

1st & 2nd Months

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

Jan.-Feb. 2008



Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

--Luke 6:27-28 (ESV)

If you love your enemies, you will discover that at the very root of love is the power of redemption. You just keep loving people and keep loving them, even though they're mistreating you.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

February

Saturday	February 2	8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.	Vassalboro Qtly Meeting, Winthrop Center Friends Church
Sunday	February 3	Rise of Meeting	*Meeting of Peace Center Steering Committee
Sunday	February 10	9-10 a.m.	*Megunticook Worship Group, 14 Cobb Rd., Camden
		Rise of Meeting	*Potluck Lunch--time to relax and visit with friends; bring food to share
Sunday	February 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business

March

Sunday	March 2	Rise of Meeting	*Potluck Lunch--time to relax and visit with friends; bring food to share
Sunday	March 9	9-10 a.m.	*Megunticook Worship Group, 14 Cobb Rd., Camden
Sunday	March 16	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship 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.

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--Meetings for Business

Twelfth Month 30, 2007

Treasurer's Report--Paul Diamond reported on an **unusual situation: actual contributions may not measure up to pledged amounts this fiscal year.** Friends are encouraged to fulfill their pledges or to initiate a pledge if they have not already.

Andy Burt described her written proposal for solar energy for the meetinghouse. The treasurer spoke to the need for the Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee to prioritize a project list. Then the Finance Committee could make recommendations on sources of funding. Appreciation was expressed to Andy and Guy with heartfelt hope that the Meeting will discern a way forward. Some spoke of spending prudently, and others spoke of taking risks for important causes such as this. The idea of specifying that half the funds would be raised through benefit activities drew interest. The meeting gave general approval to the proposal.

Gifts & Leadings--Carmen Lavertu presented the committee's draft roster for 2008. Friends **approved the recommended officers and representatives. Karen Cadbury and Deb Haviland will serve as co-clerks.** The roster of committees will be completed next month. **There are still vacancies on several committees, and Friends are encouraged to volunteer.**

Ministry & Counsel--Linda Cote-Small reported. The committee is still hoping for **recommendations for presenters for its winter series** on Quakerism and how it affects contemporary living. Karen Cadbury, Deb Haviland, and Linda will confer about the need for a **new edition of the handbook.** They will bring to a future meeting a recommendation on how this can be accomplished.

New Business--The meeting decided to send \$627 to CHIP (Coastal Housing Improvement Program) to assist with the high cost of heating fuel. This includes \$400 from the Worthy Needs account, \$42 designated at the Christmas Party for CHIP, and \$185 from the general funds raised at the Christmas Party. **Also from the Christmas party funds it decided to send \$100 to Jayne Dwyer's son Aaron, who is doing service in Mississippi and beyond.**

The next meeting for business will be held on **Sunday, January 20, 2008.** All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

☐ ☐ ☐

First Month 20, 2008

The meeting approved the following minute on the handling of recorded minutes: Ideally a business meeting will approve minutes of its entire session before adjournment of that session. We will try to approve the language of each decision at the time it is made. The recording clerk will continue to post minutes, once reviewed by the clerk, on the bulletin board. Highlights, rather than entire minutes, will continue to be published in the Newsletter. A note will be added at the end of the Highlights referring readers to the website for entire minutes. We will continue to post minutes on the website with a note that approval of the most recent minute may be pending.

Gifts & Leadings--The final draft of the committee's roster of volunteers for 2008 was gratefully accepted and **approved.** The area of Outreach still needs clarification. [*Ed.note: see roster p. 5, this Newsletter.*]

Meetinghouse & Grounds--The committee is gathering data regarding Andy Burt's proposal for increased use of solar energy for the meetinghouse. (A Friend has offered to make a generous financial contribution to the solar energy project.) The committee invites feedback from Friends on ways to make the interior and exterior more attractive and, specifically, adaptable for children. Help from any Friends with expertise on landscaping would be most welcome.

Finance--The committee recommends that the meeting develop principles for the use of bequests and reserve funds.

Ministry & Counsel--The first project of the 2008 committee will be organizing a Winter Series of events.

Peace & Social Concerns--The first undertaking of the 2008 will be to clarify responsibilities of this committee compared to those of Ministry & Counsel.

Religious Education--The 2008 committee will consider the possibility of further adapting part of the social room for use by the First Day School. At

present, First Day School is offered two First Days a month. It is hoped this will increase to four First Days a month.

Hospitality--Friends will please sign up to bring refreshments.

