

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 2014

Sunday	January 5	10-11 a.m.	Annual Candlelight Meeting for Worship Potluck Lunch
		Rise of Meeting	
Wed.	January 8	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change
Sunday	January 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Wed.	January 22	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change

February 2014

Saturday	February 1	8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	*Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting
Sunday	February 2	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Wed.	February 12	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change
Sunday	February 16	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Wed.	February 26	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change

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 a request. Thanks!*

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

There was no business meeting in December. The next Business Meeting will be January 19. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

Care of Children—Do children receive the loving care of your meeting? Does the meeting nurture their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Are you an example to your children in your faithfulness to the ideals you profess? Do you promote your children's moral and spiritual development by loving oversight of their education, recreation, and social activities? Do you listen to children, recognizing that the Spirit may lead them along paths you have not foreseen? Do you assist them to assume their rightful responsibilities in the home, the meeting, and the community?

VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING Saturday, February 1, at Midcoast Friends Meetinghouse

The order of the day:

Welcome at 8:30, morning refreshments

VQM will gather at 9 for Ministry & Counsel, co-clerks Susan Davies and Janet Hough. Participants will share joys and sorrows of their meetings.

The Meeting for Worship will settle into silence at 10:30. A brief meeting for business and memorial minutes may be read at the rise of Worship. Please submit to co-clerks Susan and Jane as soon as possible before Feb. 1.

Lunch at noon.

The afternoon program, led by Bruce Rockwood, on current developments in Restorative Justice. Two hours allotted. *[Please see details on page 3 below.]*

Adjourn at 3:30. Depart at 4.

Food and hospitality

Midcoast will provide beverages, soup and other main dishes for lunch. Vegan and gluten free foods would be appreciated. Please let us know if children, from preschool up to high school are coming. We welcome teens and young adults to full participation.

Friends from all corners of Coastal and Central Maine from Cobscook to Bar Harbor to Orono to Farmington and our close neighbors in Vassalboro will be coming to our Meeting for VQM. This is a wonderful occasion to make friends with other Friends, to experience the excitement of engaging with a larger community of Quakers. The process of Silence and sharing and the planned program are in place, but we have to develop the hosting tasks. We are expected to serve the main lunch food, to provide overnight hospitality and sometimes also provide child care. Already, some have come forward to volunteer for these tasks, but we need more involvement. A volunteer sheet will be posted on First Day in January. Please see how you can help make our Friends welcome by signing up.

—Carmen (clavertu@gmail.com or 354-9556)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Sarah Mattox, Court Diversion Coordinator of the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast, will lead a program on the juvenile and adult court diversion and intervention work of the RJP in the afternoon program section of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting to be held at the Midcoast Friends Meeting House, 77 Belvedere Road, Damariscotta, on Saturday, February 1, 2014. She will explain the philosophy of restorative justice, and present a brief summary of the work of the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast and its plans for outreach this year in Lincoln and Sagadahoc County. Participants will have the opportunity to explore how restorative justice can be promoted and applied in dealing with challenges such as diversion of juveniles and adults from the criminal justice system, and meeting the needs of former prisoners returning to the community. Presently the RJP of the Midcoast is focusing on juvenile justice diversion, which seeks to work with courts, police, prosecutors, offenders and victims in finding ways to restore and build community that the criminal justice system cannot address on its own.

In their mentor training program manual, the RJP opens with some quotations to think about in relation to the philosophy of restorative justice from Margaret Wheatley, which include:

There is no greater power than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask "What is possible?" not "What is wrong?" Keep asking.

Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know. Real listening always brings people closer together."

<http://www.margaretwheatley.com/>

For further information on Restorative Justice that is available online prior to the Quarterly Meeting, see:

The Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast, <http://www.rjpmidcoast.org/>

The International Institute for Restorative Practices, <http://www.iirp.edu/>

Safer Saner Schools, <http://www.safersanerschools.org/>

The Third Side: <http://www.thirdside.org/>

ADVICES

Care of Children—Care of the children of the meeting should be the responsibility of every Friend. Let us share with our children a sense of adventure, of wonder, and of trust and let them know that, in facing the mysteries of life, they are surrounded by love. Both parents and meetings need to guard against letting other commitments deprive children of the time and attention they need.

Friends are advised to seek for children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education. All Friends are cautioned against harshness of tone or manner when offering counsel or reproof. To the child, even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of repentance or growth, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended. Let us nurture a spirit of common concern, thereby giving children a sense of belonging to a larger community.

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