

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



*Where there is hatred,
 let me sow love.
 Where there is injury
 let me sow pardon.
 Where there is doubt,
 let me sow faith.*

*Where there is despair,
 let me give hope.
 Where there is darkness,
 let me give light.
 Where there is sadness,
 let me give joy.*

—Francis of Assisi
 contributed by Carolyn Miller



February

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|----------------------|---|
| Sunday | February 1 | 12 noon | Food Pantry Day Winter Discussions: People's Primary Project |
| Saturday | February 7 | all day | Quarterly Meeting in Farmington |
| Sunday | February 8 | 8:30 a.m. | Reading Group: Spirit Matters |
| | | rise of Meeting | * Second Sundays: <i>The Differences Among Us</i> |
| Sunday | February 15 | rise of Meeting | Monthly Meeting for Business |
| Monday | February 16 | asap | Deadline for March newsletter |
| Sunday | February 22 | 8:30 a.m. 12 noon | Reading Group Winter Discussions: Native American Issues |
| Sunday | February 29 | 12 noon | Winter Discussions: P&SC reports of attended conferences & programs |

Dates and times of committee meetings TBA until regular scheduling is set for the year

~ **Advanced Notice** ~

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|--|
| Sunday | March 14 | 12 noon | * Second Sundays: <i>When Is It Time to Consider Membership?</i> |
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* **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 second building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Back Issues of the Newsletter and Meeting Information, are available at: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

Friendly Reminders: Moving or changing your E-mail 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

The Entirely Unofficial MONTHLY MEETING NOTES, 1st month of 2004

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

Co-Clerk Ernie Foust opened the meeting with a reading from Joseph Newton and a brief silence. There were 20 people present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with corrections.

Statistical Report

Diane Kirkman, our statistical reporter, gave the annual overview of Meeting membership, average attendances and other required figures which New England Yearly Meeting uses for informational purposes. Our membership remained constant at 53. We lost a total of six members, two transfers and four deaths. We also gained six members, one from a transfer and five by application.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Diamond reported that we are in reasonably sound condition. Seven months through the fiscal year the committees are well behind in spending the monies allotted to them. This is typical. There is \$1600 available for use within the community as soon as the Worthy Needs Committee makes their recommendations for its disposition.

Finance Committee member Bill Spock mentioned that our contribution to NEYM of \$3250 has not been increased in a few years and that we have been advised by Yearly Meeting that Midcoast Meeting's contribution is below average, based on the average per-member contribution. We have a shortfall on pledges from what was budgeted for the year of about \$1500. Though that amount is not a concern at present, if we decide to increase our NEYM contribution next year it was noted that the next budget could be a "greater challenge." Claire Darrow will lead a discussion about our contribution to NEYM in the near future. Though we are under budget in many projected operating costs for the year to date, the switch to

Query #12

Peace and Reconciliation

Do you "live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you faithfully maintain Friends' testimony against military preparations and all participation in war, as inconsistent with the teachings and spirit of Christ? Do you strive to increase understanding and use of non-violent methods of resolving conflicts?

Do you take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? When discouraged, do you remember that Jesus said, "Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears?"

John 14:27 NEB

biodiesel fuel will surely result in higher heating bills this winter, especially when coupled with the record cold temperatures experienced to date.

Ministry & Counsel

Jean Crawford reported for the committee. Her report appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Peace & Social Concerns

Holly Baldwin reported. She and Karen Armstrong, the newly appointed youth coordinator for NEYM, are seeking a site for a youth retreat for the weekend of June 18-20. About twenty young people are expected. Our meetinghouse was suggested as a tentative venue. The Meeting approved, and Holly will keep us informed of plans as they develop.

Maintenance

The committee has not yet had their first meeting of the year. Guy Marsden read a proposed notice that will be posted near the light switches in the entry, explaining the nature of the new eco-friendly lighting (see article in this newsletter). Some of the old lightbulbs will go to Chewonki and the remainder will be available to members of the Meeting community for low-use applications.

