion at which potential arrangements for accommodating the Unitarian services at the meetinghouse can be examined in detail, especially whatever cautions and concerns members of the Meeting wish to bring to the conversation. *[Ed. note: The co-clerk felt that adequate consensus had not been reached regarding the UUs having space and will **not, therefore, extend an invitation to them until there has been further discussion among Friends.**]*

—SUZY HALLETT, Clerk/JIM MATLACK, Recording Clerk

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, July 15, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. These minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

The Meeting Community—Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine life?

ALICE LACY, of New Harbor, died on May 20 at the Freeport Nursing Home with her husband, John, and son John Eben at her side.

Alice Blades Lacy was born in Baltimore 92 years ago. Alice and John lived in the Midcoast for a quarter century. They settled in Bath until they designed and built their home on the Pemaquid cliffs in New Harbor in 1993.

Alice received her BA degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She earned an MA and PhD in sociology from the University of Maryland where her fields were race relations, juvenile delinquency and women's studies. In 1956, she was appointed professor of sociology at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and was named a member of the professional association, American Men and Women of Science. She was a popular classroom teacher as well as a frequent consultant in her field, principally serving on a U.S. Senate sub-committee on juvenile delinquency. In 1961 she was appointed to President Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt. Alice liked to share her memories of the group's gatherings with Mrs. Roosevelt at Hyde Park.

During the 1960s she became an activist in the Civil Rights Movement, meeting and working with many of its leaders. She was designated a Marshal of the 1963 March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and two years later participated in the historic Selma to Montgomery March in Alabama.

The couple left Washington, D.C., when John Lacy was named Chief Counsel for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Cocoa Beach, Fla. In 1980 they both retired from their professional work and 'went to sea.' Following a lifelong love of sailing, they qualified to captain their own 41-foot ketch, the *Outrageous*. For four years they lived on and sailed the *Outrageous* in the Caribbean Sea, often providing charter tours.

In Maine, Alice pursued a lifelong interest and talent as an artist. She taught and worked in oil, watercolor, and collage. She was a member of Round Top Artists Center in Damariscotta. Alice was a member of the Midcoast Friends Meeting, devoted to the spiritual practice of Friends and an active member of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Alice was predeceased by her daughter Jill. She is survived by her children Annie Luzzatto of New York, Nina Robin Lacy of North Carolina, and John Eben Lacy of Bangkok, Thailand; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial is being planned for a future date.



THOMAS C. SCHMIDT died peacefully, surrounded by his family, June 18, 2012 from acute respiratory illness.

He graduated from Princeton in 1952, Virginia Theological Seminary in 1955 and received his Ph.D. in Policy Sciences from SUNY Buffalo in 1970. His life's work could be summed up as manifesting a compassionate concern for equity and social justice.

Ordained as an Episcopal minister, Tom served in Bogotá, Colombia, Zululand, South Africa, New London, CT and Longmeadow, MA. In Zululand he worked to bring together, during Apartheid, black and white communities. Tom served as Asst. Commissioner of Education for Rhode Island and from 1974-1980 as Commissioner of Education. He focused on equal educational opportunities for the poor, those with special needs and children of immigrants. In Washington, D.C., he joined the World Bank working for 14 years in Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh, which resulted in 100% of Bangladeshi children, girls and boys, enrolled in primary education.

After retiring to Maine in 1993, he restored a farmhouse with his wife Robin, and was a member of boards including CONA, a local peace and justice group and volunteered at Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program.

He is survived by his wife Robin Bell Schmidt, his three children from his first marriage to Lucy S. Melvin, Peter F. Schmidt of York, PA, Dru Schmidt-Perkins of Baltimore, MD, and Thos. Schmidt of Pensacola, FL, his stepdaughter Julia Lee Barclay of New York City and seven grandchildren, his brother George S. Schmidt of Schenectady, NY and his sister, Josephine Appell of York, PA.

Tom would be honored by donations of time or money to Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program, 84A Union St., Brunswick, ME, 04011 or www.mchpp.org

A memorial service will be held July 1 at 1pm at the Maritime Museum in Bath, ME.

Ed. note: Robin Schmidt is a member of Midcoast Friends, and when she and Tom lived here, they were both actively involved with the Meeting.

Medea Benjamin, founder of [Code Pink](#) and [Global Exchange](#), is coming to Maine to introduce her new book *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. Her upcoming program, sponsored by Midcoast Peace & Justice (Rockland) and co-sponsored by Midcoast Friends Meeting, will be held Friday, July 13, 7 p.m., at the meetinghouse in Damariscotta. (She will also appear at the Camden library that afternoon from 2 to 3:30 p.m.)

For more information, contact Carmen Lavertu at 354-9556 or clavertu@gmail.com—and watch for posters and notices in local newspapers.

From “A Cruel and Unusual Record”
by Jimmy Carter in *The New York Times*, June 24, 2012

“The United States is abandoning its role as the global champion of human rights.

“Revelations that top officials are targeting people to be assassinated abroad, including American citizens, are only the most recent, disturbing proof of how far our nation’s violation of human rights has extended. This development began after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and has been sanctioned and escalated by bipartisan executive and legislative actions, without dissent from the general public. As a result, our country can no longer speak with moral authority on these critical issues.”

“Meanwhile, the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, now houses 169 prisoners. About half have been cleared for release, yet have little prospect of ever obtaining their freedom. American authorities have revealed that, in order to obtain confessions, some of the few being tried (only in military courts) have been tortured by waterboarding more than 100 times or intimidated with semiautomatic weapons, power drills or threats to sexually assault their mothers. Astoundingly, these facts cannot be used as a defense by the accused, because the government claims they occurred under the cover of ‘national security.’ Most of the other prisoners have no prospect of ever being charged or tried either.

