

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

NEWSLETTER



*Walk cheerfully over the world,
answering that of God in everyone.*
—George Fox

December

Sunday	December 1		Food Pantry Day
		rise of Meeting	Welcome for Alice Lacy and Marie Bailey
Sunday	December 8	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Tuesday	December 10	4:00 p.m.	Peace and Social Concerns committee meeting
Wednesday	December 11	4:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel committee meeting
Sunday	December 15	11:30 am	Meeting for Business. Bring bag lunch.
Monday	December 16	asap	Deadline for January <i>Newsletter</i>
Sunday	December 22	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Tuesday	December 31	6:00 p.m.	Potluck supper and candlelight Meeting for Worship

~Advance Notice~

Saturday	January 4	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	* Silent Retreat
Sunday	January 12	rise of Meeting	Meeting discussion of consider the direction of our membership, our work, and our service
Saturday	January 25	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	FCMPP meeting, Waterville
Sunday	January 26	11:30 a.m.	Potluck lunch and memorial service for Barbara St. John

*** 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 first building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Back Issues of the Newsletter, along with other Meeting Information, are available at:
www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite/q-pages.htm

Friendly Reminders

Moving or changing your email 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

The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 11th month of 2002

based on draft minutes by Nancy Booth

Nominating Committee Report

Deborah Haviland reported for the committee that the positions of clerk, recording clerk, and treasurer would be unchanged and that the committee envisions a somewhat expanded role for the hospitality committee so that there might be more special occasions for new members and attenders. A full report will be presented for approval at the 12th Month Meeting for Business.

The matter of a directory update was discussed with agreement that there should be a special committee formed for this purpose. Members of the committee would work with Nancy Terrell Hall, who has been maintaining the Meeting's database. There is a pressing need to keep the information (e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, addresses) updated and available for mailings. It was noted that updated directories are needed yearly. Several members have expressed interest in working on this project.

Peace and Social Concerns

Nancy Booth reported that Peace and Social Concerns met on 11-12. The main matter discussed at that meeting was the death penalty. A candlelight vigil was held at the meetinghouse from 7 to 10 p.m. on November 14th, focusing on the execution scheduled that night for Mir Aimal Kasi in Virginia. Thirteen Friends attended in support of the Hull family, who have been much involved with this issue. A friend stated the hope that the committee would maintain an ongoing concern for this subject. There was general agreement. Pete Haviland has a tape of Howard Zinn speaking on this topic.

Ministry and Counsel

Peter Haviland reported that a memorial service for Barbara St. John is scheduled for Jan. 26th, following meeting for worship and a potluck lunch.

A silent retreat is scheduled for Sat. January 4th, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. [See p. 3]

A welcome to new member, Alice Lacy, and new baby, Marie Madison Bailey, is scheduled for Sunday, December 1st, after the rise of meeting.

Query #11

Social Responsibility

Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all? Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings? Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake?

First Day School Committee

Sally Wood reported that the First Day Committee has selected the following topics as weekly subject matter guidelines: Bible, Nature, Crafts, Quakerism. The 5th week is open. A considerable discussion followed about the condition of the closet and the location of the materials. Is there a need for a locked file for the First Day materials? (This will be referred to the Meetinghouse Committee.)

Other Matters

1. A few friends will worship with Chouteau Chapin in Bath on Sunday, November 24th. They will leave from the Meetinghouse at 9:30 a.m.
2. After considerable discussion it was agreed that since we have recently completed a major fund-raising project, there will NOT be a Christmas craft sale this year. Sylvia Tavares and Jane Dywer may be asked if they would help with a crafts-oriented event at a later date. (A holiday event will be the candlelight service preceded by a potluck supper at 6 p.m. on Jan 31st.)
3. We were asked NOT to bring further items for the Kakamega project in Kenya. (We have been asked by the Maine delegation to Kakamega Yearly Meeting (Sharon Salmon, Sukie Rice, Molly Duplisea) to hold them in the Light at 7 a.m. (EST) each morning from 11/27 to 12/17.)
4. It was reported that there are ongoing peace vigils from 4 to 5 p.m. each Sunday on the bridges in Damariscotta, Edgecomb and Bath.

* * * * *

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Sunday, December 15, at 11:30, following Meeting for Worship. Bring lunch if you wish. ALL WELCOME.

The Quaker Motto Calendar: a Gift from the Havilands

For many years Pete and Deb Haviland have enjoyed giving family and friends the Quaker Motto Calendar at Christmas. Again this year, Pete and Deb would like to spread their gift to all members and attenders of Midcoast Meeting. Calendars will be on the credenza in early December. Please take one and enjoy it, with love and wishes for a joyous and peaceful year 2003.

