

# 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—January 2012  
Vol. 24, No. 1  
Published every month but  
August.

Edit/design:  
Diane Kirkman, 236-9078,  
[diane\\_kirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com),  
17 Grove St.  
Camden, ME 04843

Address changes:  
Pat Spock, 729-0826,  
[wspock@gwi.net](mailto:wspock@gwi.net),  
10 Curtis St.,  
Brunswick, ME 04011

Web:  
Guy Marsden, 443-8942,  
[guy@artec.net](mailto:guy@artec.net),  
61 Delano Rd.  
Woolwich, ME 04579

### January

Sunday	Jan. 1	10-11 a.m.	Meeting for Worship— Annual Candle-Lighting Potluck Lunch
		Rise of Meeting	
Sunday	Jan. 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

### February

Sunday	Feb. 5	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Feb. 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

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 Diane Kirkman at [diane\\_kirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com) a request. Thanks!*

---

**For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:**  
[www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)

## Minutes (Draft)--Monthly Meeting for Business--December 18, 2011

Following a period of silent worship, Clerk David Cadbury opened the meeting. Twelve Friends were present. Minutes of the November 20th meeting for business were approved. A report from Pastoral Care was added to the agenda.

**Gifts & Leadings:** An updated list of Officers, Representatives, and Committees for 2012 was distributed [*Ed. note: see page 3*]. Discussion followed concerning the duties and membership of some of the committees. The report was accepted as presented with further discussion of items in question to follow at the January Meeting for Business.

**Hospitality:** A New Year's Day observance and potluck is planned. Judith Imm and Suzy Hallett have been active in implementing this event. Members and attenders are urged to participate. There will be a candle-lighting ceremony during meeting for worship that day, and this will be explained at the beginning of the meeting so that those present will be comfortable with the observance.

**Finance:** Martin Imm reported that all committees are within their budget except for the operating-expenses category of Finance and Administration. This was caused by a number of unexpected small expenditures. The budget allocation for this category may need to be increased for the next budget year. Pledges are being fulfilled at the expected rate at this point in the fiscal year. Deb Haviland reported a request from Quarterly Meeting to support their scholarship fund for a Ramallah student. It was decided that individual members of the Meeting should be made aware of this need but that the Midcoast Meeting would not make a contribution. [*Ed. note: See article page 6.*]

**Peace Center:** A grant from the Maine Humanities Council was instrumental in making possible the four programs presented during the past year. The overall theme was "Cultures and Conflicts." Between 30 and 36 people attended each event and the committee feels that it was successful in bringing awareness of these issues to the greater community. They hope to work with other groups, as with CONA this year, and have applied for another grant.

**Pastoral Care:** Carmen Lavertu reported about her contacts with several members and attenders who are in our thoughts at this time. Cynthia Thomas celebrated her 90th birthday and had planned to attend meeting for worship today but was not present. We hope to celebrate with her on January 1, 2012. Guy Marsden spoke movingly of his father at meeting for worship today [*Ed. note: See the text of Guy's message page 7*], and the possibility of suggesting this kind of expression for all who might wish to use it was discussed. George Waldman's mother died recently. Betty Zisk recently lost a daughter to cancer. Carmen is in contact with John Lacy and encouraged those present to take pictures of activities at the meetinghouse to share with Ernie Foust and Alice Lacy. Jean Crawford has undergone a second hip surgery and complications have occurred in her recovery. Deb Haviland suggested that we consider adding a "News and Notes" paragraph to the newsletter to keep everyone abreast of events in the lives of members and attenders [*Ed. note: See item page 4*]. Karen Cadbury reported that several people left comments about Friendly Eights gatherings but no one had signed up. The possibility of having larger group gatherings at the meetinghouse, with small groups at separate tables, was discussed if Friendly Eights is not an appealing way to gather informally.

It was noted that Coastal Kids will be moving out of the meetinghouse on December 27 or 28. Possible ways to acknowledge our association with them were discussed. It was suggested that the Clerks write a letter to Coastal Kids expressing our appreciation for their cooperative attitude and conscientious use of our space. A version of this letter could also be sent to *the Lincoln County Times* as a public expression of our pleasure in the relationship.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.

The **next monthly meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 15, 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](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org) and on the meetinghouse bulletin board.

