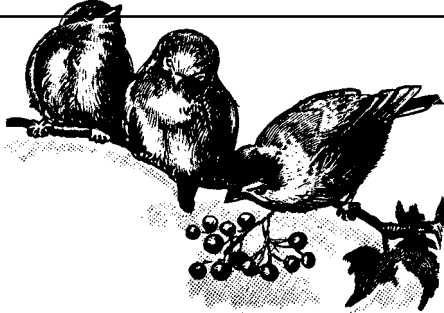


MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
Damariscotta, Maine

# NEWSLETTER



*Great ideas, it has been said,  
come into the world as gentle as doves.  
Perhaps then, if we listen attentively,  
we shall hear amid the uproar of empires and nations  
a faint flutter of wings, a gentle stirring of life and hope.*

-Albert Camus  
submitted by Jean Crawford

## October

Saturday	October 4	10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 5 p.m. 6 p.m.	FCMPP meeting, Waterville * Cape Town Project Silent Auction at the 2nd Congregational Church, Newcastle * Cape Town Project Dinner, 2nd Congregational Church, Newcastle
Friday	October 10	6 p.m.	* Farewell Party for Susan and Paulding Phelps
Saturday	October 11	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	NEYM Workshop for Clerks
Sunday	October 12	8:30 a.m.	Reading Group - new book to be announced
Monday	October 13	5 p.m.	Ministry and Counsel committee meeting
Tuesday	October 14	4:30 p.m.	Peace and Social Concerns committee meeting
Friday	October 17	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Potluck Dinner for Monthly Meeting Monthly Meeting
Saturday	October 18	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Silent Retreat
Sunday	October 19	rise of Meeting	Discussion of casino referendum
Sunday	October 26	8:30 a.m. rise of Meeting	Reading Group Meetinghouse and Grounds Workday, <i>Raindate</i> October 27.

~ Advanced Notice ~

Sunday	November 2	rise of Meeting	"An Uplifting Event," details TBA
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\* 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](http://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](mailto:moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com)

# The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 9th month of 2003

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

Clerk Carmen Lavertu opened the meeting with a moment of silence. There were 17 people present.

A concern was expressed by an attendee about the distribution of the Meeting's statistical records. Being an amateur genealogist and often being confronted with an absence of needed records, this Friend suggested that, instead of just filing our records with Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, we should make copies available, on acid free paper, to area historical societies, the Skidompha Library, and other repositories of such information. The Friend proffering this suggestion was asked to put his suggestion in writing in the form of a newsletter note.

## **Cully Miller Bequest Committee**

The three-person committee met in July to discuss how to use the monies bequeathed to the Meeting by Cully. At a meeting on July 27th at the rise of Meeting for Worship, the committee reported that \$1,000 would go to the Cape Town (South Africa) Townships mediation project currently being organized by Claire Darrow

## **Farewell Potluck Supper Friday, October 10, 6 p.m.**

Please join us for a potluck supper to say farewell and good luck to Paulding and Susan Phelps as they leave Maine for their new home at Crosslands in Pennsylvania.

Contact Viki Diamond, 236-0283, or Sally Wood, 633-7461, for more information.

Query #8

## **Care of Children**

Do children receive the loving care of your Meeting? Does the Meeting nurture their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Are you an example to your children in your faithfulness to the ideals you profess? Do you promote your children's moral and spiritual development by loving oversight of their education, recreation, and social activities? Do you listen to children, recognizing that the Spirit may lead them along paths you have not foreseen? Do you assist them to assume their rightful responsibilities in the home, the Meeting, and the community?

(see p. 3 for more on this project). Of that amount, \$300 was to be considered a loan, to be repaid at some point in the future.

The committee has outlined guidelines for the use of the remaining funds. Some possible uses include social concerns submitted for consideration by Meeting members and approved by Monthly Meeting, or special projects such as building or improvement efforts, as deemed appropriate by Monthly Meeting. The funds are not intended to be held over a long period of time, but rather, are to be spent with reasonable dispatch.

## **Ministry & Counsel**

The committee enthusiastically recommended Patience Thomas for Meeting membership. The clearness committee which met with Patience and her husband were impressed with her depth, energy, and warmth. The Meeting approved.

The committee has been pondering its long-term goals. At present these include

- looking at how welcoming we are to newcomers;
- encouraging the continuing effort of the Meeting to discover its vision of the future and to set goals;
- encouraging attendance at Quarterly and Yearly Meetings;
- planning of several programs this fall including an "uplifting event" following Meeting for Worship on November 2nd.