January Silent Retreat

By Jean Crawford and Deborah Haviland

On Saturday, January 4, 2003, there will be a Silent Retreat at the meetinghouse from 9 am to 4 pm. This is an opportunity to be with Friends in community and to restore a balance to your life after the busy holiday season.

We will begin with worship at 9, come together at noon for a silent brown bag lunch, and at 3 pm gather to conclude the day with worship-sharing about our experiences. The day may be spent reading, writing, walking, drawing, doing quiet handwork, meditating, napping, or just sitting in silence. A retreat offers an occasion for rest, recollection, or seeking, and for gaining perspective and replenishing energy.

In her book, *Listening Spirituality*, Patricia Loring describes a retreat as "an occasion to 'waste time with God' as you might with a dear friend, child, lover, or spouse, with no need for an agenda other than simple trust that whatever arises will be worth it for the sake of the company alone."

We thought it would be helpful to share some guidelines in advance so all participants have a common understanding.

- Feel free to make eye contact with other participants. Although the retreat is silent and people will be doing different things during the day, a sense of community and fellowship with others is part of the experience.
- By gathering at noon around a single table in the social room to eat lunch, we will again have an opportunity to feel a sense of fellowship and community. (A bell will be rung to indicate the time.) Bring what you want to eat and anything cold you want to drink. There will be hot water for coffee and tea.
- If the doors to both the meeting room and the social room are kept open throughout the day, people will be able to move back and forth easily and to have a greater sense of space and openness.
- In addition to using books in the library, anyone may bring books to share. There will be a table in the social room with books for browsing and reading.
- If you must leave early or if you go for a walk, please indicate that on a sheet of paper that will be placed on the credenza. If you leave without noting, Friends may worry.
- Bring what you will need for comfort, such as a small pillow or blanket.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you think you will come. This is not necessary, but it is nice to contemplate who will be part of our community that day. If you have any questions call Jean Crawford (236-4176) or Deb Haviland (354-8714).

First Day School

by Sally Wood

First Day School has been meeting with three or four children. We go to Meeting for 10-15 minutes then depart for class. The classes have been set up with a different emphasis each Sunday. These are suggestions, and it is expected that whoever is leading the class on a particular week will teach using their strong points. The suggested theme for each week of the month is as follows:

1st-Bible

2nd-Nature

3rd-Crafts

4th-Quakerism

5th, if there is one, is teacher's choice

Each week following the class, the teacher records what was done, so we will be able to build on past lessons. So far, people have been willing to help. It is my hope that everyone in Meeting will take a turn, either alone or with a partner. That way, no one person will always have to give up going to Meeting. If you have any comments or questions about First Day School, please contact Sally Wood (633-7461 or <mainewoods@gwi.net>) or Sarah Ewing (832-6924 or <sarah_ewing@sad40.k12.me.us>)

Baha'is of Midcoast Maine:

by Carmen Lavertu

We received in the past month a special message, "To the World's Religious Leaders," from The Universal House of Justice, the governing council of the Baha'is' international community. This is a document worth reading and pondering. Friends will find agreement with the main ideas and will welcome its appeal to all people of faith. It is truthful in recognizing the sad role of religion in history:

"Tragically, organized religion ... behaves all too frequently as one of the most formidable obstacles in the path (to peace); it has long lent its credibility to fanaticism." At present, the danger is all too real "that the fires of religious prejudice (may) ignite a worldwide conflagration."

But we need not dwell on the dark side of dogmatism, because we have made progress in overcoming racism and ethnic and religious prejudices, and inter-faith dialogue and cooperation are growing in many sectors of religious communities. The uplifting side of the religious spirit is "the ennobling of character and the harmonizing of relationships." All religions share in this work, and this is the work that is urgently needed now. Overcoming fear and hatred and realizing the promise of peace and justice are a religious (spiritual) calling that we must heed.

I encourage Friends to read the document. Copies will be available in the meetinghouse. Then we shall see how we may respond.

Benefit Yard Sale for Ramallah Friends School: A Final Report

The greater Meeting community, which responded so generously with goods and services for the benefit yard sale on Saturday, September 15, 2002, will be pleased to hear a final figure. The total amount raised was \$5,394.91, which has been sent to Friends United Meeting, to be forwarded to the Ramallah Friends Schools in Palestine.

The schools, which have served the youth of Palestine and witnessed Quaker values of peace and non-violent conflict resolution for over one hundred years, have suffered repeatedly during the recent hostilities in Ramallah. Not only did Friends/friends gather together for a worthy cause, but we experienced a great power through working together in community.