### QUERIES

**Vocations—** Do you respect the value of all useful work, whether paid or unpaid, whether physical or intellectual, whether performed in the home or in the larger community? Does your daily work use means and serve goals which are consistent with the teachings of Jesus? Are you honest and trustworthy in all business transactions, prompt and just in payment of debts? By counsel and example, do you encourage young people to enter vocations which will serve society?

## Officers, Committees, Representatives 2012

### OFFICERS:

Clerks: Suzy Hallett/ David Cadbury  
Recording Clerk: Jim Matlack  
Treasurer: Deborah Haviland;  
Assistant Treasurer: Martin Imm  
Statistical Recorder: Diane Kirkman  
Archivist: Deborah Haviland, Pat Spock

### REPRESENTATIVES TO:

Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy: Jim Matlack  
Ecumenical Food Pantry: Wendell Stephenson & Nancy Booth  
Damariscotta/Newcastle Area Clergy group: Rachel McGinness  
CHIP: Nancy Booth  
Quarterly Meeting: Carmen Lavertu

### COMMITTEES

#### MINISTRY & COUNSEL

Brewster Grace  
Claire Darrow  
Suzy Hallett (ex officio)  
Mallory Waldman

#### PASTORAL CARE:

Jean Crawford  
Deborah Haviland  
Carolyn Miller  
Willow Rowntree  
Carmen Lavertu

#### PEACE CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE:

Co Clerks: Karen Cadbury & Brewster Grace  
Rachel McGinness  
Ann Spencer  
George Chappell  
Nancy Booth  
Jim Matlack  
Carmen Lavertu  
Rowen Rowntree  
Andy Burt

#### FINANCE

Bill Spock  
Claire Darrow  
Deborah & Pete Haviland  
Martin Imm

### GIFTS & LEADINGS

#### FIRST DAY

Co-clerks: Karen Cadbury & Glenn Plyler  
Lisa Steele-Maley (resource)  
Rachel McGinness

#### COMMUNICATIONS: DIRECTORY, MAILING, E-MAIL CHAIN, CALENDAR

Meetinghouse Use: Jean Harris  
E-Mail Chain: Diane Kirkman  
Audio Visual Program Support: Guy Marsden  
Directory Database: Pat Spock  
Meeting Clerk: ex officio

#### NEWSLETTER/WEB SITE

Edit/prod: Diane Kirkman  
Circulation & Mailing: Sally Tukey  
Web site: Guy Marsden

#### MEETINGHOUSE & GROUNDS

Mallory Waldman  
George Waldman  
George Chappell  
Anne Spencer  
Bill Hallett  
Advisor: Guy Marsden  
Andy Burt

#### Expansion (AD hoc)

Suzy Hallett

#### Meetinghouse Use:

Guy Marsden

#### HOSPITALITY

Co-Clerks: Karen Cadbury & Pat Spock  
Suzy Hallett

#### LIBRARY

Suzy Hallett  
Rachel McGinness  
Deb Haviland ?  
Willow Rowntree

## Finance Committee Endowment Discussion

The Meeting now has a reserve fund of over \$100,000, due largely to generous donations and bequests from members who have left the Meeting but who wanted to ensure its long-term future and will not be able to contribute further. The fund is not used for current expenses. It has been held for major capital expenditures that cannot be paid out of current income. Establishing the memorial garden and resurfacing the parking area are examples of such projects. Income from the fund is also not for current use, but is reinvested in the fund.

The Finance Committee wants to sponsor a discussion to consider establishing an endowment, with part of the reserve fund taken to start it, and—importantly—to encourage donations and bequests in the future. The objective would be to maintain the endowment assets in perpetuity, using some small portion of the income or capital each year to support our annual costs and occasionally for larger expenses. Many nonprofit organizations have an endowment to help ensure their future existence, to provide a restricted vehicle that would attract long-term contributions, and to help tide over any years of meager income from current sources.

There are advantages and disadvantages to an endowment, which we have not fully explored and cannot be covered in this announcement, but the Committee is anxious to gather anyone with experience or interest in endowments—whether legal, financial, or other—willing to discuss the possibilities and problems. Some invitations might be extended to others outside the Meeting who have knowledge they are willing to share. The result of such a meeting would be brought to a full Monthly Business Meeting for further discussion.

