

10th Month

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

October 2010

# NEWSLETTER



The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

--Romans 8:16 [NKJV]

The vision that Jesus gives us is this: That I am unconditionally loved, that I belong to God, and that I am a person who can really trust that.

-- Henri Nouwen

## October

Sunday	October 3	Rise of Meeting	Worship Sharing/Health of the Meeting/Potluck (no work hour)
Thursday	October 7	3:00 p.m.	Jean Crawford's house
Sunday	October 17	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Business
Wednesday	October 20	6:30-8:30 p.m.	*Fishes and Loaves series begins
Sunday	October 24	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 3-5 p.m.	Quakerism Study Group *Fishes and Loaves: <i>A Sea Change</i>
Wednesday	October 27	6:30-8:30 p.m.	*Fishes & Loaves presentation by Bigelow Labs scientist

## November

Sunday	November 7	Rise of Meeting	Potluck/Work Hour
Sunday	November 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

\*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.

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**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](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com). Thanks!

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For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website: [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org).

## Highlights--Monthly Meeting for Business--September 19, 2010

Clerk Deborah Havaland opened the meeting with a reading from *Faith and Practice* followed by silent worship. Fourteen Friends were gathered. Several gratitudes were expressed.

The Minutes of Business Meeting on July 18 were approved.

The **piano** has been moved out of the meetinghouse.

Texts of **position descriptions for the Clerk and the Recording Clerk** were discussed and approved. [*Ed. note: see article in this issue.*]

**Meetinghouse & Grounds**--Guy Marsden reported on a new timer switch installed on the lights for the parking lot. Deep appreciation was expressed to Guy for all that he has done to assist the childcare group in their use of the meeting. George Walden noted trimming of branches at the driveway entrance and also the challenge posed by sustained maintenance of the garden areas. The issue of renewing the gravel on the driveway and parking areas was raised for discussion. Choices of cover materials and costs were reviewed. The Reserve Fund for Capital Expenditures was noted. In the end a decision to go forward with a new covering with recycled pavement material was approved.

**Coastal Kids Pre-School**--The pre-school started the first week in September, and all is going well. Some questions were answered and clarified by Guy Marsden and Rachel McGinness of the ad-hoc committee. The contract has been signed by the school and the Meeting for the period through December 31, 2010. It was noted that snow plowing during the week was the responsibility of the school. Rachel noted that when she took our children out that Sunday that the preschool made our room a very inviting space for our children.

The **Peace Center report** was given by Brewster Grace. At a recent meeting, agreement was reached to go forward with four projects:

- A talk on "Sustainability" by Guy Marsden, not yet scheduled.

- "Fishes and Loaves" series led by Andy Burt this fall. [*Ed. note: see article in this issue.*]

- A series of talks on conflict countries; e.g., Iran, North Korea, Central America/Mexico--to be staged in spring 2011. Speakers will likely be former AFSC staffers.

- Perhaps a film series. These may be offered one at a time as support is manifest.

**The Pastoral Care Committee** will meet on October 2.

**Gifts & Leadings Committee** will be featured at the October monthly meeting.

The proposed **Worship Sharing Session** at the rise of meeting on October 3 was approved. A regular potluck meal will follow at noon or after.

Carmen Lavertu reported on Vassalboro **Quarterly Meeting** held recently. A lively session without the usual full committee reports had been staged to celebrate the 350th year of New England Yearly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting will also be returning some funds to Midcoast Meeting, along with asking for a reduced assessment this year. No date could be agreed to for a proposed visit to Midcoast Meeting by the Ministry & Council Committee of the Quarter.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 17, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

The entire pending minutes of the meeting are available at [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org) and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse..

--Deborah Havaland, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

**Pat Spock's Health**--Pat is undergoing 6 week s of antibiotic treatment for an infection the doctors found when hip-replacement surgery was attempted last month. She is in a rehab center in Brunswick, and the hip replacement surgery should take place in a month. Pat would love to hear from friends; cards or notes can be sent to Bill and Pat's home: 10 Curtis Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.

## *Health of the Meeting Worship Sharing*

*On Sunday Oct 3, at the rise of meeting for worship, we will have a worship sharing on the health of the meeting. The usual monthly potluck will follow.*

*Worship sharing is an opportunity for group meditative reflection on a query or topic. One person is usually designated as the facilitator. This person reminds everyone of the guidelines and reads the query or topic. We ask that you familiarize yourselves with the guidelines listed below before coming on Oct 3.*

