

9th Month

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

September 2007



But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

--Luke 6:27-28 (NKJV)

At some thoughts one stands perplexed, above all at the sight of human sin, and wonders whether to combat it by force or by humble love. Always decide "I will combat it by humble love." If you resolve on that once for all, you can conquer the whole world. Loving humility is a terrible force: it is the strongest of all things, and there is nothing else like it.

--Starets Zosima

from *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

September

Sunday	Sept. 2		*Meeting for Worship/Lunch at Morse Mountain.
Sat.-Sun.	Sept. 8-9		Vassalboro QM Retreat, Friends Camp, South China, ME
Sunday	Sept. 9	Rise of Meeting	Workhour
Sunday	Sept. 16	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	Sept. 27	7 p.m.	*Film: <i>An Angel for May</i>

Upcoming

Fri.-Sat.	Oct. 5-6		Listening to the Spirit Worship, Cobscook Mtg. (Please see July-August Newsletter for details.)
Sunday	Oct. 14	Rise of Meeting	Workhour
Thursday	Oct. 25	7 p.m.	*Performance: "The Thinking Heart"

*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 a request to Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com. Thanks!*

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

Highlights

Monthly Meeting for Business--Seventh Month 15, 2007

Ministry & Counsel--The meeting wholeheartedly approved the final draft of the **State of the Society Report for 2006** read by Linda Cote-Small.

Religious Education--Some questions have arisen and will be addressed to this committee regarding the plan for **childcare/youth activities during the summer** months. Several Friends not on the committee are willing to help during the summer. We will also ask the committee if the meeting's ad in the *Friends Journal* and local papers is up-to-date.

Peace & Social Concerns--Friends appreciate the **banner** that Carmen Lavertu procured stating "**TORTURE IS WRONG.**" We decided the banner would best be **displayed from an island in the parking lot.** We favor coverage in the newspapers and on our website.

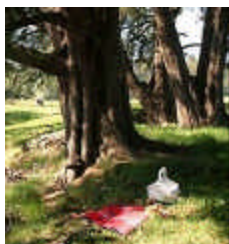
Meetinghouse & Grounds--Improvements to the lighting of the front of the building are complete. Claire Darrow reported that improvements soon to be done include extension of the railing along the front ramp, a comprehensive alarm system, and secure storage for the new video equipment. In discussing plans for **new lighting in the parking lot, the meeting decided to install solar panels on the meetinghouse roof** rather than have individual solar collectors on each light post. Guy Marsden has offered to install the new solar lighting system.

We will **host Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting here on November 3.**

There will be no meeting for business during August. The **next meeting will be on September 16** following meeting for worship.

NEWS NOTES

- **Sally Wood** has asked that we hold her in the Light and in our prayers. She has recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She is dealing well with this new dimension in her life, and her Meeting in Charlottesville is being very supportive. She would love to hear from friends. Her address is: 527 Whitcover Circle, Charlottesville, VA 22901.
- Long-time attender **Lee Coolidge** died on July 13 at the age of 83. Many will remember her quiet presence, usually next to Natalie Wriggins, during meeting for worship. Like Natalie, Lee was an artist. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, she had been a commercial artist most of her life.



We are invited again this year by Susan St. John to come to Small Point, Morse Mountain, in Phippsburg, on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend (September 2), for a walk on the beach, worship, and potluck lunch. (We also remember our beloved Friend Connie on this special day.) Susan writes: "The tide is low at 9:16 a.m., so perhaps the best thing to do is to have people come whenever they like after 9:00, for a walk, and then to have Meeting for Worship at 11:00 or 11:30, followed by lunch." Those who need to drive are welcome to do so, but for those who would like to walk, that is lovely; however, no one should feel that they cannot come unless they walk!

Directions: 12 miles on Route 209-S from Bath. This road makes a 90-degree turn for Popham Beach. Continuing straight at this bend is Route 216. Look for Morse Mountain parking lot on the left, 1 mile ahead.

Friends planning to go should let Deb Haviland <haviland@midcoast.com> or Carmen Lavertu <clavertu@gmail.com> know to form car pools, either at the Meetinghouse or Morse Mountain.

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?

In late July, the Meeting (c/o of Deb Haviland) received the following **note from Janice Rickermann**, who is still in Rochester, New York.

Dear Deborah and all my friends at Midcoast Meeting,

I wish to thank you all for the lovely book of verses and each of the warm and thoughtful messages that came from you upon learning of my mother's passing. The last few months of her life were extremely difficult and the weeks since then no less stressful, and I am sorry to have taken so long to acknowledge your beautiful gift, but please know that I have found comfort in its pages that helps ease the hurt.

I hope to be able to join you soon and share in worship and fellowship with you. It is wonderful to have such caring friends waiting for me back in Maine.

Gratefully, Janice and Seth

GIFTS AND LEADINGS

It is time again for each of us to consider how we can serve our Meeting. Many of us serve on committees, bring refreshments, plan special events, offer spiritual and pastoral insight, and help in many other ways. According to our gifts, we all give support. It is helpful to think of what skills you have that you could contribute.

Not only does Gifts and Leadings ask you to consider what gifts you can bring the Meeting, but it may also ask you to consider a specific place where G&L thinks you might serve. We ask you to think about this carefully and to be open to new ideas. Life can provide many ways to share our work in a direction new to you.

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact anyone on G&L: Carmen Lavertu, Claire Darrow, Linda Cote-Small, Sally Tukey, or Deborah Haviland.

Hello, dear Friends,

I wonder if any of you could point me in the direction of a property management company or of an individual who would be willing to work with me by handling the Maine end of the business of letting and managing my cottage when I am not there.

As most of you know, my family have a delightful 2-bedroom cottage in 3 acres of woodland very near, and with access to, Washington Pond. Rosie my daughter has always worked with me on this, for 15% of all rentals, but she finds the demands of college (whilst she finishes her architectural degree), work, and 2 small children just too much. I can quite understand why!

The job would consist of dealing with US enquiries (I manage UK ones), greeting new renters and introducing them to the cottage, arranging for the cottage to be cleaned between visitors, and making sure that everything is in good order. Any big maintenance jobs and purchases I would do, either at the beginning of the summer or when I come back in the fall. The cottage is closed after my fall visit, which is sometimes as late as Christmas. It is a very part-time job and only a pain when something goes wrong--which of course, it does sometimes, human nature being what it is.

I am very happy to put it in the hands of a commercial property manager. I approached Camden Realty 3 weeks ago, but they said that they were too short-staffed to take on a place out in Washington, but I am prepared to follow up any recommendation any of you might have. I have just booked my ticket and will be back on 24 October, and dear Rosie has said that she will do this summer, so it does give me some time to try to get something in place for 2008. My e-mail address is <annaneedham@talktalk.net>, and I will be delighted to hear from you about this matter and look forward with delight to seeing you all at the end of October.

--Anna Needham

UPCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY MINISTRY & COUNSEL

Thursday, September 27, at 7 p.m., the film *An Angel for May*, directed by Harley Cokeliss.

Thursday, October 25, at 7 p.m., "The Thinking Heart: Etty Hillesum--An Interrupted Life and Letters from Westerbork, a Performance Piece for Two Voices with Cello," featuring Martin Steingesser and Judy Tierney, vocals, and Robin Jellis, cello.

Watch for more information on both these events!

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.