Religious Education

Sarah Ewing reported that the First Day School is reading *Meetinghouse Mouse*. This may culminate in a puppet show. A book explaining the Heifer Project is being acquired for use in First Day. Sarah mentioned that she had heard of some concern, expressed by members, about the disorder in the social space flowing from the children's activities. It is, all agreed, inevitable and well worth enduring! Ernie brought up the best possible solution, the construction of a First Day wing.

Correspondence/Other Matters

Friends approved a request from Berdelle Jacobson Shipman for transfer of her membership to Birmingham (Pennsylvania) Monthly Meeting, near where she now lives.

It was reported that Paulding and Susan Phelps are adjusting well to their new home.

Ernie reviewed the highlights of the last meeting of the Friend's Committee of Maine Public Policy, which dealt with a variety of topics including a bill requiring that Indian history and culture be taught in the schools (FCMPP supports this initiative) and Department of Corrections proposals for improving the criminal justice system.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be at the rise of Meeting for Worship on February 15th.

Light Fantastic

by Guy Marsden

I would like to report that the "Many Hands Make Light Work" project has been a huge success. The income from the sponsored lamps has allowed the Meeting to replace all of the incandescent flood lamps in the lobby and Meeting room with low-wattage compact fluorescents. After we receive an incentive rebate from Efficiency Maine, a state-funded program, the net cost to the Meeting will be approximately \$11.00.

A special thank you to all those who sponsored the lamps! We will be installing the new lamps on January 24th. Once installed, the power required to light the lobby will drop from 650 watts to 200 watts, and the room will be 20 percent brighter too! Electrical useage for the dimmable floods in the Meeting room (assuming they are turned all the way up) will drop from 780 watts to 324 watts. Again, these lamps will be 20 percent brighter and may not be used at their full brightness (and power) much of the time. These lamps can only be dimmed down to 20 percent of their full power. Unlike incandescent, compact fluorescent lamps do not "waste" over 80 percent of their energy as heat. When turned on, they take several minutes to reach full brightness, and at full brightness they appear somewhat cooler in color than incandescent. The color of the lamps we purchased is the warmest color available and is rated at 2700K.

Peter Arnold has requested that we donate most of the old flood lamps to Chewonki, where they will be used as outdoor floods on motion sensors. This is an ideal use for these 65-watt lamps, and we will have extras available for members to take home for limited-use applications. A notice will be posted in the meetinghouse as a reminder that our building conserves energy through the use of low-wattage lamps and biodiesel heating fuel.



Ministry & Counsel

Second Sundays

On Sunday, February 8, following Meeting for Worship, the second session of Ministry & Counsel's winter series of Second Sundays is scheduled to take place. The title is "Differences Among Us." It is anticipated that the session will last for an hour.

The intention of the series is to encourage informal dialogue about Quakerism. This may be of special interest to newcomers and to attenders who are interested in becoming more involved with the Society of Friends. It can be useful and meaningful to the most seasoned members as well as new members wanting to learn more about Quaker testimonies and customs, including Friends' unique vocabulary. The intent is to hear and ponder together a variety of inquiries and responses.

The January session was well attended, and many expressed gratitude for its openness, breadth of participation, and depth of content. Ministry & Counsel chose "Differences Among Us" as the title of the February session with the conviction that our differences, while numerous and wide, are founded on a bedrock of unity. The third session, scheduled for March 14, is entitled "When Is It Time To Consider Membership?"

CONA news

Upcoming CONA Programs

Being Poor in Maine

Brown bag talk at noon on Wednesday, February 4th, at Skidompha Library, Damariscotta. Lisa Pohlman of the Maine Center for Economic Policy analyzes the causes and social costs of poverty in Maine.

Plan Columbia: Cashing in on the Drug War

A CONA film showing at Skidompha Library (rear) at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, February 22nd.

The Currents of Our Events

A small-town reporter analyzes the twists and turns of current events. Joel Steinberger, of the *Free Press* (Rockland), 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 10th, at Skidompha Library (rear).

Divided We Fall

A full-length Czech film. The setting is Czechoslovakia in the time of Hitler. Skidompha Library (rear) at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 21st.