- We speak from our own experience.*
- We do not discuss, dispute, or respond to another.*
- We each speak only once, at least until everyone has had a chance to speak.*
- We are mindful of the time so as to not take more than one's share of it.*
- While it is hoped all will contribute, that is not required. It is helpful for one to indicate that he or she is passing if that is the case.*
- When others are speaking we listen attentively, without judgment and without the distraction of our own thoughts.*
- When one is finished speaking, we allow a period of silence for reflection before anyone else speaks.*
- Everything said is held in confidence not to be repeated outside the room except by, or with the permission of, the one who said it (with our topic, we will be considering thoughtfully all that has arisen).*

*We welcome all members and attenders to participate.*

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*The following draft descriptions for **Clerk and Recording Clerk** were discussed and approved by the meeting for a new Handbook in 2011:*

**CLERK OF MONTHLY MEETING:** The Clerk conducts all business sessions and ensures that matters are presented and considered in the spirit of worship and that actions taken represent the “sense of the Meeting.” The Clerk is responsible for the draft and final minutes of each monthly meeting which are posted on the Meeting Website. The Clerk carries out the wishes of the Meeting and signs necessary documents on the Meeting’s behalf. The correspondence of the Meeting, including requests for membership, marriage under the care of the Meeting, and memorial services, is routed through the Clerk. The Clerk chairs any meetings of the Corporation. The Meeting expects the Clerk to be a member of the Meeting.

**RECORDING CLERK OF MONTHLY MEETING:** The Recording Clerk is responsible for taking minutes of each business meeting and writing highlights of the business meeting for the newsletter. The Recording Clerk maintains the file of approved minutes on acid-free paper and periodically forwards them to the archives of New England Yearly Meeting.

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## *ADVICES—Care of Children*

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 or 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.

## 2010 NEYM Annual Sessions--*Jubilee*--Minute of Sending Forth/Commission

*Sing and rejoice, ye children of the day and of the light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that may be felt. And truth doth flourish as the rose, and the lilies do grow among the thorns, and the plants atop of the hills. And upon them the lambs do skip and play. And never heed the tempests nor the storms, floods nor rains, for the seed Christ is over all, and doth reign. And so be of good faith and valiant for the truth.*

—George Fox, 1663

During this 350th gathering of our beloved yearly meeting, our exercise has gone forward in several ways. In our meetings to hear God's call, we identified some specific areas that will require sustained and disciplined attention if we are to be prepared to witness as faithfully as we want to. These include:

- the call to forgiveness,
- the call to strengthen our ability to love and to build our community,
- the call to name, cultivate, and exercise gifts of ministry, eldership, and leadership
- the call to undertake clear leadings for witness.

These priorities are reflected in our minutes of exercise, and we have returned to them repeatedly. They have emerged so clearly in our sessions that we direct Friends to bear these priorities in mind, and address them explicitly as they are doing their work at every level of our community. We cannot now dictate specific courses of action, but we ask all committees and meetings to seriously reflect on these priorities, starting within the next two months of 2010. We also encourage Friends to discover ways in which meetings and committees can help each other in this work. It may be that Quarterly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting can help constituent meetings, but it may also be that monthly meetings or committees can find ways to collaborate directly.

Furthermore, because we know that we have much work to do, and we are always tempted to avoid hard work, we desire to hold ourselves accountable. So we ask Friends, as they report to each other and to the Yearly Meeting, to speak in concrete terms about whether and how their work has taken account of each of these priorities. Clerks of meetings and committees at all levels must be responsible to ensure that Friends undertake this in a substantive fashion. But this call is laid on all of us.

During our sessions, the anchor groups have been deep in exploration, discernment, and community building. They have been working with concrete individual gifts and leadings, and begun to develop structures of accountability necessary for these to bear fruit. That work will encourage monthly meetings, Quarterly Meetings, and committees within the Yearly meeting to take up the

work of supporting and eldering these leadings, holding each other accountable in love within our communities.

We note that we are not finished with the work of listening for God's call, and for God's guidance in preparation and faithful response. We have learned during our Jubilee years that there is no substitute for frequent extended times of worship, in groups of all sizes within and between meetings, and this is a lesson that we must not lose. Therefore, we encourage meetings and other groups to continue to create opportunities for such worship.

We are not discouraged that we have so much to do, and that so much of it is long overdue. We are not discouraged by the realization that this work will take time. It has begun, and we all, for the honor of Truth, are called to proclaim what we found during our jubilee exercises, here in Smithfield, and in the months leading up to it, and be persistent, creative, and joyful in bringing the work home with us.

We would like to close by sharing some of the words of one of our anchor groups, which expresses much of our exercise, our hope, and our resolve, noting that we as a body cannot claim all these words as our own:

There is only one testimony, and it is the testimony to the transforming power of God. There is only one witness and it is the witness of the body of Christ. There are many pieces of work which will require the particular gifts, ministries, and passions of all of us, because the desire of God for healing and redemption of this blessed creation requires profound change.

