

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714 Damariscotta,
ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
Suzy Hallett, 563-6084 &
David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:
Jim Matlack, 236-0903

Newsletter--Jan. 2011
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January

Sunday	Jan. 2	10:00 a.m.	New Year's Candle Lighting (format for Meeting for Worship--candle lighting and worship sharing Potluck
		Rise of Meeting	
Wednesday	Jan. 12	10:00 a.m.	Ministry & Counsel, Waldmans' home, Bath
Sunday	Jan. 16	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	Jan. 23	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Quakerism Study Group

For New, Revised, and Updated Calendar Items, please see our online calendar at:
<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>

*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

Minutes (Pending)--Monthly Meeting for Business--December 19, 2010

Clerk Deb Haviland opened the meeting with a reading from *Faith and Practice* followed by silent worship. Several gratitudes were expressed, especially for the role that Coastal Kids Pre-School has played in sharing use of the meeting house.

The **Minutes of the Business Meeting for November 20th were approved.**

A notice was received from **St. Andrews Church in Newcastle announcing a dinner to be held on February 11th in support of work in Haiti.** Friends were invited to participate. Nancy Booth and Carmen Lavertu will join the group planning this event.

MEETINGHOUSE & GROUNDS--Coastal Kids Pre-School has asked to extend their rental use of the meetinghouse until June 24 (with a possible summer program to follow). This would require Meeting approval of a slightly revised contract to cover the extension. An increase in the monthly rental fee from \$500 to \$600 has been proposed. While a final decision awaits drafting of the extension contract, after full discussion, it was agreed to go forward with arrangements for such an extension of the pre-school occupancy and to allow the rental charge to be reduced below \$600 if necessary. The Ad-Hoc Committee previously appointed to supervise liaison with the pre-school staff will continue throughout the period of shared occupancy.

The **social room floor** needs to be resurfaced. The new surface will be bamboo wood; estimated cost will be \$4,500, for which funds are available. Approval was expressed for this project. The new flooring will probably be installed during the February school break.

Diane Kirkman explained how she prepares the monthly **newsletter**. She encouraged Friends to submit relevant items for inclusion. Some additional discussion focused upon appropriate uses of the **e-mail list** of Meeting members. Circulation of specific items requires approval by the Clerk. Diane was thanked for her faithful service in producing the newsletter. Similar appreciation was also expressed to Guy Marsden for his role in maintaining the Meeting **website**.

GIFTS & LEADINGS--The full list of **new officers and committees** will be distributed in January. David Cadbury and Suzie Hallett have agreed to serve as Co-Clerks. Jim Matlack will continue as Recording Clerk. Deb Haviland will be Interim Treasurer, and Martin Imm will be Assistant Treasurer. **These five officers were approved** for service.

FINANCE COMMITTEE--Bill Spock gave a brief **report**, and Martin Imm presented **detailed budget charts**. Both saw the Meeting operating on a sound financial footing in the current year. Deep appreciation was expressed to Martin Imm for picking up the budget work so successfully following Paul Diamond's departure for California.

PASTORAL CARE--Carmen Lavertu reported briefly on pastoral visits and noted that Betty Zisk is in failing health in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

PEACE CENTER--Brewster Grace reported on **successful autumn programs--**the "Fishes and Loaves" series and Guy Marsden's talk on "Sustainable Living." Grace outlined a **Winter/Spring Speaker Series** with presentations on Iran, North Korea, and Central America. These events will be held after potluck lunch on the first Sundays in February, March, and April. A grant for \$715 has been received to support this series. Over half of the matching funds to be raised by the Meeting have already been pledged. Several ideas were shared about ways in which the balance of the funds might be solicited.

Clerk Deb Haviland noted that the **Christmas Fair** had raised \$153 with some additional funds expected.

A new **Handbook for the Meeting** is overdue. Revised texts describing committee functions and other relevant operations have already been assembled. Claire Darrow and Deb Haviland volunteered to prepare a draft document for review and approval by the meeting.

A **Minute of Appreciation for Deb Haviland** was heartily approved as follows:

At this last monthly meeting of Midcoast Friends for this year, we would like to express our gratitude to someone who has given of herself in service to the Meeting for many years. We ask that it be recorded in the minutes today that we appreciate her gifts of administration, stewardship, and generosity and her unstinting sharing of these gifts with the Friends of Midcoast Meeting, especially in her role as clerk. Thank you, Deborah Haviland.

Twelfth Month, 2010

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

The **next Monthly Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 19**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

These **pending minutes** are also available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the meetinghouse bulletin board.

DIAMONDS SETTLED IN CALIFORNIA

On October 29, Midcoast Meeting had a lovely farewell party for Viki and Paul Diamond, who were leaving shortly for their new home in California. It was an occasion that expressed the love we all felt for them and also the sadness that they would no longer be a part of our community in Midcoast Maine. They arrived safely and celebrated their first Thanksgiving with their family in California. Below is the the most recent e-mail from Paul, including not only their address, but their phone and their email.