This is a major issue for the Meeting. The Finance Committee has no recommendation at this point, other than to propose this discussion, but believes the significance is potentially so great that it deserves a full examination. We would probably plan the meeting when the Coastal Kids School rental has ended or when they were not in session.

If you are interested in participating or have other comments, we encourage you to contact any of these Committee members. We find email is the most efficient method for Committee communication. The phone numbers and addresses are also in the Meeting Directory.

Bill Spock, Clerk of the committee - [wspock@zwi.net](mailto:wspock@zwi.net)  
Deb Haviland, Treasurer - [pdhavigland@gmail.com](mailto:pdhavigland@gmail.com)  
Martin Imm, Assistant Treasurer - [martin.imm@earthlink.net](mailto:martin.imm@earthlink.net)  
Claire Darrow, former Treasurer - [cmd@singingbridge.net](mailto:cmd@singingbridge.net)

---

### *A Note from the Havilands—*

Dear Friends,

Our belated heartfelt thanks for the lovely basket of delicious treats that you gave us when Pete was ill this summer. We and our family loved sampling everything. We also had a special visit with Jean Crawford, who selected the goodies and brought them to Cushing. We felt very cared for.

With love,

Deb and Pete

### NEWS NOTES

Midcoast Friends would like to resume “News Notes” in the newsletter. Please keep Friends informed on the events and changes in your life, both big and small, but submitting items to Diane Kirkman at [diane\\_kirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com) or by leaving a message at 236-9078

# QUAKERS AND THE UNITED NATIONS

By Brewster Grace

Quakers have been working at the United Nations for 65 years. In 1947, two years after the UN was founded, the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) was given “consultative status” with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Ever since, our representatives at UN headquarters in Geneva and New York have been able to attend UN meetings (except those of the Security Council) and to engage UN diplomats and Secretariat staff on Quaker concerns for peace and disarmament, human rights, and economic and environmental justice. Often this allows us to speak at official UN proceedings, (in the Human Rights Council, for example) and to help government representatives reach agreements that promote Quaker concerns.

QUNOs, QUNCs and QUNGS: The two Quaker UN Offices (“QUNOs”) are overseen and guided by an extraordinary network of yearly meetings and service bodies. Under the formal auspices of the FWCC, both QUNOs are governed by Quaker UN Committees (“QUNCs”). In the case of QUNO New York, administered by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the QUNC is made up of five representatives appointed by the AFSC and five appointed by the FWCC and its Africa, Americas, Asia/Pacific and European/Middle East Sections. The Geneva QUNC is similarly made up of five FWCC representatives and five from Britain Yearly Meeting, which is responsible for its management. Each committee meets two or three times a year, each time for three days, to thoroughly discern work and season programs and to appoint and give guidance to staff.

In Geneva--the venue of the UN Conference on Disarmament--representative from the Human Rights Council, the UN Environmental Program, and the World Trade Organization works on such issues as the UN convention on chemical weapons and land mines, abolition of child soldiers, international trade impacts on labor, and environmental standards. In New York, work focuses on UN peace-building and conflict prevention, major UN activities involving the Security Council and senior political-affairs staff in the Secretariat. The two offices work closely together whenever and wherever possible.

And the networking goes further in annual Quaker UN Group meetings with Quaker service agencies from North America, Europe, and Australia and with active grassroots peace-building and development work in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. These consultations lead to building working linkages between Quaker activities both at the grass roots and at the UN.

“Quiet diplomacy” Quaker representatives look to the wisdom of Rufus Jones when engaging with the UN diplomats and staff. When he accepted an invitation to a

Quaker international peace conference before WWII, Jones replied that he did not expect any significant results from large conferences. Rather, he wrote to the organizers, “I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles, in which vital and transforming events take place.”

This quiet diplomacy takes place both with delegates in UN meeting rooms and in welcoming ambience of the New York and Geneva Quaker Houses. There diplomats explore ways to unblock their impasses in official negotiations in UN venues. In these houses, important steps forward have been taken to abolish child soldiers and land mines and to amend WTO patent rules inhibiting trade in generic anti-retroviral drugs. Ideas for agreement in such UN conventions and treaties and WTO agreements explored in these small circles have found their way into the legal texts of international law.