## **Education**

There was no formal report from the committee, but a discussion arose about scheduling First Day School teachers. It was observed recently that a mother left Meeting with her children, and it concerned a Friend who wondered if this reflected a failure in scheduling. Another Friend said that this suggested to him the need to build a First Day School wing onto the meetinghouse. Another Friend agreed, and yet another said she expects to be having two grandchildren coming soon. Finally, it was suggested that "they are coming, so we should build it!"

## **Peace & Social Concerns**

The committee met on September 11th. The South Africa container project is moving apace with two fundraising events—an African dinner and a silent auction. Items are needed for the auction, and volunteers are needed for the dinner.

Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy will meet on October 4th with Denise Alvater to discuss the casino issue. Midcoast P&SC Committee is planning to conduct a Meeting-wide forum after Meeting for Worship on October 19th to discuss this issue.

*continued on page 4*

# Countdown to the Benefit Dinner

October 4th, at the 2nd Congregational Church in Newcastle

By Claire Darrow

Plans are well underway for the South African dinner and silent auction to benefit the mediators in Cape Town, South Africa. Andy Burt has taken on the dinner part, so you know it will be good! Many others are helping with cooking, prepwork, cleanup, and table waiting. Anna Needham has signed up to help with the silent auction, and Patience Thomas is in charge of the after-dinner program on restorative justice, a process closely associated with mediation. In restorative justice, perpetrators and victims are encouraged to meet each other under guidance and find common ground. It has been used in Maine and in South Africa and has been found to be very effective. The program will be interesting and informative.

## Silent Auction

What we need is for everyone to think of something to offer as a service or an item to be sold during the silent auction. On Sunday, September 21st, many people came and signed up, and the list is growing! Next Sunday, the 28th, you are invited to look over the offerings and begin making bids on what interests you. The growing list of items is exciting and tantalizing in its variety and scope. How about an English tea? A Reiki healing? Babysitting service? A girl's handmade smocked dress? A gourmet dinner or an Ethiopian dinner? And the artwork is astounding—don't miss it! There will be much more to tempt you by the 28th. We

hope you will add to the list. Bring your offerings to the meetinghouse, and fill out a blue card. (Please don't wait to bring your offerings on the day of the dinner. Things will be much too busy for us to accept them at that time.)

Dinner attendees are invited to come at 5 p.m. to look over what is being offered in the auction and make their bids on the bid sheets provided. This process will end at 6 p.m. when the dinner starts. Then the organizers will go through all the bids and determine the winners, which will be announced at the end of the after-dinner program.

## Help Still Needed

Participation so far has been heartwarming, but one thing we really need now is for you to sell tickets to your friends and coworkers, neighbors, etc. Some tickets have been given out already, and Patience will have more to give out on the 28th. The tickets are what will bring people together and make a huge success of this gathering.

You can call me, Claire Darrow, at 371-2447, except between September 26th and 30th, when I will be away. You may also call Patience Thomas at 563-8177, or Anna Needham at 845-2618. Dinner questions can go to Andy Burt at 882-6848 or via email at [adburt@gwi.net](mailto:adburt@gwi.net).

We hope to see you on the 4th!

## Midcoast Friends Sponsor Infant Care Drive: Comfort a Child

By Holly Baldwin

Parents around the world hope the best for their children enough food to eat, clean water, education, the possibilities for a good and useful life. Mothers and fathers in Iraq are no different. In the aftermath of war, much remains unsettled and uncertain for families there. Midcoast Meeting is helping the American Friends Service Committee to provide material assistance to Iraqis with Infant Care Kits. The kits will be distributed to clinics, maternity wards, and other places, so that new mothers have a few basics to begin life with their babies. AFSC has provided medicines, rebuilt schools and water-treatment plants, purchased water-purifying equipment, dug wells, and sponsored agricultural projects during the twelve years since the first Gulf war. We are committed to the people of Iraq and will continue to work with vulnerable populations and underserved communities in the US and abroad.

## How you can help

To assure high quality and consistency for all recipients, each Infant Care Kit must include the following new items: 1 pack baby washcloths, 1 bar baby soap (such as Johnson & Johnson), 1 baby hair brush, and 2

receiving blankets. Place the items in a gallon-size ziplock bag. To defray shipping costs and to purchase additional useful items such as vitamins, we request a contribution of \$10.00 per kit. Checks may be made payable to the Midcoast Friends Meeting. Kits may be delivered to the meetinghouse.

