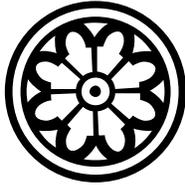
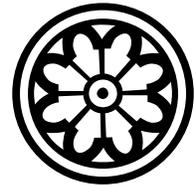


MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING  
 OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
 Damariscotta, Maine  
**NEWSLETTER**



*Ring the bells that still can ring.  
 Forget your perfect offering.  
 There is a crack in everything.  
 That's how the light gets in.*



from: "Anthem" by Leonard Cohen from his book **Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs**, McClelland & Stewart, 1993 (found at [www.meetingbrook.org](http://www.meetingbrook.org))  
 Submitted by Diane Kirkman

**February**

Saturday	February 1	all day	Quarterly Meeting, Belfast Methodist Church, Mill Lane, contact Charlotte Ritter, 236-2348 for info
Sunday	February 2		Food Pantry Day
Monday	February 3	4:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel committee meeting
Sunday	February 9	8:30 a.m. rise of Meeting	Book Discussion Group Meeting discussion of consider the direction of our membership, our work, and our service
Tuesday	February 11	4:00 p.m.	Peace and Social Concerns committee meeting
Sunday	February 16	11:30 a.m.	Meeting for Business. Bring bag lunch.
Monday	February 17	asap	Deadline for March <i>Newsletter</i>
Sunday	February 23	8:30 a.m. TBA	Book Discussion Group Tentative date for follow-up discussion on "Where We Are and Where We're Going"

~Advance Notice~

Saturday	March 1	all day	* Middle Eastern fund-raising dinner, Congregational Church, Newcastle
Saturday	April 26	all day	All Maine Meeting at China Lake

\* 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 Road, Damariscotta, 10:00 a.m. Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757. Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Road (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north. The Miles Home Health Care building is on the corner.) The meetinghouse is the first building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Back Issues of the Newsletter, along with other Meeting Information, are available at:  
[www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite/q-pages.htm](http://www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite/q-pages.htm)

**Friendly Reminders**

Moving or changing your email address? Don't forget to notify the newsletter of your changes. Electronic subscriptions via E-mail are environmentally friendly and cost the Meeting nothing. To receive your newsletter via the Web, E-mail a request to Nancy Terrell Hall at [moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com)

# *The Entirely Unofficial* **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 1st month of 2003

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

## **Statistical Report**

Statistical Recorder Diane Kirkman presented a draft of the Statistical Report for 2002. There are 53 members as of December 31, 2002. This represents a net loss of one member. We had one addition by application, one death, and one transfer. This report is updated annually and sent to New England Yearly Meeting.

## **Ministry & Counsel**

Pete Haviland reported that only four members met on January 8th, due to some confusion as to the meeting date. As a result, most of the committee business was postponed until the committee's February 3rd meeting.

Deb Haviland reported on the silent retreat held on January 18th. There were 10 meeting members and two others present. The retreat had been advertised in the Boothbay paper and on Village Soup, the Camden-area Internet station. It is felt that these retreats should be at regular intervals. The date of April 12th was proposed for the next one, and it will be so scheduled if the calendar is clear on that date.

Charlotte Ritter reported on the beans and rice supper and candlelight service held on New Year's Eve. There were 16 people at the supper on a stormy night. Wonderful camaraderie was felt in the age-diverse group. About half the participants were young people! It was suggested that the candlelight service be regularly scheduled for New Year's Eve, however one person expressed a desire to have it remain the last regular Meeting for Worship of the year.

## **Education Committee**

Sarah Ewing reported that there are now four regular members of First Day School. The reading of **The Hannah** continues to form the backbone of the curriculum. There has been some interest in having older Quakers share their insights with the children and possibly taping these sessions.

## **Peace & Social Concerns**

Ernie Foust presented drafts of two articles he has written for possible publication in local periodicals. One was a wonderfully heartfelt and personal thanks to those people led to stand vigil on the area bridges to

protest America's march toward war. He likened their stand to the early dissenters to slavery, "that other great scourge on our society." He referred to the belt buckles worn by German troops in World War II that bore the phrase "God is with us." After his reading there was a moment of silence.

Gretchen Hull reported that 89 people, many at recent bridge vigils, have signed a petition against the war. A number of Meeting members went to Washington to join the recent anti-war protest march. Meeting funds enabled one young Friend to make the trip.

