

1st Month

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

January 2007



"Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? . . . 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

--Matthews 25:37-40 (NKJV)

"When you love people, you see all the good in them, all the Christ in them. God sees Christ, His Son, in us and loves us. And so we should see Christ in others, and nothing else, and love them. There can never be enough of it. There can never be enough thinking about it."

--Dorothy Day

December

Sunday	December 17	Rise of Meeting	Christmas Party
Sunday	December 31	Rise of Meeting	*Potluck luncheon followed by New Year's Eve Candle-Lighting Ceremony

January

Tuesday	January 16	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Non-Violent Communication Group (see Dec. newsletter)
Sunday	January 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business (Brown Bag Lunch)
Sunday	January 28	Rise of Meeting	*Second Hour: "Sense of the Meeting"
Tuesday	January 30	7 p.m.	*"Energy Conservation for Everyone"

February

Sunday	February 11	Rise of Meeting	*Second Hour: " Food Facts & Community-Supported Agriculture"
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*Look inside for more information regarding these items.

~Calendar events are held at the meetinghouse, unless otherwise noted.~

Sunday Meeting for Worship is held at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere 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--Monthly Meeting for Business Twelfth Month 10, 2006

Gifts & Leadings: The new list of Officers and Committees was approved, as listed elsewhere in the Newsletter. There are still a few vacancies awaiting volunteers. *[Ed. note: The committee has since advised that, as they are still awaiting volunteers to fill vacancies, the list will appear in next month's newsletter.]*

Ministry & Counsel: Scheduled events January-March

- Jan. 28--Peter Haviland--2nd hour on "Sense of the Meeting"
- Jan. 30, 7 p.m.--Guy Marsden--"Energy Conservation for Everyone"
- Feb. 11--Andy Burt--2nd hour on "Food Facts & Community-Supported Agriculture"
- Mar 28th--Carmen Lavertue--2nd hour on "Torture"

Other dates not yet firm.

Treasurer: Mid-year financial figures are reported on target overall, but lawnmowing was nearly double the expected \$800. NEYM will hope to increase budget by about 30% this coming year. Mediation of the lawsuit of the person who fell on the ramp in 2004 resolved at full medical costs to be borne by our insurer.

Thanks to Jean Crawford, we will have new free listing under "Churches" in the Tidewater Regional Telephone Directory.

Andy Burt, Nancy Booth, and Ernie Foust will be discussing our experience in searching for and building a Meetinghouse with the Edgecomb UU Fellowship.

The proceeds from our "White Elephant Sale" at the Christmas party will go to CHIP in memory of Ruth Ives. The children may designate their beneficiary for card sales.

CLERK'S CORNER December 6, 2006



As I sit here pondering what to say, the most important thing rising in my mind is that the Meeting is showing definite signs of new energy, even though it is the dead of winter. I am delighted to see it and to be a part of it, for this is what the Meeting is all about--community, people working and worshipping together, and a commitment to helping the world heal its many woes and broken places. This all can only be done if we really THINK we can do it, and it takes all of us, together, to encourage each other and to facilitate what it is we are trying to do at the moment.

For now Ministry & Counsel is well on the way to presenting four more interesting programs, mostly open to the public. We have several new people applying for membership. And although we still need two more members to fill out the committee, we are doing a good job of outreach. Our name will appear in a wide-ranging phone book due to come out next year, and for every program we offer, Jean has placed articles in several newspapers and put our name and what we are about before the public. The Pastoral Care Committee has its hands full and is well skilled to do its work. The Peace & Social Committee is reorganizing and working toward the Peace-center initiative, as well as everything else that arises. Other committees are functioning well.

All in all, the Meeting is healthier than it has been for a while, and that gives me great pleasure. It is, after all, my home and my family.

New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice Revision Committee Update

The NEYM Faith & Practice Revision committee has been busy. They have put in place a deep, thoughtful 10-year process for revising the 1985 Faith & Practice.

Currently, they are looking for feedback on the second draft of the Working Paper on Worship, which will be the second chapter in the revised Faith & Practice. They are also inviting us to submit possible quotations for this worship chapter and for Chapter 1, "Illustrative Experiences of Friends."

The Ministry & Counsel Committee is very excited about this revised draft of Faith & Practice. It seems to accurately capture the diversity of New England Friends and to share wise words on various aspects of worship. That is why we chose the section on Unprogrammed Worship as the first material for our new column, "Words on Worship," in the newsletter [see page 4].

For this purpose, Ministry & Counsel is making copies of the necessary documents for your review on the credenza. You can also obtain these documents on the NEYM website <http://neym.org/fandp/>. We encourage you to take a copy and call or send your feedback or quotations to Linda at 563-6712 or chezcote@zwi.net.

Appeal from Yearly Meeting

by Paul Diamond

The Finance Committee of New England Yearly Meeting has recently sent a letter to Monthly Meeting Treasurers, thanking their meetings for their ongoing financial support of Yearly Meeting activities. The letter says that Yearly Meeting's budget for 2007 calls for contributions of about \$100 per resident member.

Midcoast Meeting, as an entity, has been contributing about \$70 per resident member, which leaves a sizeable gap. This gap can be filled only by a larger contribution from the Monthly Meeting's own budget, by contributions from individual Friends, or, as a last resort, by budget cuts and/or fiscal losses.