For information on these events or other CONA activities, call Tom Schmidt, 529-5302.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, March 5-8, 2004

"I Will Feed Them with Justice," the 2004 Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, will take place March 5-8, 2004, in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by a broad range of denominations and coalitions, including the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the gathering will focus on Africa, Korea, Colombia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, Jubilee and economic justice, and nuclear disarmament.

Karin Lee, FCNL senior associate for East Asia Policy, and David Culp, legislative representative for the Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Program, are among the featured speakers at the four-day education and lobby event.

All sessions for the first three days will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City, across the river from Washington in Arlington, Virginia. The final day of lobbying will be centered at the Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill.

Additional information about the program and conference and hotel reservations can be found at www.advocacydays.org or by contacting Leon Spencer, (202) 547-7503; Anna Rhee, advocacydays@earthlink.net.

The Advices

Every human being is a child of God with a measure of God's Light. War and other instruments of violence and oppression ignore this reality and violate our relation with God. Let us keep primary, therefore, Friends' concern for removing the causes of war. Let us seek, through God's power and grace, to overcome in our own hearts the emotions that lie at the root of violence. At every opportunity, let us be peacemakers in our homes, in our communities, and in our places of work. Let us take care that we who declare against war do not nourish the seeds of war in our possessions. Friends are urged to support those who witness to their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace, who choose not to participate in war as soldiers nor to contribute to its preparations with their taxes. Let us support in all possible ways the development of international order, justice, and understanding.

Finally, dear Friends, let us follow steadfastly after all that is pure and lovely and of good report. Let us be prayerful, be watchful, be humble. Let not failure discourage us. Let our whole conduct and conversation be worthy of disciples of Christ.

You Can Make a Difference – Vote at the Democratic Caucus on February 8

By Linda Coté-Small

On February 8th Democrats will caucus all over Maine. In our democratic process, this is the time when we as individuals state our preference for the next president of our country. If you're unhappy about how things are going in our country at this time, you can use this opportunity to let the Democratic Party know the candidate whose platform represents what is most important to you.

All registered Democrats, all unenrolled potential voters, and people who are not registered are encouraged to participate in this process. Both unenrolled and unregistered individuals need to register as Democrats either before the caucus at your town office or during the half hour preceding the caucus.

Check your local papers or call your town office for the time and location of your local caucus. There is also a list of locations at the State Democratic Party Web site, www.mainedems.org. If you can't attend on February 8, call the state headquarters in Augusta (622-6233) for an absentee ballot, which must be returned to the headquarters by 5 p.m. on February 4.

The purpose of the local caucuses is to select delegates to the state caucus. At the local caucus some party business will be conducted, individuals will speak in favor of one candidate or another, and "caucus"—people actually stand in groups according to the candidate they support and then a determination is made about the number of delegates per candidate. Usually there is some negotiating to move from one candidate to another if there are insufficient numbers to get a full delegate.

In this day and age, when the media are telling us every day who is electable and who is not, it can be difficult to get good information on the candidates. Doing your own research can help you decide which presidential candidate to support. Each of the candidates has Web pages which are very easy to find. Just go to Google or another search engine and type in the candidate's name, and, presto! You'll have the candidate's platform before you.

If you chose not to participate in the caucus, you will have, in effect, allowed others to determine whom you will be voting for in November. I hope to see you there.



Visit
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

Ministry & Counsel Report January 18, 2004

by Jean Crawford

We are delighted that Glenn Dwyer and Patience Thomas will represent Midcoast Meeting on New England Yearly Meeting's 2004 Ministry & Counsel Committee. They have already attended their first meeting. Glen visited our recent Ministry & Counsel meeting here and let us know about the many vital concerns of that New England-wide committee.