Thank you for everyone's contribution, and especially to the organizers: Deb Haviland, Jean Crawford, Claire Darrow, Nancy Booth, and Gretchen Hull.

Received from Friends United Meeting (25 Oct 02)

Dear Friends at Midcoast Monthly Meeting:

Wow! What a garage sale! It is with admiration and thanks that we acknowledge your generous effort and gift for the schools in Ramallah. It is because of deeds such as yours that we are able to continue to be a witness for peace in this troubled area. Your commitment to something more than talk and letter writing is very affirming in this time of great rhetoric. May you be blessed for your answer to God's call for action!

Blessings,
s/ Maxine M. J. Nash



The Advices

Friends are called, as followers of Christ, to help establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Let us strengthen a sense of kinship with everyone. Let that sense of kinship inspire us in our efforts to build a social order free of violence and oppression, in which no person's development is thwarted by poverty and the lack of health care, education, or freedom. Friends are advised to minister to those in need and also to seek to know the facts and the causes of social and economic ills and to work for the removal of those ills. Let us cherish every human being and encourage efforts to overcome all forms of prejudice.

Language of the Heart

By Sally Cartwright

In Meeting for Worship, November 3rd, Viki Diamond mentioned how years ago, at age nineteen, she was asked to sing for a group of women who had experienced concentration camp horrors in Poland. They barely survived severe mutilation. Viki couldn't refuse, struggled valiantly to learn a Polish song, and remained in torment: how could her singing approach such tragedy? Then she told of the unexpected, deeply compassionate response from these women. It so lifted her spirits.

Minutes after Viki's remarks, a young woman admitted she knew the language well, and, in a clear, sweet voice, she sang a Polish song. Roughly translated, it comforts a child with, "Don't be afraid; boundless love through my caring keeps you safe." Across the room, her song seemed illustrated by Judy Plummer and her tiny, new baby, who gurgled contentment in her mother's arms, filling me, and surely others, with smiles.

To communicate in spoken language other than our own is often difficult. But, quite as one may be held by music, each of us, even a newborn infant, almost without exception responds to compassion and kindness. Here, after all, is the very core of our (mostly) silent meeting: a universal language of the heart.



Address changes

- ✓ **Louisa Gray** has a new email address: <louis-agray@gwi.net>
 - ✓ **Catharine Hull** is currently studying at Earlham College. Her email is <hullca@earlham.edu>, but she would prefer to get real mail at Catharine Hull, Drawer 886, Earlham College, 801 National Road West, Richmond IN 47374-4095, as it fills a dreary mailbox.
 - ✓ **Sally Cartwright** has not moved but has a new mailing address due to 911 address revisions: 36 Shipyard Road, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860. Sally notes, "My phone, 372-6534, remains the same, as does my email address, <scartwright@acadia.net>."
- Friends:** *Please take a moment right now to check your mailing label (if you're getting a hard copy newsletter) and your listing in the 2000-02 directory. If either is incorrect, please send changes by mail or email to Nancy Terrell Hall, 216 Waldoboro Road, Bremen, ME 04551, <moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com>. (No phone calls on this, please.) We are trying hard to get all contact information as up to date as possible before publishing a new directory, which we all desperately need. Thanks!*

Palestinian Mother's Poem

Contributed by Esther Cope

On the second day of the Sukkat Bat Shalom, a Palestinian woman from Ramallah was visiting her sister in the area. She saw the Sukkah, and she stopped and asked to read a poem to those assembled. She read the poem in Arabic, and a Bat Shalom activist read the translation to Hebrew that the woman gave her. Below is a translation by another Bat Shalom activist into English.