Follow-up Report of Peace Center Meeting--There has been high energy for jump-starting the center. Brewster Grace will clerk this committee. [Ed. note: See minutes of this meeting on p. 7 of this Newsletter.]

Old Business--Friends are asked to consider signing up for greeting worshipers and for closing meeting for worship. [Ed. note: See article below.]

New Business--Communication between meetings for business and Newsletter editor Diane Kirkman

was discussed. It is hoped that one or more people will volunteer to note dates of upcoming events and get Friends to write paragraphs on items of interest for the Newsletter.

A **potluck lunch** will follow meeting for worship one Sunday a month through the month of June and perhaps longer. The first potluck will take place on February 10. During March through June the potluck will take place on the first Sunday of the month.

The **next meeting for business** will be on Sunday, February 17.

NOTE--The entire minutes may be found on the Meeting's website www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

QUERIES: Outreach

Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in spreading the Christian message? Are you patterns, examples: do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?

~Greeting and Closing Meeting for Worship~

The monthly business meeting is seeking to expand its list of those who feel comfortable taking the responsibility of greeter and/or for closing the meeting and leading the introductions, afterthoughts, and announcements period.

As most of you know, the greeter gets to the meeting 10 to 15 minutes early and welcomes people as they come in. Once the doors to the meeting room are closed, the greeter encourages people to keep their voices down. The greeter also waits outside the meeting room after 10 a.m. and lets latecomers know that we wait until 10:15 to enter. At 10:15, the greeter enters the worship room with all the others that have been waiting.

The closer determines when the meeting for worship is over and shakes hands with the person next to her. Once everyone has greeted each other, the closer gets up and welcomes everyone, invites newcomers to sign the guest book, and requests that we go around and introduce ourselves. Then the greeter welcomes brief announcements and invites everyone for refreshments.

Anyone who feels a leading or willingness to explore either of these positions, please contact Linda Cote-Small, chezcote@zwi.net or 563-6712, and she will explain to you the process for signing up.

SUNDAY POTLUCKS



Come join us for lunch and relax and visit! At monthly meeting in January, we all agreed that we would like the opportunity to visit more often and to get to know each other better. It was decided to have a potluck once a month for this purpose. The first gathering will be Sunday, February 10, at the rise of meeting, and after that it will be the first Sunday of the month (March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1). At the June monthly meeting, we will make any decisions about the summer.

Megunticook Worship Group: Update

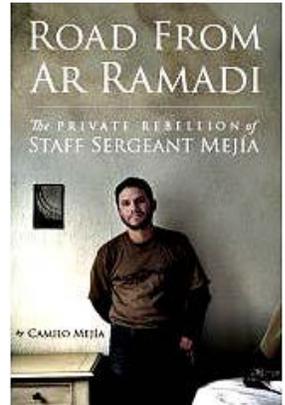
Kathie and John Gass have extended their invitation for once-a-month meeting for worship in the studio space at their home at 14 Cobb Rd., Camden. Meetings will be held from 9 to 10 a.m., the second Sunday of each month through May. For further details, please call John or Kathie at 236-0333.

Book Note from Carmen Lavertu

***Road from Ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Mejia*, by Camilo Mejia (New Press, 2007)**

Staff Sergeant Mejia fought in Iraq 2003. In this courageous book, he tells the story of his experience fighting in the streets of an Iraqi city, of his growing doubts and objections to the war, and finally his application for conscientious-objector status. He was denied and tried for desertion. At his sentencing hearing, he said, "I have to tell you from the bottom of my heart that I sit here a free man, and that I will sit behind bars a free man. . . . I followed my conscience"

He ends the book with this: "There were times in Iraq when I failed to see things the way I was supposed to as a soldier, when I knew that what we called targets were in fact homes, public squares, or markets, when I knew that what we called enemy combatants, terrorists, or Saddam loyalists were in fact people, sons, daughters, parents, human beings. On those occasions when I destroyed human life in failing to refuse my orders, I also failed myself, my soldiers, the Iraqi people, and humanity.



"I should have resisted my orders, and I should have fought for the dignity and preservation of life. I didn't because I was too afraid, because even without chains or shackles, I was still a prisoner, a prisoner of my own fear. I knew the right path to take; I knew what my actions should have been, but I didn't feel free to do what in my heart I knew to be the right thing."

Highlights of January 12, 2008, Meeting--Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy

Ernie Foust and Jim Matlack from Midcoast attended.