## Infant Care Kits in Iraq

More than twelve years of economic sanctions, since the first Gulf war, adversely affected medical services for most Iraqis. Studies by U.N. agencies have shown a steady increase in the infant mortality rate. At the Al-Batool Maternity Hospital in Mosul, which AFSC staff visited recently, 1,200 babies are born each month. A

*continued on page 5*



## Fall Clean-Up Day Sunday, October 26th

at the rise of Meeting  
Please plan to stay after Meeting  
to help with this important task!

## Fall Forums and Films

(For more information contact  
Tom Schmidt at 529-5302)

### CONA Forums

**October 7th:** "Making Hope Work in a Troubled World." Kimberley Ridley, editor of *Hope Magazine*, will examine the positive steps we ordinary citizens can take to make the world a little better. 7:00 p.m. in the Quaker meetinghouse on Belvedere Road, Damariscotta.

**October 28th:** "Property Tax Relief: Which Proposal on the Ballot Will Be the Best for Maine?" Christopher St. John, executive director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, will provide an analysis of the proposals on the November ballot. Second Congregational Church, Newcastle, at noon (brown bag lunch).

### CONA at the Movies

**October 19th:** "Corrections" and "Three Strikes." A view of the U.S. preoccupation with crime and punishment.

**November 16th:** "Counting on Democracy." Greg Palast's film documents recent electoral irregularities, dubious voting technology, corporate meddling, privatization, and their implications for the future of American democracy. This film will be the kickoff for study circles based on Palast's best-selling book.

**December 14th:** "The World Through Children's Eyes." Focuses on the effects of poverty on children's lives.

Beginning in January, CONA's winter series continues in a similar vein, looking at the effect of tax policy and military expenditures on education, seldom-discussed aspects of globalization, and various takes on corporate-dominated public life and government. All films start at 7p.m. at the Skidompha Library auditorium, rear entrance, and are under 90 minutes long to allow time for discussion.

**PRESERVING SUMMER**  
 OILS • WOODCUTS • FIBER  
 BY SALLY DELORME PEDRICK  
 OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 20, 2003  
 RECEPTION: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 10AM-5PM  
 DURING THE 2ND ANNUAL ROUND POND ROUNDTABOUT  
 HARVEST MEDLEY REFRESHMENTS  
 THE LIBRARY ART STUDIO  
 1467 ROUTE 32 • ROUND POND, MAINE  
 207-529-4210

### Monthly Meeting Notes .....cont'd from p. 2

The committee is starting a new book group, which will focus its attention on books which will help us to look at alternatives to war. The first book being read is Jonathan Schell's *The Unconquerable World* (see book review, p. 5). This book group will try to engage other churches and participants from throughout the community. Venue options are being considered.

Through her work, Holly Baldwin has learned of a short video which raises awareness about homeless youth. The committee will plan a showing sometime in the future.

### Quarterly & Yearly Meeting

Pete, Deb, and Carmen attended the Fall Gathering at Vassellboro on Saturday the 6th of September. It was a wonderful, stimulating session with a workshop on creating your own queries. The next Quarterly Meeting will be at Acadia Meeting in Bar Harbor the first Saturday in November. Claire Darrow reported that at the Yearly Meeting sessions, a \$4,400 increase has been targeted in funds for youth programs. Two thousand of that they hope to raise through the meetings and \$2,400 from individuals.

### Other Business

A discussion of when to have a farewell potluck for Paulding and Susan Phelps resulted in a decision that Friday evening, the 10th of October, would be best. The dinner will commence at 6 p.m. at the meetinghouse. Claire Darrow was asked to discuss her South African project because some meeting members are not clear on what our involvement is and what our goals are. She explained that, in addition to coming to the meeting with this need, she wrote letters to about one hundred friends and acquaintances. The response from the mailing was overwhelming and resulted in raising more than \$2,000. The cost of a container (think "meeting room") is about \$1,757 so the original goal has already been met. Any funds the meeting raises will be sent to the project coordinator only after she responds to Claire's recent inquiry about how the additional funds will be allocated. The meeting feels good about the idea of supporting mediation in the townships of South Africa as an alternative to violence.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Next Monthly Meeting: Friday, October 17th, at 7 p.m. at the meetinghouse. A potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m. All welcome.**

Friends Meeting, Damariscotta  
*September Sunday*  
*Sunshine sparkles through the pines*  
*Peace is present here*  
 —Richard Castner, September 14th, 2003