A group known as Friendly Folk Dancers has expressed interest in doing a program at the meeting-house. It was felt that our space is not suitable for this. Other venues may be suggested to the group. The Baha'i group is interested in meeting with us to discuss ways to bring faiths together. A meeting in February on a Sunday following the bridge vigils is a possibility, to be announced.

## **Meetinghouse Committee**

Steve Gorry has volunteered to make a new, larger sign for the meetinghouse, as the one in current use, dating from pre-meetinghouse days, is in poor condition and too small to be read easily from the road.

## **Other Business**

Claire Darrow reported on the recent "Where We Are and Where We Are Going" meeting held after Meeting for Worship on January 12th. The three central themes that kept coming up were the value of the Meeting to individual members, the importance of making our children a priority as the future of the Meeting, and how to balance competing needs in an aging community with too few workers. A discussion followed Claire's report about what to do for a follow-up and how we can improve our methods of conveying what we are all about. Some suggested that we have more frequent "Quakerism 101" discussions. Another proposal was a "Quiet Yearbook" in which Meeting members could, if they wished, have their picture and an entry of any length expressing who they are and what is important to them. Another suggestion was to circulate a well-crafted questionnaire in order to elicit responses from infrequent attenders.

A letter from Esther Cope, requesting transfer of her membership to Lancaster (PA) Meeting, was read, and the transfer was approved with regretful acknowledgement that Midcoast Meeting's loss is Lancaster Meeting's gain.

\* \* \* \* \*

**The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Sunday, February 16, 2003, at the rise of Meeting. Bring lunch if you wish. ALL WELCOME.**

Query #1

## **Spiritual Life**

Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way? Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?

# Middle Eastern Dinner & Program to Benefit Seeds of Peace Camp

By Andy Burt

Midcoast Friends Meeting, Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Congregation (Edgecomb), Congregation Beth Israel (Bath), and Second Congregational Church (Newcastle) are working together to host this very special fund-raising dinner and music/educational program. The event will be held at the Second Congregational Church, Newcastle, on Saturday, March 1. The dinner will begin at 6 p.m., and the menu features Middle Eastern dishes: lentil soup with dried apricots and cranberries, pita bread with hummus, falafel with lemon tahini sauce, tabouleh on bed of lettuce, baba ghanooj, curried chickpeas on basmati coconut rice, Israeli salad, olives, and for dessert, baklava and sliced apples with drizzle of honey. Beverages will include coffee, tea, lemon water, and fruit punch.

The program will consist of Middle Eastern music, poetry, and a compelling video produced by Israeli and Palestinian Seeds of Peace campers, "Peace of Mind," will begin at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets for dinner and program are \$15; children under 12, \$7.50. We can serve 125, so we will sell just 125 tickets. If you want to reserve tickets, please call Andy Burt at 882-6848 by February 8. We want to give members of the congregations putting on the event first opportunity to purchase tickets. Then we will advertise to sell remaining tickets to the public. We intend to produce flyers and do extensive publicity for the program.

If you will not be able to attend the dinner but would like to help with cooking or contribute towards the expenses/scholarship, please call Andy and let her know. She will provide recipes and purchase the ingredients for the dinner.

In addition to selling dinner tickets, we intend to sell flower and vegetable seed packets and will also solicit donations at the door. Our goal is to raise \$3000 for a scholarship for the camp. This fundraiser for peace provides our Meeting with a wonderful interfaith opportunity to build community with others who care deeply about the same issues. Through this project, we can use our hands and hearts to make changes in this world that will benefit generations to come.

*Continuing in Boston*

**AFSC Exhibit 1/4 ~ 2/26**  
**"Quiet Helpers—Quaker Service in Postwar Germany" at Boston Public Library presented by AFSC and the German Historical Museum, Berlin.**

# Notes from First Day

Attendance at the First Day Program grew to five this past week. We are reading *Thee, Hannah* and following each chapter with an activity. One week we made biscuits, and last week we used the outdoor, winter theme of the story to make a labyrinth in the snow.

Arts and crafts are always popular activities, and various projects are in development. If anyone would like to teach a class (and all are welcome) or offer ideas about ways in which the children can participate in Meeting or community activities, PLEASE talk to one of the First Day Committee members. We would love help and suggestions. We also want to make sure that ample time is given to develop ideas while maintaining a certain amount of continuity from class to class.