So much of Quaker quiet diplomacy is possible because of Quaker credibility in UN circles. Because of our 65 years of engagement, we are trusted by all the parties we bring together. Unlike many NGOs at the UN, we are not seen as “advocates” or “campaigners.” Although our choice of UN issues can be said to be a form of advocacy, the way we work is nonetheless in “quiet processes and small circles”--respected by all because in small circles, we give space for the smaller and weaker governments that are often overpowered by the large member governments from Europe, North America and East Asia. This empowerment is critical to building a level playing field for all parties involved in what is often known in UN circles as “the Quaker process.”

Funding: The core budgets of both the New York and Geneva offices are funded by the AFSC and Britain Yearly Meeting. Funds for program work are often raised from American and British foundations and supportive, like-minded European development-assistant programs--most notably from the Swedish, Norwegian, and Dutch governments.

Outcomes: Successful outcomes often take years, and the QUNOs are not always successful. Success is usually measured by actual UN agreements to do something about our concerns and sometimes in getting a Quaker concern on the UN agenda for the first time.

An example of both agenda-setting and agreement-making is seen in years of work to have conscientious objection recognized as a human right. For decades QUNO Geneva worked in the Human Rights Council for recognition of conscientious objection as a human right under the

*Continued on page 6*

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 18, which provides for “freedom of thought, conscience and religion.” This recognition came in 1989, and now, when a member government’s human-rights laws are reviewed, their alignment with Article 18 is examined. For example, when Israeli compliance is reviewed, QUNO brings Israeli conscientious objectors (the so-called “refuseniks” who refuse to serve in the Israeli army because of the occupation of Palestine) to the Council meetings in Geneva to give testimony about their ignored rights under Article 18. (Israel has yet to recognize conscientious objection, but with UN persuasion South Korea has.)

QUNO work on landmines has had concrete success. Although QUNO was only one of several “anti-mine” NGOs working at the UN in the context of the worldwide outcry against landmines, at a specific juncture a Quaker House initiative facilitated UN negotiations on the “Convention on the Prohibition and the Use, Stockpiling and Transfer of anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction.”

In a general briefing by the Conference on Disarmament for NGOs in Geneva, the Canadian government asked if there was any interest in the UN negotiating a treaty to ban landmines. The Quaker representative invited all interested governments for a soup and sandwich dinner at Quaker House to discuss it further. Around two dozen delegates attended and agreed to accept an invitation by the Canadian delegate to a conference in Ottawa to begin negotiations.

A third initiative in the World Trade Organization has been significantly successful. African Friends, engulfed by demands to provide affordable anti-retroviral drugs in their work with HIV/AIDS victims, asked QUNO to look for ways to increase the availability of the drugs. An

obvious obstacle lay in the World Trade Organization, where the patents held by major pharmaceutical companies were part of an intellectual-property rights agreement favoring the rights of patent holders. QUNO engaged WTO African, European and US delegations, along with such health NGOs as Doctors Without Borders, in “quiet diplomacy” at Quaker House and in two-day seminars on the legal aspects of patents, WTO rules, and the need to protect public health. After four years, the WTO agreed to amend its rules to allow for production of and trade in generic “essential medicines” where HIV/AIDS presented national health emergencies—meaning most of sub-Saharan Africa.

More work ahead: One current QUNO focus is on building the capacity of the UN Peace-building Commission to include more restorative-justice efforts in its programs in Africa. Quaker experience in conflict resolution in Burundi is regularly brought to the Commission and its delegates. And an AFSC African regional conference was convened in Burundi with UN participation that for the first time in Burundi addressed restorative justice.

In Geneva, QUNO has initiated work on climate change with both the UN Environmental Program and the International Organization on Migration. As part of this latter initiative, Quaker Earthcare Witness participated in this year’s Quaker UN Group consultations.

Over the years--65 years--has emerged a unique international collaboration among Quaker meetings and service agencies. Although the results of our efforts may seem miniscule in the face of global need, given the relative modesty of our resources, Quaker work at and through the UN has been impressive.

---

### December 2011 Letter from VQM

Dear Friends,

When Joyce Ajlouny, Director of the Ramallah Friends School, visited Maine in November 2011, we were reminded of the many connections between Maine Friends and Ramallah Friends School since its founding in 1869 by Eli and Sybil Jones, Friends from South China. Inspired by Joyce's visit, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting decided earlier this year to establish the Eli and Sybil Jones Ramallah Friends School Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will support one student's 13n-year education at the Ramallah Friends School. This commitment means that we must raise \$2,800 for each of the thirteen years of the student’s education.