Dear Friends

Please excuse the impersonal e-mail format, but I wanted to give you new address, telephone and e-mail contact points for Viki and me since we moved from Rockport to Santa Rosa last month. The new numbers are:

Address: 684 Benicia Drive, Apt 50
Santa Rosa CA 95409
Phone: (707)576-6604
E-mail: pdiamond@friendshouse.org

We plan to write a proper Christmas letter, but at the moment let me just say that we had an extraordinarily hectic packing up and leaving time, which we would not have survived without the help of friends who held hands, packed boxes, and finally packed the U-Haul trailer in the dark after the moving van had left: a remarkable smooth drive across country helped by benign weather and a fascinated cat who lay on top of the dashboard and enjoyed it all; the acceptance of an offer on the house by cell phone as we crossed Pennsylvania (yay!); arrival in Santa Rosa on the ninth day an hour before the van got here (though it went by way of San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco while we tried to average only about 400 miles a day): a very warm welcome at Friends House by new friends and neighbors: an impossible squeeze (not yet successful) to get 8 rooms of stuff into 3; a successful quest for doctor, dentist, pharmacy and prosthetist; Thanksgiving with the family and renewal of ties to grandchildren; and finally, just today, a new prosthesis for Viki which is less than half the weight of the old one, and rather more elegant. In a few more days the last of the boxes will be open and everything will have a home - even if only in the storage place we have rented.

Be of good cheer, and we'll hope to write more fully soon. Stay well and keep warm.

With love,

Viki and Paul

A NOTE FROM HOLLY BALDWIN

Late November 2010

Friends,

Thanks you for your deep support of me and the Friends House. I love when you stop by and stay at Beacon Hill Friends House, as well as the opportunities I have to visit with you at Midcoast. I hope you are well and that the Meeting continues to flourish and grow.

Blessings,

Holly

QUERIES

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?

Peace Center Receives Maine Humanities Council Grant for Program *Cultures and Conflicts*

The Peace Center has received a \$735 matching grant from the Maine Humanities Council for program on *Cultures and Conflict in United States Foreign Relations: How Can Engaged American Communities Respond?* The grant will allow the Center to bring speakers for the program who have extensive work experiences in countries where economic, social and cultural conflicts verge on violence and where their ethnic communities in the United States are deeply concerned and engaged with U.S. policies towards these countries.

The speakers will be:

- Ed Martin, who has worked for the Mennonite Central Committee for 18 years, traveling frequently to Iran
- Karin Lee, who is currently Director of the National Committee on North Korea has worked in China and North and South Korea with the American Friends Service Committee
- Dick Erstad, who has served as Director of Latin American and Caribbean Programs for the American Friends Service Committee for more than 25 years.

All will bring deep insights into U.S. relations with these countries and how Iranians, Koreans, and Hispanics in the U.S. are engaged in trying to encourage U.S. policies to build peace in and with these countries.

The program will consist of three monthly events on February 6, March 6, and April 2. A fourth meeting on May 1 will be for the participants at the earlier meetings to discuss and share what they have learned and to consider future program activities. Each event will begin at 1:30 at the meetinghouse following our potluck luncheon.

Midcoast communities and congregations will be invited to attend.

To match the Maine Humanities Council grant of \$735, the Peace Center has received contributions and pledges of \$595. Contributions from Meeting members towards the remaining \$120 will be greatly appreciated.

Please make contributions to Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends earmarked "Peace Center Program on Cultures and Conflicts."

Making the Newsletter the Meeting's

This newsletter is intended to serve the Meeting and its members and attenders. It should speak to and for the both individuals involved and the community as a whole. In order for the newsletter to do that, however, Friends need to contribute. Would you like to see more articles about social justice? Then submit one. Would you like the newsletter to be a better site for sharing personal news? Then submit your news for publication. This is your newsletter, and you can help shape it. Submissions and suggestions are eagerly accepted.



Friends, please save canceled postage stamps this holiday season. They are redeemed for the support of Quaker missions. *[Ed. note: see below.]*

--from Carmen

Quaker Missions Stamp Project

Midcoast Meeting has contributed canceled stamps to the New England Yearly Meeting Quaker Missions Stamp Project for the past several years. It is administered by the Mattapoisett (Massachusetts) Monthly Meeting. Some of the organizations that have benefited from this project include the Friends World Committee for Consultation, the Ramallah play center for Palestinian refugee children, the women's brick kiln operation in India, and some twenty-five other good causes.

The seed for the Quaker Missions Project was planted at New England Meeting in 1996 during a workshop about FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation). It took more than six months to begin to gather used postage stamps clipped from mail with the intent they could be sold to raise money for FWCC and worldwide "good works" sponsored by Right Sharing of World Resources, International Quaker Aid, and others.

Mattapoisett Friends expect this will be an ongoing project as long as there is a market for the stamps, which so far has proven to be the case. According to information posted on their Web site, they have been able to sell all the stamps they have received and are especially interested in receiving foreign commemorative stamps.

FWCC will continue to be the prime beneficiary. Projects of Right Sharing of World Resources, International Quaker Aid, as well as other organizations, will also be helped. The funds raised are designed to help people of all races and all faiths who are in need all over the world.

Tips for Stamp Savers

Use special care in clipping or tearing stamps from envelopes. Obviously, damaged stamps (clipped perforations, tears, thinned paper because stamps have been peeled from envelopes, etc.) have no resale value and should not be sent.

Use commemorative stamps on all of your mail and encourage your correspondents to do the same. You can ask for them at your post office. For example, the special Century stamps that were issued in the year 2000 net the project 22 cents each.

Make contact with a business or businesses that receive a lot of bill payments by mail and clip the commemoratives. If you know of someone who gets foreign mail, tell them about the project.

The Christmas holiday is a good time to begin saving stamps. All stamps are accepted; the most valuable are those from other countries and U.S. special issues.

Thank you to all Midcoast Friends who have been bringing their stamps. There is an envelope on the P&SC bulletin board in the social room to receive stamps, or, if you prefer, you can mail them directly to Earl Walker Claremont Friends Meeting, 449 Alamosa Dr., Claremont, CA 91711-1942, or visit http://www.mattapoisettquakers.org/Stamp_Ministry.html to learn more.

ADVICES

Social Responsibility--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 but 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.

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