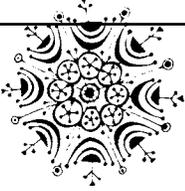


MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
 OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 Damariscotta, Maine
NEWSLETTER



*"If I find in myself a desire which no
 experience in this world can satisfy,
 the most probable explanation is that
 I was made for another world."*

—C. S. Lewis



January

Saturday	January 3		Winter Silent Retreat
Sunday	January 4	12 p.m.	* Democracy Teach-In (P&SC, Linda Cote-Small)
Sunday	January 11	8:30 a.m.	Reading Group: Spirit Matters by Rabbi M. Lerner
		rise of Meeting	Quakerism 101
Tuesday	January 13	4:30 p.m.	Peace and Social Concerns Retreat
Saturday	January 17	10 a.m - 3 p.m.	FCMPP in Waterville
		12 p.m. - 2 p.m.	* World Religion Day celebration with Baha'is in Westport
Sunday	January 18	12 p.m.	Monthly Meeting for Business
Sunday	January 25	8:30 a.m.	Reading Group
		12 p.m.	Winter Discussions: FTAA Report by Logan Perkins
~ Advanced Notice ~			
Sunday	February 1	12 p.m.	Winter Discussions: People's Primary Project
Sunday	February 22	12 p.m.	Winter Discussions: Native American Issues
Sunday	February 29	12 p.m.	Winter Discussions: P&SC reports of attended conferences & programs

*** 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

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

The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 12th month of 2003

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

Clerk Carmen Lavertu opened the meeting with a moment of silence. Seventeen people were present. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Diamond reminded everyone that some pledges were due before the end of the year, and the timing is important for our cash flow. He still anticipates a net shortfall for the fiscal year of about \$1,500.

The final accounting for the South African Project is subject to further changes. The Portland Restorative Justice group that made a presentation at the project dinner had sent a thank-you note for the \$300 they received.

Ministry & Counsel

The discussion was led by several committee members. Several memorial minutes are still in process, including those for Bill Bowers, Erica Welter, and

Chouteau Chapin. The minute for Connie St. John was well received by the Yearly Meeting, but they asked for further information about her activities at the Putney Monthly Meeting and the Northeast Quarterly Meeting in Vermont. The NEYM Permanent Board records minutes of Friends who have been very active in Yearly Meeting, and Connie fits in that category.

On the second Sunday of January there will be the first in a series of presentations on Quakerism which will be of special interest to new members and attendees. Members with experience are invited to attend to enhance the discussion.

Education

Rachel McGuiness reported. She noted that Sylvia Tavares and Patience Thomas have been very active in helping with the First Day School program. The children are enthusiastic about the performance they will present on Sunday, December 21. It has been gratifying to see the new attendees at First Day School representing several new families.

Peace & Social Concerns

Linda Cote-Small and Ernie Foust led the discussion, reporting that the 19 gift packages for Iraqi infants plus \$250 in cash were beyond expectations.

Because of the heavy snow, the Democracy Teach-in planned for November 30 was postponed to January 4.

The committee has approved up to \$100 for Logan Perkins, who attended an alternative FTAA meeting in Miami (about half her cost). Logan is also attending an alternative FTAA meeting on January 25 and will be attending various other meetings in the future. She will make a report on these meetings and has a large poster documenting fair-trade issues to display in the meetinghouse.

P&SC meets next on January 13, when they will review how the committee operates. Ernie Foust reported on a recent Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy meeting, where members of the Maine Indian tribes expressed great disappointment with the outcome of the casino referendum.

Meetinghouse

Caroline Miller reported that metal chairs have been ordered, to be delivered in 2-3 weeks. Research on lighting in the activities room continues. She noted that free energy audit can be obtained to review our electricity use.

Nominating

Pat Spock presented the proposed list of committee memberships and officers for the coming year. She reported that it was the result of a great deal of hard work and some "arm-twisting." Ernie and Barbara Foust have agreed to act as co-clerks, with Ernie run-

continued on next page

Peace & Social Concerns

Democracy Teach-In

by Linda Cote-Small

The Democratic Caucus for the 2004 presidential campaign is coming up in February. Come learn how you can make a difference in this election. On January 4, at the rise of Meeting, the Maine Democratic Caucus process will be explained, and there will be dialogue about the important issues for this election and what we know of the potential candidates.

If you are registered as an Independent, Green, or Democrat, you may find this process interesting. We will also prepare a questionnaire for the candidates about the issues we identify as the key ones in deciding whom we will support at the caucuses.