Members of the committee include Sarah Ewing, 832-6924, Rachel McGinnis, 563-6412, and Janet Lohman, 593-9003.



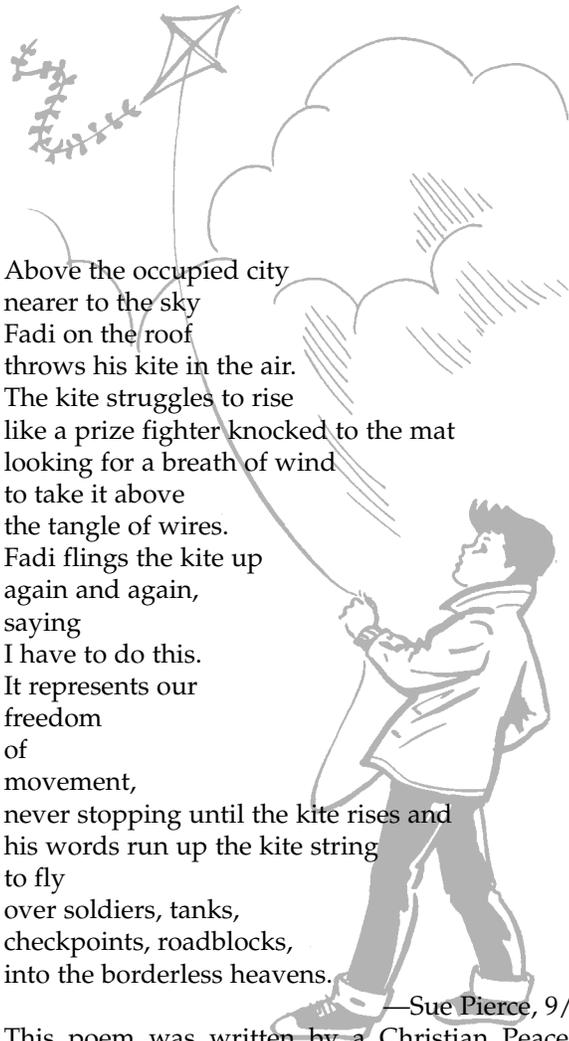
# Winter Silent Retreat

By Deborah Haviland

On Saturday, January 11, 2003, a silent retreat was held at the meetinghouse. This was the first of four to be held during the year. When Friends realized their winter silent retreat would fall on the day of the largest peace event in recent years, we decided to invite the public to participate. A letter to the editor was sent to all local papers cordially inviting people to join with us. It said, in part, "Many people welcome an opportunity for a day of silent retreat following the busy holidays. This retreat will also be an opportunity for those who wish to silently join in solidarity with the anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C." Since this was Martin Luther King Jr Weekend, it was also a time to honor this spokesman for non-violence, justice, and civil rights. The day was bright, clear, and cold, and our group included a number of Meeting members/attenders and also two women who had seen our letter in the paper. I found it a very rich and rewarding experience.

The Meeting is very touched to have received a check for \$5,000 from the George Macculloch Miller trust. We all loved Cully dearly and we will be mindful of his warm humanity and lifetime concerns in considering how best to use this generous gift.

—Paul Diamond, Treasurer



Above the occupied city  
 nearer to the sky  
 Fadi on the roof  
 throws his kite in the air.  
 The kite struggles to rise  
 like a prize fighter knocked to the mat  
 looking for a breath of wind  
 to take it above  
 the tangle of wires.  
 Fadi flings the kite up  
 again and again,  
 saying  
 I have to do this.  
 It represents our  
 freedom  
 of  
 movement,  
 never stopping until the kite rises and  
 his words run up the kite string  
 to fly  
 over soldiers, tanks,  
 checkpoints, roadblocks,  
 into the borderless heavens.

—Sue Pierce, 9/10/02

This poem was written by a Christian Peacemaker Team member after visiting Ramallah last summer. Fadi Quran is a 14-year-old student at the Ramallah Friends Schools. The kids in Ramallah had taken to flying kites from their rooftops at dusk when curfew was imposed. He told the Friends peace envoys, "I have to do this. It represents our freedom of movement."

Submitted by Carmen Lavertu

## The Advices

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, which are the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It is God's redemptive love that draws us, a love shown forth by Jesus in all his life, on the cross, and in his abiding presence. Friends are advised to make a quiet place in their daily lives for prayer and communion with God and to be constant in the reading of the Bible and other devotional literature.