The letter goes on to say that Yearly Meeting with its full-time staff of 4 people, in addition to providing overall support to quarterly and monthly meetings and sponsoring the annual 5-day conference/business meeting, also organizes youth retreats, women's and leader-training

retreats, and an annual clerks' workshop; assists first-day school teachers with suggested lesson plans and a curriculum-oriented lending library; arranges workshops and training sessions and provides some of the travel money for Friends to meet with other Friends in this country and around the world. The letter also mentions the work of the Field Secretary (Jonathan Vogel-Bourne, or Deana Chase while he is on sabbatical), who can assist when meetings run into difficulties or have concerns.

Midcoast Monthly Meeting has a tight operating budget this year and has been able to increase its overall contribution to Yearly Meeting by only about 1 per cent over last year. It is hoped that individual Friends will be in a position to respond to Yearly Meeting's appeal.

Contributions may be sent to Nancy Isaacs, Treasurer, NEYM, at 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester MA 01602-1908.



QUERIES: Home & Family

Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life? Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustments? Should conflict or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from your meeting and from the larger community?

NEW COLUMN:

Words on Worship

Welcome to a new column from Ministry & Counsel. For a while we have been contemplating how to engage the Meeting in a dialogue on corporate worship and vocal ministry. To ensure broad participation, we thought exploring related topics in the newsletter would be an appropriate venue.

We invite you to read and reflect on the writings concerning worship, which this time we have selected from NEYM draft revisions to *Faith & Practice*. If you are inspired to share your thoughts on worship and vocal ministry with the Ministry & Counsel committee, we encourage you to contact Linda Cote Small at chezcote@zwi.net or 563-6712.

Unprogrammed Worship

In an unprogrammed meeting, worship begins as people enter the meeting room and take their seats. They settle further into worship by gradually stilling their minds and “centering down.” Quaker writers from all periods of our history offer different descriptions of this process, which varies for each person.

Early Friends described the experience of entering worship as a stilling of one’s busy life, a letting go, and a waiting in expectant silence. Some early Friends wrote of being “searched by the Light” or “broken open,” literally causing them to shake with the strong feelings of that encounter with the Spirit, while others spoke of clarity coming to them and of sensing divine support.

Stilling one’s self requires practice and patience; it does not happen instantly or unfailingly, even for the most experienced Friends. Many use a variety of techniques to quiet the busy mind and restless body: prayer, repetitive phrases, or other meditative practices may help draw one into stillness. Experienced Friends are a great resource in sharing the spiritual disciplines they have found useful. Yet it is not just stillness Friends are reaching for. We are attempting to yield to that of God within and around us, to reach toward the infinite in whatever way we know it. We may be distracted over and over again, but we try gently to return to this purpose.

As more and more people become centered, there is a sense of the Center expanding and holding the worshippers within it; the group feels gathered into a larger life which nurtures all. In a sense the worshippers are helping each other to travel inward to a Center which touches the transcendent, and which points toward the Source of all life and love. When a powerful sense of unity in this Spirit is felt, it is known as a “gathered” or “covered” meeting.

--N.E.Y.M. Faith and Practice Revisions Committee
Working Paper on Worship, Second Draft/Aug. 2006

Nancy Boothby is looking for someone to visit her father, **Leon Appel**, who lives at Camden's Quarry Hill. Ideally, this would happen once a week during January, February, and March, when Nancy and her husband will be traveling. She'd want to pass along suggestions to this person before hitting the road on January 1. Please call Nancy at 832-4817 if you are interested in offering companionship to this remarkable person.

ADVICES: Home & Family

Let your lives benefit from the power of friendship and the solace of solitude. Rejoice in the beauty of those friendships which grow in depth, understanding, and mutual respect.

Friends are advised to seek divine guidance when considering marriage and to enter marriage with a commitment to cherish each other for life. In marriage, treasure the joys of intimacy, share the sorrows of losses, and mediate differences with patience. Be ready to seek the counsel of your own parents or of other experienced persons as it is needed. Consider together the responsibilities of parenthood.

Let us trust in the Light and witness to it in our daily living. We and our families are children of God with a rich accessible record of God's dealings with humanity. In dress, in furnishings, in manners, in diet, and in entertainment, let us choose the simple, the wholesome, and the beautiful. Let us be cooperative and creative in family recreation so that it encourages mutual activity and sharing.

Let us dwell in thankfulness on the blessings and happiness that life has brought us. Friends are advised to try throughout life to discern the appropriate moment to relinquish responsibilities to others. Let us face with courage the approach of old age, both for ourselves and for those dear to us, realizing that even as our outward activity lessens, our seasoned thought and prayer may liberate love and power in others.

Friends are advised to make provision for the settlement of their affairs while in health so that other may not be burdened. Such provision may include maintaining an up-to-date will and discussing with family and doctors our wishes in the event of serious illness or death.

***Barb and Ernie Foust** have advised us of their new address (they haven't moved, but local government dictated a 911-compliant change): 580 Wiscasset Rd., Apt. 1, Pittston, ME 04345. Phone and e-mail addresses are unchanged.*

***Patience Thomas** writes that she and her partner, Dave, have moved. Their new address is 36 Plaisted St. Gardiner, ME 04345, and the phone number is 582-5644. Her e-mail address, however, remains the same, <thomaspa22@yahoo.com>.*

***Anna Needham** has advised us of new e-mail addresses for her: annaneedham@talktalk.net and annaneedham@netzero.com (which she uses only in the States). She says she can access either address.*





VI

Sit and be still
until in the time
of no rain you hear
beneath the dry wind's
commotion in the trees
the sound of flowing
water among the rocks,
a stream unheard before,
and you are where
breathing is prayer.

--from "Sabbaths 2001" by Wendell Berry