To support this program, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will match personal contributions for the first year of the program. To join in this effort to raise \$2,800 by April 1, 2012, please send your contribution to Richard Kelly, Treasurer, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, 1091 Riverside Drive, Vassalboro, ME 04989. Checks should be made payable to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting with the designation Ramallah Friends School. Contributions are tax-deductible.

In peace,

Ramallah Friends School Support Committee, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting

## *Remembering My Father, Peter Marsden (1925-2011)*

Dad was a research chemist in the years before I was born; this would be in the early 1950s. He developed various formulations for caulking compounds and later invented a novel form of anti-rust paint. When I was very young, Dad was making the anti-rust paint in small batches in the kitchen and selling it in gallon cans that were emblazoned with a photograph of me at age 3 or so, holding a four-inch paintbrush, "painting" the Boston bridge.



He was very involved in photography and in the 1950s he was the man who developed color negatives for the largest photo lab in Boston. He told me that some of the negatives that he developed were of the Kennedy family's vacations. He had a very well-equipped lab in almost every home we lived in. Dad gave me my first camera for my fourth birthday, and by the time I was eight, he had taught me how to develop negatives and make prints. He and I spent a lot of time in the darkroom in my early teens as he taught me all of the nuances of black-and-white and color printing. I later completed my BFA in photography and have been using a camera all my life.

When we were living in England in the late 1960s, dad decided to start a small business, and he explored making various products until he hit on making dishwashing liquid. He produced "Super Swish" in a small rented garage in town, and we kids used to help by snapping the caps onto the plastic bottles. In the process of deciding what product to make, he experimented with hair shampoo and toothpaste, and we as a family were the guinea pigs for banana- and strawberry-flavored toothpaste and richly scented shampoos with beautiful iridescent colors.

Dad had a wide range of interests. I remember building a transistor-radio kit with him in the 1960s and being fascinated by the parts and by making something that actually worked. Since then, I have taught myself electrical engineering and earn much of my income from that skill. In fact, Dad taught me the essentials of all of the skills that I use in my adult life.

I helped Dad remodel most of our homes and learned all of the basics of plumbing, wiring, carpentry, and painting from him. It was enormous fun working with Dad, and we pulled off some extraordinary projects, such as turning a small kitchen into a bathroom over the period of a few weekends. Then we turned the dining room into a large kitchen with cabinets, plumbing, and a dropped ceiling. To this day, there's nothing I enjoy more than remodeling and repairing houses.

In the early 70s he became fascinated by geodesic domes, and I helped him build a number of them ranging from 6 feet in diameter on up to a 15-foot dome used as a camp shelter at the Quaker summer camp in Maryland. He and I also built an 11-foot wood-and-canvas canoe together that I used for many years.

Dad always loved classical music and had the best high-fidelity stereo equipment that he could afford. Over the years, his equipment became more and more exotic as his passion for perfect sound reproduction required nothing less than the best. He was particularly delighted that his last home in York had an acoustically perfect room for stereo reproduction.

Dad was an impeccable parent and gave us kids his undivided love and attention. His legacy lives on in two brilliant, well-adjusted, and successful children, I know that he was very proud of us both.

*--Guy Marsden*

---

In worship we have our neighbors to right and left, before and behind, yet the Eternal Presence is over all and beneath all. Worship does not consist in achieving a mental state of concentrated isolation from one's fellows. But in depth of common worship it is as if we found our separate lives were all one life, within whom we live and move and have our being.

*- Thomas Raymond Kelly*

Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.  
Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

*Psalm 29: 1-2 [KJV]*

### *ADVICES*

**Vocations**—In our relations with others in our daily work, let us manifest the spirit of justice and understanding and thus give a living witness to the Truth. While trying to make provision for ourselves and our families, let us not be anxious, but in quietness of spirit trust in the goodness of God. When we suffer from unemployment, let us seek the support and encouragement of our meetings. When we have a choice of employment, let us think first of the service that we may render. Let us be ready to limit our engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from a business that we may be free for new service as God appoints it.

**MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING  
OF FRIENDS  
P.O. Box 714  
Damariscotta, ME 04543**