Let us cherish the seed of God in ourselves and in others, that we may be open to new revelations of truth. Let us look to our meetings to guide and stimulate our spiritual growth.

Book Review

## Riding with the Lion

By Barbara Foust

I just finished reading this newly acquired book by Kyriacos Markides, a sociology professor at the University of Maine, and found it fascinating. It is impossible for me to say the right words, so I leave it to Larry Dossey, M.D., author of **Healing Words**, from the back cover.

"**Riding with the Lion** is a penetrating insight into profound spiritual truths. It is written with the critical eye of a scholar and the courage of a true spiritual adventurer.

"There is an old saying: 'If you want to hide the treasure, put it in plain sight.' In **Riding with the Lion**, Markides finds a treasure which has been in plain sight but which we have overlooked for a very long time—a body of mystical teachings anchored in Christianity. For those who believe mystical spirituality is found only in the Orient, this will come as a marvelous revelation.

"**Riding with the Lion** has the ring of common sense and uncommon wisdom. It will help restore meaning and purpose to many Westerners who hunger for a mystical element in their spiritual lives, and who wish to remain within their own religious traditions."

### Biodiesel Fuel Offers . . . . .cont'd fr. back cover

Biodiesel fuel is simple to use, biodegradable, and nontoxic. In addition to having lower emissions compared to petro diesel, biodiesel is better for the environment because it is made from renewable resources. Since it can be made here in the U.S. from crops such as soybeans, its use decreases our dependence on foreign oil and contributes to our own economy. Friends might do well to consider this "future" technology as something we wish to support now. For those wishing to know more about biodiesel fuel, Joel Gratz at Frontier Oil can be reached by phone at 1-800-773-2409 or online at [www.frontieroilme.com](http://www.frontieroilme.com). Other Web links: [www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org), [biodieselnow.com](http://biodieselnow.com)

## Young Musicians Seeking a Piano

Conor and Jake Griffin are looking for a piano. If you have a piano you no longer need or use and are looking to get rid of it, please call 593-9003.

Thank you!



## A Few Words about Vanessa Julye

By Claire Darrow

Last fall I had the pleasure to meet Vanessa Julye, a truly dedicated young woman who has devoted her life at this point to her ministry of exploring, explaining, and trying to reduce racism in the Religious Society of Friends. She has been released to do this work by her Meeting, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, because they are convinced that she is someone who has the ability and energy to do the work.

Up until now she has been juggling the demands of her work and her family, which consists of her husband and a teenage son. Recently she became aware that the balancing act had come down firmly on the side of her ministry. She has been asked by Friends General Conference to write a book about the historical relationship between African-Americans and the Religious Society of Friends.

In addition to working on the book, she maintains a steady schedule of visitations, workshops, committee membership, and other outward expressions of her calling. In the last 8 years she has visited 12 Monthly Meetings, 2 Quarterly Meetings, 4 Yearly Meetings, 5 Quaker schools and colleges, and has participated in 23 other Quaker conferences and workshops. In addition she has conducted 21 workshops, attended 14 conferences, written 17 articles for Quaker publications and served on committees for 5 Quaker organizations. Her schedule is truly breathtaking.

She will receive no financial compensation for the book, which she is coauthoring, but she feels strongly that this story must be told, and her committee is looking for ways to help her in this project. Her Meeting has made a significant financial commitment to support her work, as she takes a leap of faith to rely solely on donations to keep her funded. She has found around her a clear readiness for her ministry that spurs her onward.

I am excited about this work and so glad that Vanessa has taken it upon herself to bring it forward. She has experienced discrimination herself, so she knows her topic all too well. She has told me something about the book and the astonishing things she has found out in her historical research about Quakers and African-Americans. I feel it is time for us to take a hard look at our past and reassess the present and the future of race relations in our society.

For Friends who may wish to learn more about Vanessa and her work, she maintains a website at <http://vanessajulye.quaker.org/>. Also, there are copies of her letter on the credenza at the meetinghouse. I am committed to helping Vanessa and would like to hear from others who wish to join me in this effort. Friends can call me at (207) 371-2447 or e-mail <cdarrow@gwi.net>.