We refute the lies of the present situation: the lie that causes movements for transformation to see each other as competitors; the lie that says that social action is spiritually shallow and spirituality is socially passive; the lie that says that war and destruction are inevitable and efforts for change are hopeless; the lie that says we can't change the world until we have perfected ourselves.

We declare that with God's help, we stand ready to be agents of transformatory witness to God's promise. We

*[Continued on next page]*

pray for the wisdom to perceive the patterns of thought and behavior within ourselves which conform to the present darkness. We pray for the strength to take bold, prophetic and concrete action in the world. Some of that action will be local, some global, some individual, some corporate, some immediate, some long-term. For action which is rightly guided, we can trust that we have already the resources required for faithfulness. Use us Lord!

It is with pain and regret and gratitude for their faithfulness that we record that the following Friends wish to stand aside from this minute: Clifford Harrison, Allan Kohrman, Elizabeth Dyer, Connie Kincaid-Brown, John Wilmerding, Jerry Carson.

August 12, 2010

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## Fishes and Loaves--A Study of the Covenant Between Land and Sea

**Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m., October 20-November 10**  
**Sunday, October 24, 3-5 p.m. Sunday, November 21, 4-6 p.m.**

Friends are invited to attend a five-week program of study and reflection on the issue of ocean changes and fishing as the nexus of environmental and economic justice. The program, developed by the Maine Council of Churches, will feature films and speakers, background readings, and opportunities for personal and spiritual reflection and action. All sessions will be held at the meetinghouse.



- **Oct. 20/Oct. 24**– The Peace Center will present two screenings of the critically acclaimed film *A Sea Change*. The film captures the journey of retired history teacher Sven Huseby, who travels around the world to speak with marine biologists, oceanographers, fishermen, artists, and climatologists about the impacts of a changing ocean chemistry on the fish that more than one billion people rely on for sustenance, and how this threat to the marine food web may affect his young grandson's future. Participants will leave with reflection questions and optional reading.
- **Oct. 27**–Bigelow Lab Senior Research Scientist Dr. Barney Balch will lead a discussion about ocean acidification after screening the 20-minute Natural Resources Defense Council film *Acid Test: The Global Challenge of Ocean Acidification*. Besides his work on ocean acidification, Dr. Balch's research includes biocalcification, bio-optics, ocean color algorithms for satellite remote sensing, and algal viruses. There will be an opportunity for small group discussion and reflection as well. Optional reading for Session 3 will be distributed.
- **Nov. 3** – The program will begin with *Fishing Voices: Insight into the Future*, a short film produced by the Penobscot East Resource Center (PERC) The film focuses on Down East fishermen, their families, and their communities, and examines local fishing practices both past and future as Maine fishermen work with scientists and marine regulators to implement community-based fishing management for sustainable fisheries. Staff from the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance will present a short overview of Maine fish-stock and management issues and lead a Q-&-A session..
- **Nov. 10** – We will view another short film, *A Leap of Faith*, produced by the Maine Council of Churches. This film showcases a Rockland congregation that has formed a covenantal relationship with a local farm family and fishing community as part of its local foods ministry. Speakers from the church and local fishermen have been invited to speak. We will discuss opportunities for creating community-supported fisheries projects in neighboring communities.
- **Nov. 21** – Community Chowder Supper will follow a presentation, *By Land and By Sea*, which examines a growing movement linking farmers and fishermen around their common challenges as communities endeavor to build local foods systems and food security. Amanda Beal and Ellen Tyler, Tufts graduate students and local foods advocates, will share the outcome of this project in Maine. The supper will include seafood and sea vegetable chowders, breads and desserts, created from local foods. Donations will be gratefully accepted..

For more information, please contact Andy Burt at 882-6848. <http://mainecouncilofchurches.org/fishes>

## **Women of New England YM are invited to the USFW Fall Retreat on Cape Cod**

On October 16 and 17, USFW-NE will be visiting East Sandwich Friends Meeting to enjoy the peaceful tranquility of their 200-year-old meetinghouse and 3.5-acre property. Our theme is "Reclaiming Our Spiritual Balance," and we will discuss some of the FWCC Queries on Global Change. Overnight accommodations will be available at the Friends Community House adjacent to the East Sandwich Friends Meeting House, Friends House in West Falmouth (\$25 per person per night), and my home, which is a short distance from the Meeting.

The details of the Retreat are still under development; so far six Friends have confirmed attendance. The formal retreat will run from supper on Saturday night through lunch on Sunday. However, an earlier arrival offers opportunities for quiet reflection and nature walks. The shores of Cape Cod Bay are a 20-minute walk from the Meeting. East Sandwich Friends look forward to sharing our special place with USFW-NEYM. On a recent Sunday, one member spoke about the Meeting for Worship being "one of his Walden Ponds" and another called it "bringing a musical instrument back into tune."