## We Stand Our Ground

*William Rivers Pitt is a New York Times best-selling author of two books, War On Iraq (Context Books) and The Greatest Seditious Silence (Pluto Press). On August 10, 2003 he gave the keynote address at the Veterans for Peace National Convention in San Francisco. What follows is an excerpt from that speech.*

When all else fails, I fall back on the words of the extraordinary anti-war activist Daniel Berrigan. A friend of Berrigan's, Mitchell Snyder, was for years an advocate and activist for the homeless in Washington DC. Snyder became despondent over the fact that his government could spend billions on bombs and planes and guns but could not seem to find the money to help the homeless. Snyder became so despondent that he committed suicide. Daniel Berrigan penned these lines in memory of Snyder, and it is in these lines that I find my hope and strength when the darkness creeps too close.

Some stood up once, and sat down  
Some walked a mile, and walked away  
Some stood up twice, then sat down, "I've had it" they said.  
Some walked two miles, then walked away. "It's too much," they cried.  
Some stood and stood and stood.  
They were taken for fools,  
They were taken for being taken in.  
Some walked and walked and walked.  
They walked the earth,  
They walked the waters,  
They walked the air.  
"Why do you stand," they were asked, "and why do you walk?"  
"Because of the children," they said,  
"And because of the heart,"  
"And because of the bread,"  
"Because the cause is the heart's beat,  
And the children born  
And the risen bread."

—Contributed by Carmen Lavertu

### Housemate wanted:

Beautiful old farmhouse in South Bristol—hundreds of acres of woods, shore, and garden—seeks friendly, community-minded tenant to share space with two or three other F/friends. Big bedrooms, ample storage space, garden space, etc. Rent is \$200/mo + utilities. Call or email Holly Baldwin for more information: 644-1014, hollyb@riseup.net.

Book Review

## The Unconquerable World

By Carmen Lavertu

*"We are in for many more years of turmoil and misery in the Middle East, where one of the main problems is, to put it as plainly as possible, U.S. Power. What the U.S. refuses to see clearly, it can hardly hope to remedy." --Edward Said, Palestinian/American intellectual who died this week (9/25).*

In **The Unconquerable World** Jonathan Schell's important thesis is that our survival depends on putting an end to "the war system" that has so long prevailed in political theory and popular mythology. Living under this system, in a nuclear-armed world, there are great risks of utter devastation. In addition, we should respect the aspirations of peoples around the world to govern themselves, that they not become dominated and oppressed by any other power. If this thesis is correct, it means that the imperial ambitions of our current government will not succeed. The truth of this idea is observable in the problems experienced by Iraq and in the World Trade Organization.

The book is not light reading: it is a research report of "the war system" in 2000 years of Western Civilization. (We need to know better the forces that we oppose.) It is also a survey of the important pacifist movements led by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., but also includes lesser-known pacifist successes. I believe we need Schell's insights to ground us in the important work we have immediately ahead of us—to demilitarize our government's foreign policy and to propose specific and doable cooperative actions.

"Stay tuned" to P&SC to learn about study groups that will be formed.

### The Advices

Care of the children of the Meeting should be the responsibility of every Friend.

Let us share with our children a sense of adventure, of wonder, and of trust and let them know that, in facing the mysteries of life, they are surrounded by love. Both parents and Meetings need to guard against letting other commitments deprive children of the time and attention they need.

Friends are advised to seek for children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education. All Friends are cautioned against harshness of tone and manner when offering counsel or reproof. To the child, even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of repentance or growth, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended.

Let us nurture a spirit of common concern, thereby giving children a sense of belonging to a larger community.

# New England Yearly Meeting 2003

By Patience Thomas

As a neophyte resource staff person for New England Yearly Meeting this past year, I felt led to volunteer my time and spirit to be with Young Friends for the week of Yearly Meeting. I plunged headfirst into what turned out to be a profoundly rich spiritual experience. I choose to inform you of some of my learnings in hopes that you can appreciate this untold story!