We were saddened to hear of the death on January 2nd of member Ruth Kaltenbach who worshiped here for many years. Her memorial service took place in Massachusetts. The death of Pat Geiringer on January 5 was unexpected and affected many of us, since Pat, although not a member, was a faithful attender. A memorial service for Pat was held on January 17 at the Bunker Hill Church in Newcastle. We would like, with the meeting's approval, to hold another memorial service for her on Saturday, April 17th, at 2 p.m. in the meetinghouse. We know that Pat was devoted to this Meeting, so it seems fitting to plan this opportunity for us to remember her life together. We expect some of her friends from her New York theatre days and from her writing group will join us.

This Meeting showed its true colors at the first session of our winter series of Second Sundays on January 4. Thanks to Ernie Foust for encouraging a dialogue that was informal and comfortable. Thanks to the many Friends who came, listened, and spoke. (The next two sessions are outlined in a separate article.)

A couple of us will attend Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel on January 25th. A couple of us will attend a workshop on February 14th in Wellesley, Massachusetts, on a perceived growing divide between Friends who are activists and Friends who are spiritual.

With the Meeting's approval, we will hold our spring silent retreat on Saturday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We want to express our gratitude that so many here believe in the Quaker custom that we are all ministers. The breadth of support for Friends who are sick or shut in has been helpful and heartening.

If You POST, Please MARK

Friends posting messages on the meeting-house bulletin board are asked to mark a date on the item after which it may be removed from the bulletin board. Better yet, if possible, not only mark the item, remove it yourself from the board after its timeliness has expired.

Thanks!



In Memory of Our Dear Departed Friends

Ruth Kaltenbach

Longtime Midcoast Friends will mourn the loss of Ruth Kaltenbach, a member of the meeting for many years. Ruth died peacefully on January 2 after a long illness. During the years when she lived in Cushing, Ruth was active in the Meeting. Friends and family gathered to remember her on January 8 in Massachusetts, where she spent her last years, and on January 10 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where several of her children and their families live. Friends who wish to make memorial contributions may send them to: The Coastal Workshop, PO Box 637, Camden, ME 04843.

Pat Geiringer

Midcoast Meeting was saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Pat Geiringer. Pat was a longtime attender and a supporter of Meeting projects. She had a long and successful career in New York and regional theater and received critical acclaim and numerous awards. After retiring to Newcastle, she became an avid gardener and took pleasure in restoring the 200-year-old farmhouse she and her husband had purchased. Memorial contributions may be made to Miles Memorial Hospital or Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association.

Bronson Clark

We have just learned that Bronson Clark, a member of Midcoast and summer resident of Rockport, died on Saturday, January 24th, in North Carolina after a lengthy illness. Bronson left a successful career in business to serve as Executive Director of the American Friends Service Committee during the Vietnam War and led the committee in carrying out many important peace missions in Vietnam and other trouble spots around the world. Plans for a memorial service were not available at press time.

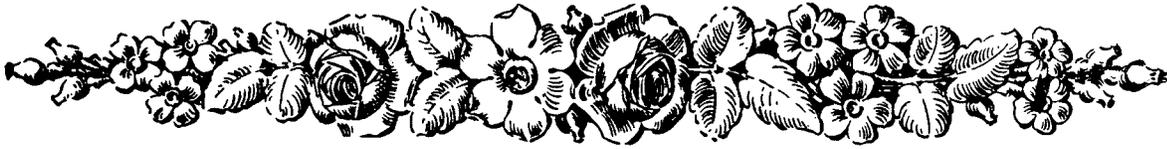
The Lord's Prayer

by Louisa Gray

This version of The Lord's Prayer is another long-time favorite of mine, adapted by Parker J. Palmer. Many of you know his books. He is a writer and lecturer who lives in Madison, Wisconsin, where he has been active in the Friends Meeting for many years when not traveling for speaking engagements and workshops. Parker Palmer and his family lived at Pendle Hill some years ago, during which he was a teacher, dean of studies, and writer-in-residence.

What drew me to this prayer in particular? Once again, I appreciate the addressing of God as "heavenly father, heavenly mother." And I am drawn to the simplicity of this beautiful rendering, especially to Palmer's graceful expression of forgiveness.

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days—
Come swiftly, Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy
Forever your name is All in One.



Midcoast Meeting of Friends
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