Invite a friend and come join this lively discussion that will encourage us all to participate in the coming election process.

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?

ning meetings and Barbara working behind the scenes. Still needed are

- 1) a clerk for Ministry & Counsel, to be chosen by the committee,
- 2) an additional member of M&C with a term ending in 2004,
- 3) another member of the Nominating Committee to serve through 2006.

Next year the process for reviewing the volunteer sign-ups that come as part of the pledge letter will be speeded up, as that information can be very helpful. A deliberate attempt was made to include new members and volunteers into the committees. A list of all committee members is included elsewhere in this newsletter and will be available later as an insert for the Meeting Handbook. (It was noted that the Handbook has a description of each committee, which can be useful for new and potential members.) After discussion, all the recommendations were approved. Special thanks were given to Carmen Lavertu for her exceptional service as clerk of Meeting.

Ad Hoc Gifts Committee

A preliminary report was discussed, with a final one to be presented at the next business meeting. A prompt thank-you letter is important for special gifts, beyond the standard acknowledgement sent by the treasurer. This has not always happened, and a search of the archives is underway to find past oversights that should be corrected. The creation of a new position of correspondence clerk may be considered.

Other Business:

- Elizabeth Crownfield has requested transfer to the 15th Street Meeting in New York City, with profuse thanks for her time here. Carmen will send a letter of approval.
- The *Friends Journal* asked to use our mailing list to make a special offer to members who are not current subscribers. This was approved, but a note will appear in the newsletter to warn members. The Meeting does not now subscribe, but does have back copies that are available to anyone interested.
- A candlelight service will be held on January 4 during Meeting for Worship.
- The Ramallah School has sent a long thank-you letter, which is available in the meetinghouse for anyone interested.
- Claire Darrow distributed brochures on fund-raising by Friends of Kakamega to support an AIDS orphan project sponsored by the United Society of Friends, a women's organization in Kenya.
- The capture of Saddam Hussein was noted, along with the need to focus now on reconciliation.
- A nice note was received from the Phelps, express-

ing appreciation for their farewell party.

- In the closing silence, Andy Burt asked for prayers for those around the world losing their homes as a result of environmental problems and for improved environmental support by the U.S. government. Many other Friends names were mentioned to be held in The Light. Everyone again thanked Carmen for her good work as clerk of the Meeting.

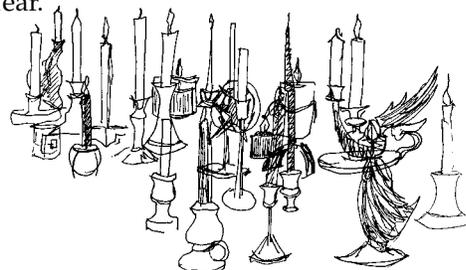
The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be at the rise of Meeting for Worship on January 18th.

Candlelighting

by Carmen Levertu

It is our custom to have a candlelighting service at the beginning of a New Year. This practice, which began at Midcoast as an "intergenerational event," is not widespread among Friends; in fact, it may be unique to Midcoast Meeting, but we have found it to be an inspirational and loving way to begin the New Year and have alternated between having a special evening program and including it as a part of our regular Meeting for Worship. This year the candlelighting will occur during Meeting for Worship on January 4.

Each person may bring a candle in a holder, and these are placed on a table in the meeting room. We may approach the table and light our candle as the Spirit moves and speak our message of hope and faith for the New Year.



World Religion Day Luncheon

with the Baha'is on January 17th

The Baha'is of Midcoast Maine cordially invite you to join in a Unity Luncheon to commemorate World Religion Day: Saturday, January 17th, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., at the home of Bob & Jeannine Hughes, 42 Strawberry Hill Road, Westport Island, 207-882-6515. (Call for directions.)

Potluck luncheon will be followed by prayers and readings from various faith communities, interspersed with musical offerings, emphasizing a vision of religious unity and the goal of world peace.

'Tis the Season to donate...

by Carmen Lavertu

Molly Ivins devoted her column recently to making her recommendations for end-of-year giving. "For those of us who are in a bit of lather about the state of the union these days, and who hate to shop anyway, the holidays offer a swell opportunity to help save the country and the earth ... give money to a worthy cause in the name of your friends and loved ones."