Six days with 105 Friends equals unforgettably rich snapshots of rich, lasting color:

- Teens deal with challenges of being accepted for who they are and yet at “Yearly,” through unconditional love, they feel safe to be themselves.
- We are here to make a peaceful kingdom. It may be a “stretch” and yet it is a worthwhile goal.
- When you jump into a new situation/challenge, the second bounce is cushioned.
- Deeply spiritual rewards are proportionate to the courage it takes to leap with faith.
- Growth happens from feeling feelings which may be a blend of contrasts—from the pain of isolation to dancing in the rain and blowing soap bubbles in the sunshine.
- “Being” is enough, in and of itself.
- Life is too short to take things personally.
- It is worth the extra time to frame our words in a positive voice.
- Fireflies of light in the darkness can emerge into fireworks among Friends.
- Collective positive energy can fuel the tired mind and soothe the body.
- Singing together is balm for the ills and also is a cohesive force.
- Community building, expressed in silence, can be powerful action (as exemplified in Meeting for Business).
- Meeting for Business is a process bred by patience and has unforeseen ramifications.
- There are times when there are no words to express a feeling, like when a loved one dies.
- Peer support and connections to Friends of Midcoast Meeting and other Maine Meetings are like sunshine to my soul.
- To work with others in community service toward a common goal is a wondrous way to become close.

We departed knowing that “All God’s creatures got a place in the choir, some sing low and some sing higher...” as we proceeded on into the sunset, hopeful that we will meet again!

During the NEYM week, the teens worked on the

schedule for retreats that will carry them through the coming year until next Yearly Meeting. They need “Resourceful Ones” to assist and be supportive of the teens during these weekends. The contact person, Chris Jorgenson, Youth and Education Secretary for the New England Yearly Meeting, can be reached at 617-625-4494 or via email at CNJorgens@aol.com.

The following is the schedule:

“**Creative Splurge**” at Portland Friends Meeting, October 17-19, 2003. This is a time when teens come share things they find creative and maybe experiment with some new ones. Music, art, writing, movement, playing, thinking, laughing, talking.

**Quakerism & World Politics** at Hartford Friends Meeting, CT, November 21-23, 2003.

**Mind, Body, & Soul at Friendly Crossways Youth Hostel**, Littleton, MA, Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, January 16-19, 2004.

If I find that folks are interested in participating in these incredible experiences, I will be glad to post future retreat topics and dates. I, personally, will be going to as many as my life calendar allows, so I would love to include anyone in my car. Please call me at 563-8177, or for the October retreat, call Chris Jorgenson (see above).

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## Infant Care Drive .....cont’d from p. 3

senior Iraqi pediatrician at the Al-Batool Hospital expressed his support for this project, seeing it as a great way to help educate new mothers in the care of their infants. He also emphasized that distributing kits in hospitals serving poorer areas would be especially helpful.

For more information, contact Holly Baldwin, 644-1014, hollyb@riseup.net.



Photo Courtesy American Friends Service Committee

iceberg—they are so surprising in their shapes. Their color is usually very brilliant against the blue sea, delicate but strong colorings in the shadows, often pale turquoise and lavender.

The most colorful experiences from a holistic view were the Inuit people themselves. They greeted us (often in their native dress) as we climbed out of our zodiacs onto their beaches. We were provided leaders to take us in small groups around their community. Usually we visited a co-op with a print shop and store, where beautiful, large, colorful prints were in the making and for sale. My first carving purchase was from a 15-year-old boy, Siliqiatsuk. He sat next to his father, with some of their work in front of them, in a long row of carvers and artists, who were working at tables in their community center. Siliqiatsuk's father wrote their address for me when I said I'd send a photo. When he included a phone number, I felt I wanted to call in the dead of winter, around Christmas-time, when it is dark most of the day up there. I told him I would try to do that.

The shape of my carving is the *Inukshuk*. In Inuktitut the meaning is "to look like a person."\* These striking figures of piled rocks were sometimes called the compasses of the Arctic. Today *Inukshuks* are still used by hunters and travelers throughout the Far North. In a place where people have always had close ties to the land and each other, the *Inukshuk* is a "symbol of friendship."\*

Friendship is what we found in every instance. We had three Inuit aboard, who demonstrated this quality as well with us as with their fellow Inuit when we went ashore. One of our fellow travelers was Kanajuak, a famous print-maker from Cape Dorset—the same community where I found Siliqiatsuk sitting behind his carvings.

There were so many experiences in the communities. Everywhere we stopped there was a program for us in the community center, which was packed with families and oodles of interested children. They demonstrated their winter games that involved a lot of difficult ways of kicking a ball hanging from a string—minimal equipment and quite breathtaking challenges.

At Coral Harbour we also saw a fashion show of clothing made from different furs and skins. Many children appeared in this. Always there was some throaty singing, usually by young women facing each other and creating both deep and high notes that sounded like several instruments.