“At a time when popular revolutions are sweeping the globe, the United States should be strengthening, not weakening, basic rules of law and principles of justice enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But instead of making the world safer, America’s violation of international human rights abets our enemies and alienates our friends.

“As concerned citizens, we must persuade Washington to reverse course and regain moral leadership according to international human rights norms that we had officially adopted as our own and cherished throughout the years.”

See the complete text: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/25/opinion/americas-shameful-human-rights-record.html?_r=1

From **Quaker House's**
Newsletter

“In Poland, the former head of the country’s intelligence services has been charged with war crimes for helping the U.S. Set up and run a “black site” prison there.

“We’re encouraged by the Polish investigation. As something of an echo, we’ve produced a new postcard to send to the White House calling for an investigation. Readers who want some for themselves or their meetings should write us and ask; no charge.

A counterpart to the postcard is a new compact poster for bulletin boards. Both of these are also meant to remind us that the quest to end torture involves remembering what has happened, and speaking up, even when it feels like our voices are lost in the wilderness of public and official indifference. “



If you have youngish adults (18-40) in your Meeting, please let them know about a new, amazing website made to connect them with other young adult Quakers, list jobs at Quaker organizations, and list events and programs happening around North America for Young Adult Friends. Folks of other ages at your Meeting might be interested, too: www.youngadultquakers.com

Peace,
Nia (NiaDwynwen Thomas, Young Friends and Young Adult Friends Coordinator, NEYM, (617) 945-0373

Annual Sessions

New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Annual Sessions 2012 meets on the campus of Bryant University, located on Rhode Island Route 7, one mile north of exit 8B off of I-295 (1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917), Saturday, August 4 to Thursday, August 9, 2012.

The NEYM Office moves to Bryant University on Tuesday July 31. Contact us at (401) 319-8860 (voice), (877) 257-2834 (FAX) or neym@neym.org. Saturday (August 4) check-in is at the Hall 16 Lobby, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

From Jean McCandless,
Sessions Committee Clerk:

Each year, we come to Yearly Meeting Sessions to be part of our community of Quakers sharing in worship, learning, and discernment. In our 352nd year, we will gather once more at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and all are invited to participate in the continuing exploration of how Friends are called to address global change. Our theme over this year has been "Living with Integrity in a Time of Change." The short, imperative form of this call is "Choose Integrity!" As we try to "go right forward," we will seek God's guidance to be good stewards of the whole Creation.

For details and to register, visit: <http://sessions.neym.org>.

2012 NEYM ANNUAL SESSIONS

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

The Religious Society of Friends in New England

Witnessing to the power of God in our lives...Spirit led to faithful action

June 12, 2012

Dear Monthly Meeting Clerks:

We are writing to you, as the clerk of your monthly meeting, to invite one member or attender from your meeting to attend New England Yearly Meeting Sessions 2012, from August 4 – 9, at Bryant University in Rhode Island. The full cost of the registration will be covered by our Equalization Fund. The individual or your monthly meeting would only be responsible for their travel expenses. Hopefully, travel arrangements may be worked out with someone in your Quarter who is attending.

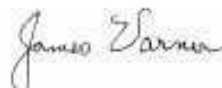
The Sessions Committee feels that it is very important for the spiritual health and growth of New England Yearly Meeting to have as many of the Monthly Meetings as possible come together at our August 2012 NEYM Sessions, our 352st consecutive annual gathering.

Toward that end, we have compiled a list of meetings that were not represented last year at NEYM. Yours is one of those meetings. For the fourth year, Sessions Committee has approved full registration tuition for one representative from each of these meetings to attend. We hope they will share their experiences with your meeting when they return. We plan to call you about this letter soon to see if you have questions and if you will be able to send a representative to Yearly Meeting in August.

In addition to this special full scholarship, the Yearly Meeting's Equalization Fund always offers financial aid for up to 75 percent of registration costs for anyone actively involved with a NEYM Meeting — we invite additional members of your meeting to utilize this and join your representative at Sessions. (Please register by June 30 to receive the full 75 percent).

This year's theme is Choose Integrity! Living with Integrity in A Time of Change. Registration forms and description of the program are in the included edition of The New England Friend or can be accessed online at www.sessions.neym.org. We, or other members of Sessions Committee, will be contacting you soon. Please contact the NEYM Office [508 754- 6760] if you have questions before we reach you by phone. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Varner
Sessions Equalization Fund Representative



Jean McCandless, Clerk
Sessions Committee

901 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602-1908 (508) 754-6760 • neym@neym.org

Interested in a **GREEN COMMUTE TO SESSIONS**? Young Adult Friends with a concern for climate change are leading a group of Quakers from across New England to bike to NEYM Sessions. For details, visit: www.biketosessions.org or contact Jay O'Hara: oharjo@gmail.com or 774-313-0881.

ADVICES

The Meeting Community—Let us live in love as members of a Christian community. Let us be ready to give and receive help, to rejoice together in the blessings of life and to sympathize with each other in its trials.

Let us maintain unity: let us avoid tale-bearing and detraction, acknowledge differences and seek to settle conflicts promptly in a manner free from resentment and all forms of inward violence; let us visit one another, making sure that those who are alone are drawn into the wider family of Friends. Thus, we may know one another as fellow workers in the things that endure.

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OF FRIENDS
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