One of the most important results of the discussion of the **TRIBAL-STATE WORKING GROUP** was perhaps the recommendation of full parity among the four tribal groups in all areas of state law and regulation. (At present only the two largest Indian communities--Penobscot and Passamaquoddy--are fully covered (and also benefit from legal recognition as tribes by the Federal Government).) The Maliseet and Mic-Mac, smaller groupings, were left out of most provisions in the Settlement Act of 1981. Various proposals affecting the role and function of the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission (MITSC) were also endorsed for legislative action.

On the core issues of **Sovereignty** (i.e., which matters would be recognized as "Internal Tribal" concerns to be handled through full self-government by each tribal group), the Working Group did not reach agreement, although one specific change was agreed to, that tribal governments be exempt from Maine state law on Freedom of Information access to internal tribal records.

The issue of the Governor's **PROPOSAL FOR JAIL CONSOLIDATION** had been carried over from the October meeting. A partial draft of a statement of principles, "**Beyond Jail Consolidation**," was presented and accepted as the basis for a public statement by FCMPP. The purpose of such a public statement would be to highlight a range of program changes that could reduce the number of prisoners held in county jails and state prison, thereby helping to ease the pressure to build more prison cells, as well as dealing more humanely with many persons taken into custody. Reducing incarcerated populations would also bring substantial cost savings, which should have strong public appeal. When finalized, the statement will then be widely publicized and also distributed to all state legislators whenever hearings or votes on jail consolidation may be scheduled.



An Update on Henry Beerits: Henry is settled in Coves Edge. He is very alert and welcomes messages and news from friends. His address is Coves Edge, Room 103, 26 Schooner St., Damariscotta, ME 04543.

Officers and Committees 2008
January 20, 2008

OFFICERS

Mtg Co-Clerks: Karen Cadbury & Deborah Haviland
Recording Clerk: Jean Crawford
Treasurer: Paul Diamond
Statistical Recorder: Diane Kirkman
Archivists: Carolyn Miller, Pat Spock

Representatives to:

Quarterly Meeting: Carmen Lavertu
New England Yearly Mtg (NEYM): Claire Darrow
NEYM M&C Com: Louisa Gray
NEYM Peace & Social Concerns: Carmen Lavertu
NEYM Finance Com: Bill Spock
Friends Comm. Maine Public Policy: Jim Matlack
Community Hsing Improv. Proj. (CHIP): Nancy Booth

COMMITTEES

Ministry & Counsel

(Term expires. Dec. yr listed; years to be determined)

Linda Cote-Small, convener
Todd Garth
Rowan Rowntree (summer/4 months)
Willow Rowntree (summer/4 months)
Peter Haviland
Brewster Grace
Rachel McGinness (trial period)

Pastoral Care

Nancy Booth
Jean Crawford
Barbara Foust
Deborah Haviland
Carmen Lavertu
Maria Reardon

Peace & Social Concerns

Jack Boak
Nancy Booth
Andy Burt
Ernie Foust
Brewster Grace
Gretchen Hull
Carmen Lavertu
Jim Matlack
Rachel McGinness
Wendell Stephenson (Food Pantry)

Peace Center Steering Comm.

Brewster Grace, Clerk

Religious Education

Karen Cadbury, co-clerk
Sally Tukey, co-clerk
John Gass
Susan Rockwood (summer)

Finance

Bill Spock, clerk
Paul Diamond
Ernie Foust
Todd Garth

Communications (Directory/Mailing/E-Mail chain)

Jean Crawford, Outreach
Diane Kirkman, E-mail chain
Pat Spock, Directory, Database
Meeting Clerk, ex-officio
Guy Marsden, Audio-Visual Program Support

Newsletter/Website

Diane Kirkman, edit/prod.
Anna Needham, reporter
Guy Marsden, website
Sally Tukey, circulation
Sally Tukey, mailing
Nancy Terrell Hall, mailing labels

Gifts & Leadings (Nominating)

(Term expires in December of year listed)

Linda Cote-Small, 2008
Sally Tukey, 2008
Deborah Haviland 2009
Rob Patterson 2009
Willow Rowntree 2010
_____ 2010

Meetinghouse & Grounds

Paul Diamond, Clerk
Andy Burt
Dick Harris (Meetinghouse access)
Pete Haviland
Rowntrees (solar panels)
Anne Spencer
Mallory Waldman
George Waldman
Members/attenders are encouraged to participate