## Connie's Memorial at Our Meetinghouse

By Sally Cartwright

While surrounded by loving family and friends, Connie St. John, 87, died peacefully January 2nd at Midcoast Medical Center in Bath. The family held their first memorial for her at our meetinghouse on Saturday, January 11th. Another memorial was scheduled for January 18th at the Putney (Vermont) Community Center, coupled, Connie-style, with a walk in honor of the Washington peace march, which also happened that day. A third memorial is scheduled for May 25th, 2 p.m., at Small Point Summer School.

At the Midcoast memorial service, over a hundred guests filled the meetinghouse, and extra chairs were set along the walls to accommodate everyone. The building was filled as well with tender feelings, shared memories, boundless love, and much laughter. Connie, with her kindness, integrity, humor, and courage, was surely with us that day; and, as usual, she united our diversity, opened our hearts, and offered her wisdom with a twinkle.

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## CONA's Upcoming Programs

**February 5** (Wednesday), 7 p.m., 2nd Cong. Church, Newcastle: **BRAVE NEW WORLD**. — Prof. Dana Sawyer, biographer of Aldous Huxley, discusses the issues raised by **Brave New World** and their implications for today's American society.

**February 9** (Sunday), 7 p.m., Skidompha Library (rear entrance): **HIDDEN WARS OF DESERT STORM** (movie and discussion with Leon Sherman, Islamist and retired history professor) — All wars are built on lies. The Gulf War was no exception. A lot of questions get answered, even more raised about U.S. policy toward Iraq and the true reasons for it. (Snow date Feb. 16)

**March 12** (Wednesday), 7 p.m., Skidompha Library (rear entrance): **THE AMERICAN EMERGENCY - AND SOME THINGS WE CAN DO ABOUT IT**. — Presentation by Ronnie Dugger, founder and president of the Alliance for Democracy; followed by a discussion of Instant Runoff Voting as a do-able improvement on American elections and other timely opportunities for action.

**March 23** (Sunday), 7 p.m., Skidompha Library (rear entrance): **DEADLY DECEPTION; MAKING A KILLING** (movies and discussion) — Double feature on corporate excesses in a globalized world. First: General Electric Co. and the nuclear weapons business. Second: Philip Morris, Kraft and the marketing of tobacco products world wide. (Snow date March 30.)

# Biodiesel Fuel Offers Promise for the Future—and Today

By Stephen Gorry and Guy Marsden

The Meetinghouse Maintenance Committee has been checking out the availability and viability of “biodiesel” fuel as an alternative to petroleum fuel oil for use in our meetinghouse furnace. Our criteria are based more on moral grounds than fiscal.

## What is biodiesel fuel?

Biodiesel is a vegetable-oil-based fuel that runs in diesel engines and oil home-heating units. It’s usually made from soy or canola oil and can also be made from recycled deep fat fryer oil. The Chewonki Foundation makes it from waste oil they get from a local restaurant, but they aren’t set up to deliver it. When burned, biodiesel does not represent a net gain in carbon to the atmosphere. The resulting exhaust coming out of a chimney or tailpipe does contain some carbon and particulates. However, any CO<sup>2</sup> that is produced is canceled out by the absorption of carbon from growth of the oil-producing crop.

Biodiesel fuel can be blended with regular diesel or used by itself. Using as little as 2% biodiesel can reduce emissions by 30%. This fuel does have some minor drawbacks. B100 (100% biodiesel) gets slushy at temperatures below 32°F, making it hard to transport and store in winter. Mixing it with other fuels lowers the

gel point, thus making it more practical to transport and use in cold weather. Currently the cost of biodiesel is higher than that of petroleum-based fuel oil. However, if one considers that the current price of oil does not include its full environmental cost, the price of biodiesel seems more affordable.

Frontier Fuels of South China, Maine, is currently selling a 50% mixture of regular heating oil and biodiesel, and they are delivering to our area once a month. Delivered, B50 costs \$1.76/gal. compared to approximately \$1.35/gal. for the regular fuel oil we now use. The next scheduled delivery run to the Midcoast is on the 22nd of February. Frontier Fuels says that as more customers sign on to this kind of fuel, the costs for delivery will go down. L.L. Bean is preparing to run all its vehicles on BD soon, so this could help.

Since biodiesel degrades rubber seals, most fuel pumps now in use would eventually need to be replaced with an older-style pump containing no rubber parts. A representative at Frontier Fuels says that the company will perform this task for customers at a cost of about \$85.

*continued on p. 4*

Midcoast Meeting of Friends  
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Damariscotta, ME 04543

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