

# Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



## MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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### January

Sunday	Jan. 6	10 a.m. Rise of Meeting	Annual Candle-Lighting Worship Italian-Themed Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Jan. 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Tuesday	Jan. 22	6:30 p.m.	*Film <i>King: Man of Peace in a Time of War</i> followed by discussion Thomaston Public Library

### February

Sunday	Feb. 3	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Feb. 10	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 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)**

## PENDING MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

There was no meeting for business in December.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2013, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.



COASTAL SENIOR COLLEGE

### New Coastal Senior College Discussion Group

A new Coastal Senior College discussion group that should be of great interest to Friends will convene in January at the Meetinghouse. It will meet bi-monthly on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30, beginning on January 9. It is led by Winslow Myers, who presented a class in the fall, "Living Beyond War," in which four Midcoast Friends participated.

From the CSC course bulletin:

#### THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE A New Discussion Group

We know that on every level, personally, nationally, globally, humans are facing enormous economic, ecological, and cultural challenges. This informal dialogue group will meet to share solutions and leverage points of change in a positive and respectful conversation.

About Winslow Myers: He has been a member for "Beyond War" since 1983, a non-political educational foundation whose mission is to explore, model and promote the means for humanity to live beyond war. As a volunteer in the organization, he lead seminars on personal and social change. He is the author of the book *Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide*. (A copy, donated and recommended by Louisa Gray is in our library.)

There is no class fee to participate in the meetings. However, the yearly membership fee is required. The CSC catalog and registration form is available at the the Coastal Senior College website (<http://www.coastalseniorcollege.org>), on the credenza at the meetinghouse, or from Carmen.

--Carmen Lavertu

### QUERIES

**Stewardship**—Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

### HEIFER PROJECT

"I bought honeybees for my grandchildren Achmad and Madina," says Carmen Lavertu "There is still time to make a purchase. The catalog and order forms are available at the meetinghouse. Wouldn't someone like to invest in a camel?" You can also get details at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).



## NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

*The Religious Society of Friends in New England*

Witnessing to the power of God in our lives... Spirit led to faithful action

December 2012

Dear Friends,

Upon the sale of the New England Friends Home, New England Yearly Meeting has received approximately \$1,100,000 in unrestricted funds. It is our collective task to discern how we are led to use these funds. The Legacy Discernment Committee, an ad hoc subcommittee of Permanent Board, has been charged with overseeing the process that will enable us to do this discernment faithfully.

We are embarking on a discernment process that will help us to carry out this conversation with open minds and hearts, listening to each other and the Spirit. This involves deep, prayerful thinking about this gift and our vision for the Yearly Meeting. What are we called to do with the treasure with which we are entrusted?

We are writing to you—monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends, Yearly Meeting committees, and Yearly Meeting staff—for your advice and counsel. We believe that Permanent Board's recommendation to Yearly Meeting Sessions must arise from corporate discernment that engages Friends throughout New England.

We ask that your group meet to consider this question, focusing on the query:

**This money is a gift from the past to the future. How could this money help New England Friends answer God's call?**

We prefer that proposals come to us from groups rather than individuals to allow for proper seasoning. Perhaps your group will be so excited by this process that you might wish to send us more than one proposal.

Included in this email [*Ed. note: Please see page 4.*] is a set of queries on corporate discernment about money, from former NEYM treasurer, Diana White and some background on the original gift from Polly Thayer Starr to NEYM in the early 1960s. We are putting together resources to help you in your discernment process that will be available in January at [www.neym.org](http://www.neym.org).

We ask that you send your responses, either by mail to Suzanna Schell, 195 Harvey St., Apt. 7, Cambridge, MA 02140, or by email: [suzanna.schell@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.schell@gmail.com). We would like to have all responses in hand by April 1, 2013.

For the Permanent Board,  
Holly Baldwin, Clerk

For Legacy Gift Committee,  
Nancy Haines, Allan Kohrman, Suzanna Schell, clerk

901 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602-1908 (508) 754-6760 •  
[neym@neym.org](mailto:neym@neym.org)

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**Attachment 1. Queries on corporate discernment about money**

offered by Diana White at Mt. Toby Meeting, February 2, 2002

1. How do I prepare, in my mind and heart, for the discussion of financial issues in the corporate process of Meeting for Worship for Business or in committees?
2. When financial matters are being addressed in Meeting for Business or committees, do I hold them in worship in the same way as I hold other spiritual matters?
3. Do I take notice of my attitudes and personal opinions about matters on the agenda, such as allocation of money, so that I can release them to the service of our corporate search for Truth?
4. When I hear a message that I find uncomfortable, or disagreeable, do I look for the Truth in it?
5. Am I tender with myself, others, and the process of discernment when the path is not clear?