In the Meeting's mailbox each week are reports and requests from many "worthy causes." We thought at this time of year that a selection could be passed on for Friends' consideration. The one that rises to the top of the pile is from a Kenyan Friend, Pastor Peter Wafula, who is a first-year student at Earlham School of Religion. His wife has also been accepted for matriculation with a full scholarship. The couple needs living expenses, which have been estimated at \$8000 for the academic year 2004-2005. Donations are to be sent to the Earlham School of Religion with the memo, "fund for Ruth Wafula." The letter of appeal and information for giving will be posted in the meetinghouse, and further questions can be addressed to the Director of Admissions at Earlham.

Many of us rely on the legislative action letters of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and we have recently distributed their booklet on alternatives to war. The organization has been conducting a fund-raising campaign to enlarge their office building in Washington. A description of the reconstruction project is on the FCNL website at http://www.fcnl.org/building/project_descrip.htm. Photos and current notes on the reconstruction-project status can be viewed at http://www.fcnl.org/building/project_status.htm. This and other appeals will be posted in the meetinghouse.



The Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy

The Meeting recently received a mailing from the Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy, which describes itself as "a national ecumenical research center, drawing upon the theological resources of the churches and other sources of expertise" whose goal is "to discern and study the relationship between Christian faith and critical issues of public policy, and to enable the churches to contribute more fruitfully to public dialogue and action." The center offers programs and materials on peace and social-justice issues, and its board of directors reflects a diversity of U.S. Christian denominations. For more information, visit their Web site at www.cctpp.org.

EarthCare Team

Bag Facts

contributed by Guy Marsden

According to ABC: (http://abcnews.go.com/sections/scitech/US/plastic_bags_facts.html)

- Plastic bags were first introduced in 1977 and now account for four out of every five bags handed out at grocery stores.
- Americans make 2.3 trips to the grocery store each week. If people use five to 10 bags each time, that's between 600 and 1,200 bags per person per year.
- Stores usually pay less than a penny per plastic shopping bag, and 3 to 4 cents per paper shopping bag.

According to the Grocery Industry Committee on Solid Waste (<http://www.gmabrands.com/publicpolicy/waste.cfm>), less than 1% of shoppers consistently use cloth shopping bags.

- Plastic grocery bags consume 40% less energy to produce and generate 80% less solid waste than paper bags.
- Plastic bags can take 5-10 years to decompose. Paper bags take about a month to decompose.
- Paper bags are made from trees, which are a renewable resource. Most plastic bags are made from polyethylene, which is made from petroleum, a nonrenewable resource.
- Two thousand plastic bags weigh 30 pounds; 2,000 paper bags weigh 280 pounds.
- A packed standard-sized paper bag can hold up to 14 items; an average plastic bag often holds 5-10 items.
- Research from 2000 shows 20% of paper bags were recycled, while 1% of plastic bags were recycled. But plastic bag recycling is growing as plastic lumber products become more popular.

Easy take-home message: USE FABRIC BAGS!!

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.

Committee Assignments for 2004

The following people have agreed to serve as officers and committee members in the coming year. Thanks to all who have volunteered for this important work in building and furthering the life of our Meeting community.

Officers

Clerk of Meeting: Ernie and Barbara Foust, Co-Clerks
Recording Clerk: Rob Patterson, Bill Spock, Alternate
Treasurer: Paul Diamond
Statistical Recorder: Diane Kirkman
Archivists: Deb Haviland, Pat Spock

Representatives to...

Quarterly Meeting: Deb Haviland
NEYM: Claire Darrow
NEYM M&C: To be determined by M&C Committee
NEYM Finance Comm: Bill Spock
FCMPP: To be determined by P&SC Committee
CHIP: Lee Rushmore
ME Interfaith Power & Light: Dick Harris

Committees

Ministry & Counsel: Jean Crawford, 2004, Steve Gorry, 2004, Carmen Lavertu, 2004, David Cadbury, 2005, Deb Haviland, 2005, Sally Wood, 2005, Nancy Nyberg, 2006, Wendell Stephenson, 2006, Natalie Wriggins, 2006.

Peace & Social Concerns: Holly Baldwin, Clerk, Nancy Booth, Linda Cotes-Small, Ernie Foust, Dick Harris, Gretchen Hull, Carmen Lavertu, Logan Perkins, Aimee Phillippi, George Rowntree, Rowan Rowntree, Lee Rushmore, Wendell Stephenson.

Religious Education: Rachel McGinness, Co-Clerk, Patience Thomas, Co-Clerk, Dottie Albright, Sarah Ewing, Janet Lohmann, Susan Rockwood (summer).