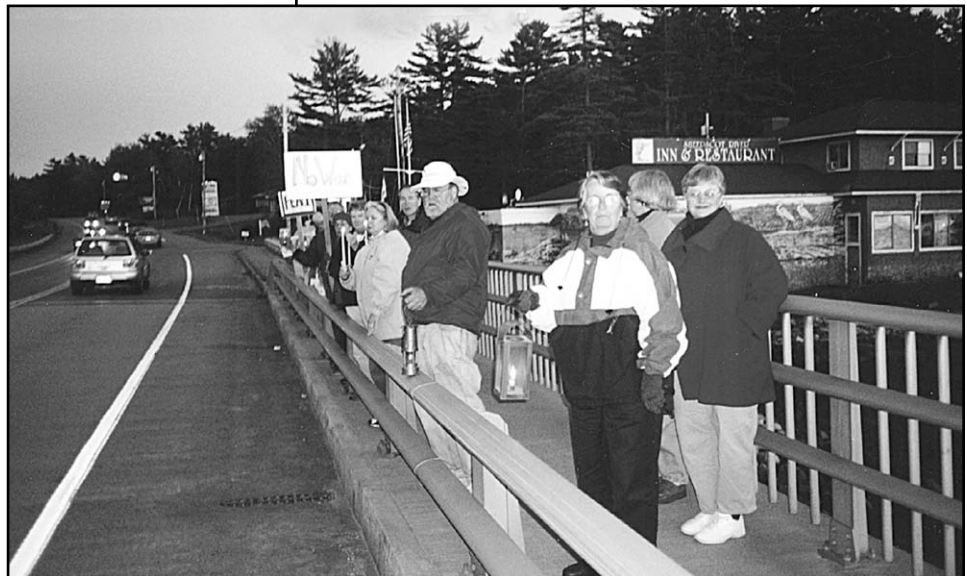
I and You

I wept today and you will weep tomorrow.
Maybe you've wept for your husband and tomorrow
you'll weep for your son.
Let me tell you, I've already wept for both my son
and husband.
I wish I could walk into every house around carrying
within me anguish and heartache and mourning.
Come, mother of Ibrahim and mother of Itzhak, let's
weep together, you and me.
Longing for our loved ones unites us, you and me.
Motherhood unites us, you and me.
The heart aches.
Let's remember if in life there is no place for us on
this earth,
We have place enough under it.
Let's pray together, mother of Ibrahim and mother of
Itzhak.
I and you are the conscience.
I and you are love and peace.
I and you are the bridge to truth.

Bat Shalom is a feminist peace organization working toward a just peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Bat Shalom, together with The Jerusalem Center for Women, a Palestinian women's peace organization, comprise The Jerusalem Link. Their Web site contains more information and their latest activities:

www.batshalom.org

This photo was taken several weeks ago during the vigil on the Wiscasset bridge. In addition to the bridge vigils, there are weekly vigils at the library in Rockland, Mondays from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.



From the Mormons

Dear Friends:

On behalf of my fellow Latter Day Saints, I would like to express our appreciation for your wonderful hospitality. Everyone agreed that it was a truly blessed evening, and we greatly enjoyed partaking of your meal and your friendship.

How fine it is to meet in the common bond of fellowship and of love for our Savior Jesus Christ. We will enjoy being your neighbors.

Warm Regards,

s/ Mark A. Sisco

2nd Counselor Branch Presidency

We have also received, in addition to this letter, two cards signed by many of the friends we made that evening of October 19th. They are posted in the meetinghouse.



Peace Bridges

by Gretchen Hull

Signs were blowing and candles glowing in the freezing wind that gusted down the Kennebec tonight (Sunday, November 23rd). High on the Carleton Bridge the small group was warmed by the knowledge that similar small groups were gathered just then on the bridges crossing the Damariscotta and Sheepscot Rivers. We hoped that all the cars that passed, whether they honked or waved or drove on, would be passing through Wiscasset and Damariscotta. "Look! There are more!" Small groups gain significance in the whole. We all can make a difference. Please join us from 4:00 to 5:00 each Sunday in candlelight vigils opposing violence and war. Choose a bridge and dress warmly.

Virtual Peace Conference

From the Internet, contributed by Esther Cope

In conjunction with the Peace Conference at Guilford College, North Carolina, January 17-20, 2003: "Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis," Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is hosting a peace conference on the Internet from now through January at <http://www.friendspeace.org>. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is making an in-kind donation of a portion of Peace and Concerns Coordinator Laurence Sigmond's time to set up and manage this "Virtual Peace Conference."

Both the North Carolina conference and the Internet conference will support interaction across the spectrum of our religious society: young and old, East and West, US and Canada, evangelical, programmed, unprogrammed, independent, and conservative. But while the conference at North Carolina is limited to two hundred Friends (some from each Yearly Meeting), the Internet conference welcomes every Friend in North America.

The way to participate in the Internet peace conference is to visit <http://www.friendspeace.org>. You can look around as a "Guest," but then, please click

"Register," entering your name, email, and password, allowing you to post messages for others to read. Every screen has a link for "Neophyte Instructions" for first-time users and those new to the Web or other discussion conferences. Please note any areas where you experience confusion or frustration, so we can improve both the system and the instructions.

The FWCC Internet peace conference may just become "yet another Web site" or, alternatively, an important new way for Friends to engage deeply with one another about the sources and outward expressions of our Peace Testimony in this rapidly changing world. It depends on whether, together, we can build a safe and friendly environment that will attract you and others in your Meeting. Please visit the site, introduce yourself, and share some of your personal experiences with the Peace Testimony in your family, Meeting, community, and world.

View/reply at "Getting the word out about the Virtual Peace Conference": <http://www.friendspeace.org/peace?13@@.ee7d49b>



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