A couple of times some of the Inuit were brought back to *Ioffe* to share a meal with us—once it was a barbecue birthday bash on the bow of the P-deck. That day we had gorgeous short-sleeve weather.

Our guides were generous with their information, as were the people in the villages. If I took a picture of

anyone (with permission), I usually asked if they would like me to send a copy, and I received not only addresses, but, on some occasions, an e-mail address as well. It's so heartwarming to know they can communicate this way. They must use the Q, K, and U keys a lot when sending messages in Inuktitut!

Yes to polar bears, walruses, and birds by the thousands, flying around their nests which clung to sheer cliffs, which we would visit from the sea. We saw walruses on the beach of an island named for them. They are always crowded together, big blubbery bodies. Even on the ice floes as they were sunning themselves we were able, without disturbing them, to come close enough to see the babies peeking over the adults.

Polar bears, yes, from very safe distances—usually in or on the sea; once, quite visible from the bow of the ship we watched the movements of a big fellow as he went up and down the terrain and in and out of the sea. On one occasion over the loudspeaker came an announcement, "Polar bear off starboard!" This one was sitting up on an ice floe as we went by. The Russian captain turned the ship in a circle so we could see him again.

I missed seeing the caribou and some of the seals and the bird nests on Deadman's Island, but one can't do everything. There were so many enriching experiences it's hard for me not to mention many more.

A final note (to plant a pun) is about the music aboard and in the communities. Three gifted musicians were on staff, not only to amuse us, but also to travel to the villages, where we had a part in the entertainment with local bands and with our singing to them in their language. Aaju taught us two songs in Inuktitut, one of which was "*Frere Jacques*."

Andrea, an accomplished violinist from the Toronto Orchestra, gave frequent musical performances and taught a couple of classes to us passengers using violins she had brought aboard. In 1995 she started a program to teach Inuit children to play violin. The program is called "Strings Across the Sky." We had benefited from her method of teaching, proving that it can be done. We even participated in a concert the last evening!

Tom, the third musician, sang and played guitar, and alone and with others made good music to dance to, which a lot of us did—together and sometimes with the Inuit.

For me this certainly was a trip of a lifetime. I treasure my memories and many reminders, including a few small carvings.

\* *Dreamstones*, Maxine Trottier - Stella East, 1999, final page (not numbered)

# A Trip to the Land and Sea of the Inuit

By Charlotte Ritter

**O**n July 24th, 2003, after a lengthy charter flight from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, I landed with over 100 other travelers in Rankin Inlet on the Northwestern corner of Hudson Bay.

The first leg of our "Adventure Canada" brought us to Nunavut—an independent nation since 1999 and the home of the Inuit for thousands of years.

After landing we soon donned our life jackets, over our heavy clothing, with backpacks over that combo. On shore we searched the horizon for our ship and finally saw the zodiacs flowing in to pick us up and speed us across the choppy waters 'til, finally, the ice breaker (our expedition ship) came into view. What a blessing for me! Hanging onto just a side rope as I bounced up and down was scary for me, and I wondered if every zodiac trip that lay ahead was to be so vigorous. Actually, it didn't turn out to be.

As we reached our ship, the *Akademik Ioffe*, a strong Russian crew member helped each of us off the zodiac, and we climbed up to the third deck of the ship and hung up our life jackets. Our cabin for three and everything else aboard was in perfect condition. The room had a window that opened, rather than a porthole, and we enjoyed keeping it open to experience the clean,

fresh air and to listen to the sounds as the *Ioffe* cut through the open seas, the straits, and fjords.

Our direction was usually easterly by north, a bit below the Arctic Circle in latitude, but a few times above, especially near the end of the trip when we traveled across Davis Strait (calm in contrast to what I had anticipated) to the western shores and Danish-influenced villages of many colored houses on steep hills.

Looming out of what we would call "mist" here on the Maine coast, on our next to last morning we witnessed the edge of a glacier as it met the sea. Some of the travelers who had visited here before noticed considerable melting in the last year or two.

It was there that I was inspired to paint the last of 15 small watercolors I did, mostly from the boat. There was always a picture to take, paint, or sketch if one was prepared to jump at the opportunity.

Where did we go and what contacts did we make with the land, sea, people, birds, wildlife, stored history, and icebergs of many shapes and forms, each one demanding to have its picture taken or a sketch or painting made of it? Actually anyone can sketch an

*continued on p. 7*

Midcoast Meeting of Friends  
PO Box 714, 77 Belvedere Road  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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