

Second Month

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

February 2010



And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)--

However much concerned I was at the problem of misery in the world, I never let myself get lost in broodings over it. I always held firmly to the thought that each one of us can do a little to bring some portion of it to an end.

-- Albert Schweitzer

January

Sunday	January 31	Rise of Meeting After coffee hour	First Day School Committee Window Insulation Workshop [See details Jan. newsletter]
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February

Thursday	February 4	1 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel, Jean Crawford's Home
Fri.-Sat.	Feb. 5-6		*Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Acadia
Sunday	February 7	Rise of Meeting	*Potluck lunch followed by Quaker Quest Gathering led by Leslie Manning of Durham Meeting
Sunday	February 14	Rise of Meeting After Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Priority-Sorting Discussion: Suggestions for FCNL Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee Quakerism Study Group
Sunday	February 21	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Business Meeting
Sunday	February 28	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	<i>Right Relationship</i> Book Discussion

Upcoming

Sun.-Sat.	July 4-10	FGC (Friends General Conference), Bowling Green, Ohio
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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 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 a request to Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com. Thanks!

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

Highlights--Monthly Meeting for Business--January 17, 2010

Holly Baldwin's transfer has been accepted by Fresh Pond Meeting in Massachusetts.

Paul Diamond gave a mid-year **Treasurer's Report**, which indicated that both expenses and contributions are in good order.

Ministry & Counsel has been discussing ways in which to enhance the spiritual health of the Meeting. One major endeavor will be the QUAKER QUEST session to be held after potluck on February 7th.

There will be no arrangement to "call off" meeting for worship on a stormy Sunday; instead the front door key will be accessible for anyone who can make it to the meetinghouse.

Meetinghouse & Grounds has ordered new thermostats for the heating system.

Pastoral Care--Annie Grace and David Cadbury have both had major operations. Viki Diamond will have surgery on Thursday, January 21. Alice Lacy is in a care facility in Boothbay Harbor.

Religious Education--It was agreed to read aloud folktales from *Earth Care* during our potluck meals starting on February 7. It was also approved that children be in meeting for worship on Sundays for the first fifteen minutes but, with rare exceptions, will not re-enter before the rise of meeting.

Gifts & Leadings--Working with the text "Discerning Jobs Essential to the Meeting," the seven points put forward were each discussed. It was agreed to gather twice each year (April and October) to discuss the health of the Meeting with regards to such concerns as outreach, service, and education.

Each monthly meeting for business will **highlight one committee** and its mission for in-depth discussion. Any committee with a pending decision or information to impart will also be on the agenda.

The Meeting Handbook will be revised and re-issued when the committee discussions are completed.

Ministry & Counsel will give greater attention to newcomers and attenders, along with their continuing concern for vocal and silent ministry in the meeting.

The **Peace Center** Board is exploring service projects that might engage the whole Meeting.

A list of "**Resource People**" in the Meeting has already been issued [*Ed. note: see January newsletter*].

New Business

- It was agreed to purchase a new DVD player.
- A solicitation of funds for relief work in Haiti (including the proceeds of the Christmas Bazaar) to be sent to Doctors Without Borders came to a total of \$1,000.
- At the rise of meeting on March 14, Jim Matlack will lead a priority-sorting discussion to arrive at a short list of "Legislative Priorities" to recommend to Friends Committee on National Legislation.

The **next meeting for business will take place Sunday, February 21**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the January 2010 session are available at the Meeting website www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

NEWS--The Hull Family

Gretchen is very busy teaching full time, at the University of Maine in Augusta on Thursdays and in Rockland on Fridays. The Marine Research Station in Cape Breton, which she founded, is in its third year and opened the summer of 2009. The office is open year-round, and Gretchen is president of the board. Margaret is in her second year of medical school at McGill University in Montreal; Catharine is in her second year as an R.N. at a hospital near Kingston, Ontario; and Peter is in his last semester at Wesleyan University, majoring in mathematical economics, and will graduate first in his class. He has a job after graduation with the Federal Reserve Bank in New York City (and also speaks fluent Japanese).

~A Note of Thanks~

December 14, 2009

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful plant! Thank you so very much! I was very touched by the generous gesture for the small chore I do for our neighbor, the meetinghouse. How fortunate I am to be able to know and interact with such wonderful "Friends."

Sincerely,

Jean Harris

THOUGHTS FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Deborah Haviland

In going over old Meeting papers, I came across this game or exercise that a group of members of our Meeting did together many years ago (before my time, and we've lived here 22 years!). It was amazing to read and I think valuable to share with everyone. It is very thoughtful and may lead us to prayerful consideration today.

Game: We're all in a lifeboat, shipwrecked (about to die probably). Each of us is to write in the next five minutes a statement of his own personal belief - one point (at least), the essential. Do not sign it. We will then exchange and discuss.