Other family members are welcome to attend the retreat if you make prior arrangements with me.

Please e-mail Sarah Marter or call for further information or to reserve a space: [Savery08@comcast.net](mailto:Savery08@comcast.net) or 508-888-6252.

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### ***An Invitation from Lincoln County TRIAD***

Lincoln County TRIAD is inviting Lincoln County seniors to attend its ninth annual Senior Appreciation Day, Saturday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Boothbay Region Elementary School in Boothbay Harbor. This will be a fun-filled day with entertainment, the TRIAD's famous baked-bean meal, and prizes galore. Approximately 30 exhibitors will be providing information about new programs, products, and services that may be beneficial to seniors. It is all free – no admission charge.

Exhibitors will include the Red Cross, Social Security Administration, RSVP, EX Diabetic, Maine Alzheimers Association, Maine Department of Human Services, Maine Department of Securities, and New Hope for Women. Spectrum Generations will be hosting a Medicare Assistance/Benefits Checklist Clinic. Wal-Mart will conduct vision screenings. Lincoln County Healthcare and St. Andrews Hospital will be presenting wellness information.

**Free 911 Cell Phones available at Senior Appreciation Day.** Since the TRIAD feels that all seniors should be armed with a means of contacting 911, we participate in a National Triad program for distributing free cell phones. Any senior with an old cell phone can bring it on October 17, and the TRIAD will replace it with a more current phone! In any case, the organization collects old cell phones as part of the national program and will be doing so that day.

**File of Life.** The Triad provides these packets to all seniors free of charge. These red magnetic packets are designed to be placed on the refrigerator door. They contain a card for listing such personal information as current medications, chronic illnesses, and emergency contacts--all of which can be invaluable to emergency responders. The Triad would like to place these packets in the hands of all seniors and disabled persons in the county. (The new supply of File of Life packets as available thanks to a generous donation from St. Andrews Hospital.)

Groups of 6 or more who would like to sit together may reserve seating by calling Debbie Mullen at 633-7874. The Boothbay Region Elementary School is across from the YMCA on Route 27 in Boothbay Harbor.

**FCNL's 2010 Annual Meeting:  
Building on a Firm Foundation  
Nov. 11-14, Washington, DC  
Lobby Day: Monday, Nov. 15**

Join 200 Friends from around the country for skills building, strategizing, and worshipful discernment. Find all details and register at [http://www.fcnl.org/am/ann\\_meeting2010.htm](http://www.fcnl.org/am/ann_meeting2010.htm).



### **DO YOU KNOW WHO/WHAT FCNL IS?**

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) fields the largest team of registered peace lobbyists in Washington, DC. Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of tens of thousands of people from many different races, religions, and cultures to advocate social and economic justice, peace, and good government. FCNL is nonpartisan.

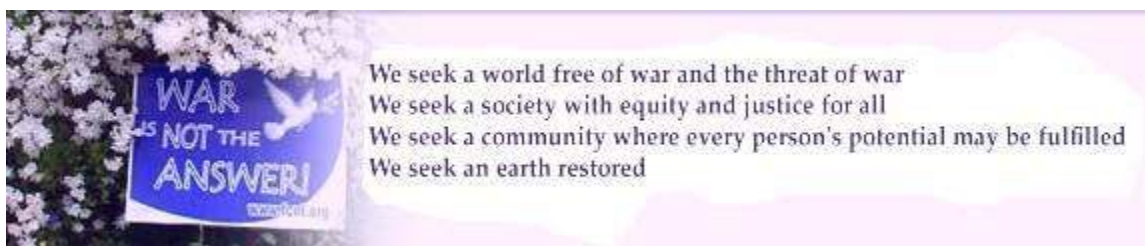
FCNL is also the oldest registered ecumenical lobby in Washington, DC. The organization's legislative priorities and policies are set by a General Committee made up of some 220 Quakers from around the country. FCNL's multi-issue advocacy connects historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity, and truth with peace and social justice issues which the United States government is or should be addressing.

FCNL is a nonpartisan 501(c)4 public interest lobby. It is neither a political action committee (PAC) nor a special interest lobby. The FCNL Education Fund is a parallel 501(c)3 organization that supports the research, analysis and education for which FCNL is known and respected.

In the last six-and-a-half decades, FCNL has played a pivotal role in the creation of the Peace Corps, was instrumental in lobbying for the creation of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, helped lobby for the Civil Rights Act, and led efforts in Washington to oppose both the first (1991) and second (2003) Iraq wars.

FCNL's recent accomplishments include encouraging Congress to challenge the direction of U.S. policy in Iraq; leading the effort to block the development of a new generation of new nuclear weapons; and successful lobbying for a one-year moratorium on cluster bomb exports.

You can learn even more at <http://www.fcnl.org/index.htm>.



## QUERIES—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?