Finance: Bill Spock, Clerk, Karen Cadbury, Paul Diamond (Treasurer), Todd Garth, Pete Haviland.

Communications: Pat Spock, Convener, Nancy Booth, Diane Kirkman, e-mail chain, Meeting Clerk, ex officio, Nancy Terrell Hall, ex officio.

Newsletter/Web site: Nancy Terrell Hall, Editor, Lee Coolidge, Paul Diamond, Diane Kirkman, Anna Needham, Pat Spock.

Nominating: Andy Burt, 2004, Pat Spock, 2004, Paul Diamond, 2005, Barbara Foust, 2005, Pete Haviland, 2006, Jean Crawford, 2006.

Meetinghouse: Carolyn Miller, Clerk, Barbara Foust, John Lacy, Maria Reardon, Maintenance Committee Rep., Landscape Committee Rep.

Meetinghouse Use: Jean Harris, Rachel McGinness, Natalie Wriggins.

Landscape: Patience Thomas, Co-Clerk, Claire Darrow, Co-Clerk, Nancy Booth, Richar Castner, Louisa Gray, Dick Harris, John Lacy, Rob Pedrick

Maintenance: Andy Burt, Clerk, Sarah Ewing, Steve Gorry, Pete Haviland, Guy Marsden, Bill Spock, Jerry Wood.

Hospitality: Mary Lavendier Myers, Clerk, Jayne Dwyer, Alice Lacy, John Lacy, Sylvia Tavares, Sally Wood.

Library: Barbara Foust, Louisa Gray, Deb Haviland, Nancy Nyberg.



Meeting Miscellany

Friendly Eights

Barbara Foust has posted a sign-up sheet on the lobby bulletin board for Friendly Eights. If you would enjoy dining with a small group of other members and attenders, list your name and indicate your preferences in the various categories Barbara has identified. These meals have been very popular in the past and are an enjoyable way to add another dimension to the friendships formed at Midcoast Meeting, and a great way to make new friends as well.

Call for Artists and Craftspeople

There is a sign-up sheet on the lobby bulletin board inviting any and all artists and craftspeople among us to display their work in the meetinghouse lobby. Don't be shy. This is a wonderful way to learn more about each other and enhance our meetinghouse.

Friends Journal and Our Mailing List

The Friends Journal, a well-regarded Quaker periodical, has asked for our mailing list to offer a reduced-rate subscription to our members and attenders. We are assured that the list will be used only once, for this specific purpose, and will not be shared with other organizations. This was approved at the December Meeting for Business, and if you are on our mailing list, you will be receiving information regarding the subscription offer. If you would like to read prior issues, there are several in our library, and you are encouraged to borrow them and discover for yourself the pleasures that await you between its covers.

Meeting Committees and Committee Meetings

All committees of the Meeting, except for Ministry & Counsel, are open to members and attenders, and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Visit

www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

The Lord's Prayer

by Louisa Gray

Over the last ten years or so I've gathered some interesting versions of the Lord's Prayer, other than the one most familiar to us. I'm sharing them with you, one in each of the next several newsletters in the hope that you will find them of interest to ponder and, perhaps, to enlarge your personal prayer life.

The first offering is a Christian Science adaptation of the Lord's Prayer—"given to the world by Christ Jesus"—and reflecting their understanding of "the spiritual sense" of it. My mother turned to the study of Christian Science in midlife, becoming a devout Scientist throughout the remainder of her life. She would sit in meetings for worship with Dad, quietly reading her own weekly lesson or other special materials. Despite her differing religious path, she did join into many of the communal Quaker undertakings of the time with enthusiasm. I love this version of the Lord's Prayer, perhaps most of all, because it regards God as both a loving and comforting mother and father, reflecting the feminine and masculine values, and as ever-present here on earth as well as within heaven beyond.

Our Father which art in heaven,

Our Father-Mother God, all-harmonious,

Hallowed be Thy name.

Adorable One.

Thy kingdom come.

The kingdom is come; Thou art ever-present.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Enable us to know—as in heaven, so on earth—

God is omnipotent, supreme.

Give us this day our daily bread;

Give us grace for today; feed the famished affections;

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And Love is reflected in love;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

And, God, leadeth us not into temptation,

but delivereth us from sin, disease, and death.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the Power, and the glory, forever.

For God is infinite, all power, all Life,

Truth, Love, over all, and All.

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

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