**Attachment 2. TIMELINE FOR DISCERNMENT PROCESS**

We offer this timeline as a guide, acknowledging that this discernment will take place according to God's time.

**November 17:** Present process to Permanent Board.

**Early December:** E mail all groups giving background, timeline, and query for discernment (monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends, YM committee clerks, staff.)

**January 3:** Send out reminder letter to above groups by email and snail mail.

**January 3 - April 1:** Intervisitation by members of Permanent Board.

**February 9:** Committee Day - ask Committees to spend a little time with the query

**March 23:** Mid- year Gathering - ask for 1 hour worship - sharing on the query

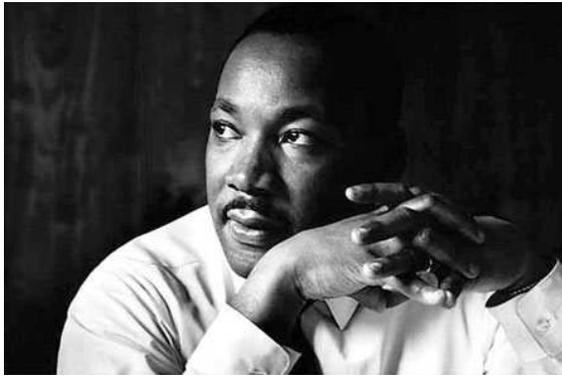
**April 1:** Deadline for receiving comments and ideas.

**April 1 - May:** Committee meets to consider responses.

**May 11:** Present results and report to Permanent Board

**August 2013 Sessions:** Present progress report, and if clear, bring suggestions for approval or report on work to be done.

**Attachment 3. BACKGROUND OF GIFT** - still working on summarizing this information, which will be posted on the NEYM website in early January .



## FILM ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.--AND SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

The Monday Morning Meeting and the Thomaston Library will show the documentary film, *King, Man of Peace in a Time of War*, Tuesday, January 22, at 6:30 p.m, at the Thomaston Library.

The film shows interviews of Dr. King and major leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, and “most remarkable,” as the producers write, “is the appearance of Dr. King himself on a 1967 Mike Douglas show speaking eloquently about civil rights and his opposition to the Vietnam War.”

The sponsors wish to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., for his lasting historical and cultural importance, but also to point to his relevance as an eloquent exponent and leader of political non-violence. The film is one hour long and will be followed by community response until 8 p.m. There is no admission fee. A contribution to the library is appreciated. For details, contact Carmen Lavertu at 354-9556 or [clavertu@gmail.com](mailto:clavertu@gmail.com).

Carmen adds this message: “This interesting film could be shown at the meetinghouse if someone would come forward to arrange it. All the equipment and room set-up needed to show a film were provided by Ministry & Counsel many years ago. The intention was to show films on a regular basis for the Meeting and the community. But now the idea has fallen into disuse. Would someone come forward to begin anew? More and more good documentaries are available on all the political and social concerns that we have. All that is needed is one or a few Friends to take responsibility for resuming the original intention.”

## Update Your Directory

Please note that my new address is 90 Grace St., Rockland, ME 04841. Telephone is 207-701-5005. E-mail and cell phone are the same.

--George Chappell

## NEW YEAR'S DAY POEM

by Kathie Gass

### First morning

Ice crystals glisten  
resonating first light  
besprinkled halo  
fallen from the clouds

## IN THE WAKE OF NEWTOWN

“There’s only one thing we can be sure of, and that is the love that we have for our children, for our families, for each other. The warmth of a small child’s embrace, that is true . . .”

“Charlotte, Daniel, Olivia, Josephine, Ana, Dylan, Madeline, Catherine, Chase, Jesse, James, Grace, Emilie, Jack, Noah, Caroline, Jessica, Benjamin, Avielle, Allison, God has called them all home.

“For those of us who remain, let us find the strength to carry on and make our country worthy of their memory.”

President Obama  
December 16, 2012  
Newtown, Connecticut

(submitted by Carmen Lavertu)

He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6.8 (RSV)

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

—The Talmud

### ***ADVICES***

**Stewardship**—Friends are advised to consider our possessions as God's gifts, entrusted to us for responsible use. Let us free our time and our abilities to be able to follow the leadings of the Spirit. Let us cherish the beauty and variety of the world. Friends are urged to speak out boldly against the destruction of the world's resources and the difficulties that destruction prepares for the future generations. Let us guard against waste and resist our extravagant consumption, which contributes to inequities and impoverishment of life in our own and other societies. Let us show a loving consideration for all God's creatures. Let kindness know no limits.

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