Meetinghouse Use

Jean Harris
Meetinghouse Committee representative

Hospitality

Anne Spencer, Clerk
Claire Darrow
Pat Spock
Cynthia Thomas

Library

Deborah Haviland
Willow Rowntree (summer/4 months)
Theta Torbert

~PASSAGES~

SALLY WOOD died peacefully on Thursday, December 13, 2007. She had pancreatic cancer and had been in a hospice home in Charlottesville, Virginia, for two months. A memorial service was held at the Charlottesville Meetinghouse on Saturday, December 15. A Friend from Charlottesville wrote, "We had a lovely worship this morning to celebrate Sally's life. There were both tears and laughter, and we were all enriched and nurtured by the time we spent together. There was much love and appreciation expressed by everyone who spoke. Family members present included her daughter Ruth, her grandchildren Nathaniel and Laura, her son and daughter-in-law from Michigan, her son from New England, her sister Jane, and Jane's daughter. They taped the worship for the daughter-in-law and grandchildren who couldn't be present. At the close of worship we chatted and looked at photos of Sally, while enjoying cookies and mulled cider or coffee." There may be another service in Worthington, Massachusetts, at a later date.

HOLLY BALDWIN'S FATHER, ROBERT F. BALDWIN, died peacefully at home November 25, attended by his loving family, after an extended illness. Holly's dad was an accomplished journalist and author. He had a passion for travel and adventure, loved music and the outdoors, and felt deeply for those in need. His obituary reported, "There was always room in his heart and his house for strangers who needed a hot meal and a clean bed. One memorable Thanksgiving, he brought home a family of nine, newly arrived from Laos, with only the clothes on their backs." In lieu of flowers, the Baldwin family has requested that any donations be made to: C.H.I.P (Community Housing Improvement Project) P.O. Box 6, New Harbor, ME 04554.

We've heard from Holly since her father's death, and she wrote, "Perhaps you could let Meeting know that all the love, kindness, and prayer that I've received from Midcoast Friends has been a great comfort these past few weeks."

CIVIL RESISTANCE IN IRAQ

As closely as I have followed the news from Iraq, I had not heard about organized resistance to the occupation and the raging sectarian battles until I found an article in the December 24 issue of *The Nation*. The author, Bill Weinberg, identified as a "co-founder of the National Organization for the Iraqi Freedom Struggles," writes about a civil resistance coalition, the Iraq Freedom Congress (IFC). Formed in 2005, the IFC includes trade unions, women's groups, student organizations, and neighborhood assemblies organized to promote a secular non-violent society and in opposition to the occupation and "sectarian gangsters." A convention held in October in Kirkuk was attended by delegates from all major cities. The IFC claims to have centers in twenty cities and has formed a political committee to protest and to lobby the government against passing the US-written oil law (designed to privatize oil with the participation global corporations). In this effort, it has joined with the Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions. This would indicate a rather strong movement that our media has not reported. I urge Friends to read this article. This information would help us in writing to letters to Snowe, Collins, and Allen, and the presidential candidates.

--Carmen Lavertu

Maine's Campaign to Ban Cluster Bombs: A Letter to Maine's Congressional Delegation

An effort to appeal to our Congressional leadership to ban the use of cluster bombs was recently initiated in Maine. It is led by Mary Trotochaud, currently of Belfast. With her husband, Rick McDowell, Mary, an FCNL consultant, spent 2 years living and working in Iraq outside the Green Zone after the US invasion. She saw first hand the devastation the cluster bombs cause among civilian populations, especially children, who often mistake as toys the many unexploded "bomblets" left behind by these weapons.

The Maine Council of Churches has joined this effort and has announced plans to meet with Senator Collins, bringing a letter to be signed by supporters of the proposed House and Senate bills. These bills are "The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2007" (S. 594) introduced by Senators Feinstein and Leahy, and (H.R.1755) by Reps. McGovern, McCollum, and Issa. The letter requests Maine's senators and representatives to co-sponsor the legislation. This legislation would prohibit both the use of cluster munitions in or near civilian populated areas and the use, sale, and transfer of cluster munitions with a failure rate of over one percent.

The letter will be available in the Meetinghouse and signatures will be collected in the next few weeks. You may also sign on by sending your name and address directly to Mary Trotochaud at mtrotochaud@earthlink.net. The letter states: "We embrace a belief in the protection of human life and dignity. We are alarmed by the many well-documented reports illustrating the grave danger posed by cluster munitions to civilians in conflict situations. These indiscriminate weapons scatter deadly explosives over wide areas of land, making it very difficult to avoid civilian casualties. Moreover, while designed to explode on impact, many of the submunition initially fail to detonate, leaving behind large numbers of hazardous explosive 'duds' that are akin to landmines, which injure and kill civilians and contaminate the land long after conflicts."

After 40 years of use, the devastating impact of cluster munitions on civilian populations is well documented and overwhelming. Moral teachings and international humanitarian law insist that noncombatant immunity be respected and that the use of force during wars be discriminate. The indiscriminate nature of this weapon violates these accepted principles. In addition to the tragedy of civilian casualties, unexploded cluster bomblets creates long-term social and economic problems for countries attempting to recover from war.

For more information, please contact Carmen Lavertu at 354-9556 or clavertu@gmail.com.

Highlights--Midcoast Friends Meeting to "Jump Start" the Peace Center, Jan. 6, 2008

Attending: Jack Boak, Andy Burt, Alice Lacy, Claire Darrow, Guy Marsden, Carmen Lavertu, Gretchen Hull, Nancy Booth, Deborah Haviland, George Waldman, Mallory Waldman, Brewster Grace, Glenn Dwyer, John Lacy, Thomas Steele-Maley, Peter Haviland, Karen L. Cadbury (facilitator).

Agenda focused on sharing ideas and organizational planning. First tasks chosen: to decide on a mission, establish a board/oversight committee, and to look at possible projects that might be presented through a Peace Center.

The task force formed to write mission statement: Glenn, Gretchen, Nancy, Jack, and Claire. Jack read inspiring vision statement adopted by the UU church, Baltimore. Other ideas in writing the mission were: promote Quaker values and increase Friends' presence in communities, be a center that "galvanizes" interest in peace, support other local groups with shared values and concerns, and encourage the discussion and implementation of Big Ideas about peace. Three priorities: Peace Work with Schools, Peace Work in the Surrounding Communities and Nationally, and Peace Work to Build Healthy Communities. Discussion centered on peace education, human rights, the environment, and opposing militarism.

Monthly Meeting had endorsed setting up a steering committee to help focus on a few things we could do well in the first year, creating a mission statement, and providing ongoing guidance for the Center. Peace & Social Concerns agreed to function as the Steering Committee for the Peace Center, and everyone who has in interest is invited to participate. Linda Cote-Small will be part of the Steering Committee [*Ed. note: Brewster Grace will chair.*]. **The first meeting of the Peace Center Steering Committee, will be held on February 3, 2008, at the rise of Meeting for Worship. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings, and proposals and ideas are welcomed.** Linda has expressed interest in working on outreach programs. We discussed broadening the committee at a later time to include representatives from the wider community.

The Peace Center can work with the Meeting's public-relations process, putting information, articles, and other materials on the website, seeing if Jean Crawford might be willing to help with the Peace Center publicity, and perhaps creating a brochure.

While we want to work with existing groups such as CONA, we see a special and urgent need to provide programs for children and possibly connecting with teens through programs such as Lincoln Academy's civil rights group. We also want to reach out to our neighbors, The Church of Latter Day Saints. We can be a networking place.

Further ideas for activities and programs: ? To continue the series of films and programs provided by Ministry & Council in the past year. (Brewster and Thomas have suggestions for films.) ? To install photovoltaic solar panels

and other "greening" work for the Meetinghouse. This has been considered in Meeting for Business. The Meeting will make a final decision soon about the proposal. ? To have a large event, perhaps one that could take place with the installation of the solar panels or a special community event with a major speaker with broad appeal to the larger community. ? To place a Peace Center sign on the building. [This was approved at an earlier Monthly Meeting.] ? To get DVD recordings of all the major speakers at the Camden Conference on "Religion as a Force in World Affairs." Other Items: ? To identify books in our library on all aspects of peace. ? To make a list of e-mail address for Peace Center meetings.

ADVICES--Outreach: The power of God is not used to compel us to Truth; therefore, let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, let us seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable.

Friends are advised to witness to the power of Truth and justice and to foster growth of the divine community at home and abroad. While remaining faithful to our Quaker insights, and ready to share them with others, let us seek to understand the contributions made by the people of God everywhere. Whenever possible, let us seek to enter into prayer and work with the wider community of faith.

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543. Co-Clerks: Karen Cadbury, 230-0436, and Deborah Haviland, 354-8714; Recording Clerk: Jean Crawford, 236-4176; Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283. Newsletter--Jan.-Feb. 2008, Vol. 20, Nos. 1/2. Published every month but August. Editing/design: Diane Kirkman, 236-9078, diane_kirkman@hotmail.com, 18 Atlantic Ave., Apt. 3, Camden, ME 04843. Address changes: Pat Spock, 729-0826, wspock@gwi.net, 10 Curtis St., Brunswick, ME 4011. Web: Guy Marsden, 443-8942. guy@arttec.net, 61 Delano Rd., Woolwich, ME 04579.