Written Answers:

1. There is power in love. Our death here together may in itself spark (the) life (of the spirit). This moment, like each we have experienced in our lives, contains potential eternity. As we are aware of it contributing our loving response to it, we contribute to the meaning in the creation.
2. A belief is one thing; and an experience is something else. A belief becomes an intellectual concept that in religious terms becomes theology and dogma. An experience is recognition of the spirit within man – as the feeling for Jesus of Christians and particularly
3. I believe that God is revealed to us through the power of love--that this force of love is the force of Life. It is timeless and eternal. It exists forever.
4. I believe in: Seeing God first in all circumstances. Love thy neighbor as thyself in all circumstances. The redemptive power of the living spirit of Jesus,
5. I believe in another spiritual discussion, which George Fox experienced and which also coincides with everything Jesus taught. There is a supreme Spirit, call it what you will, which is guiding the universe.
6. Faced with Death – I believe I would continue as I have – to feel death is a part of Life – an extension and/or new experience and holds no terror. I could feel this way because of the belief of that of God in every man and so I am a part of the ultimate Pattern whatever that may be. (Is this another interpretation of the Resurrection??)
7. It is man's way to teach. It is God's way to experience. Teachings are merely the substance of other men's thoughts and experience fossilized into beliefs or creeds. They are tradition made law. My only belief is that man can transcend his physical life through his spiritual life.
8. I believe that there is one absolute Truth toward which the human race seems to have been moving, and toward which we must continue to move if we are to survive. The sense of what this Truth is available to everyone if they will listen to it and not to the voice of Death.
9. George Fox said, "Christ has come to teach his people himself." This he knew experimentally– I believe we have to know God thru experience. This, to me, is what Jesus tried to teach his people and this is what I am trying to live. The New Testament is revolutionary and few of us have dared to live by it. The power of the living Christ is all I need. To experience the Spirit of God. All I need is to live with Faith – Faith in constant change, constant growth, which will help me become a Christian.

ADVICES--The Spiritual Life

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.



Alice Lacy would greatly appreciate hearing from Friends. She is in Room 134 at St. Andrews Assisted Living, 145 Emery Ln., Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538. The best time for visits is from mid-morning through lunchtime. Alice has Skype on her computer, which affords another way to "visit," but you'll need to call ahead (ph. 633-1223) to set it up with the staff.

--Carmen Lavertu

Megunticook Worship Group--In addition to 9 a.m. meeting for worship on the second Sunday of each month at Kathie and John Gass's home, the Megunticook Worship Group will now also offer 9 a.m. meeting for worship at Diane and Scott Kirkman's, 17 Grove St., Camden. (Please park behind the house and use the back door on the driveway side.) Beginning the first Sunday of June, meetings for worship will again be every Sunday at 9 at the Children's Chapel in Rockport. For details, please contact Diane at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com or 236-9078 or.

First Day School Committee
meets January 31 at rise of meeting.

Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee
will have a meeting on Sunday, Feb. 14, after coffee hour.

The **Library Committee** is inviting friends to submit titles of books they would like to see added to our Library. Please use the suggestion box in the library area for your submissions.

Sunday, February 7, after potluck, Leslie Manning from Durham Friends Meeting will give a presentation on **Quaker Quest**. It is very important for as many as possible to attend this informational session since we will need to decide if the meeting wants to go forward with the Quaker Quest project.

Community-Supported Food: CSA & CSF (Agriculture and Fisheries) Fairs

Sunday, February 28, 1-4 p.m.

Great Salt Bay School, Business Route One, Damariscotta and First Universalist Church, Broadway St., Rockland
Free admission

Meet local farmers and fishermen who will have information about opportunities to purchase shares for fresh local produce and seafood. Learn about other local enterprises that feature local foods (restaurants, schools, etc.). Taste some foods made from locally available products. Sponsored by Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Assn., Maine Council of Churches, and local groups working on food concerns.

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting

Join us for the Weekend in Acadia!

Saturday, February 6, 9 am – 3:30 pm, Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor.

Ministry & Counsel for All, Friday, Feb. 5, 6 pm potluck, at The Tool Barn, Hulls Cove.

Acadia Friends invites you for the weekend of Feb 5 – 7, 2010.

On Saturday, Acadia is pleased that our long time attender, Seth Singleton, will share with us his insight as a Quaker working all around the globe. His topic, "Quaker Values in a Different World."

Friday night, pizza & potluck at the Tool Barn followed by Ministry and Counsel and an invitation to sleep over in two guests rooms at the Tool Barn, another two overlooking Frenchman's Bay, another two overlooking Somes Sound, and more! Sunday Worship at Neighborhood House begins at 9 am.

Contact Carole Beal to reserve space <carolebeal@gmail.com>, 207-374-5844.

2010-2011 Quarterly Hosts:

May 1, 2010: Cobscook
Nov. 6, 2010 Farmington
Feb 5, 2011 Pondtown/Winthrop
April 30, 2011 All Maine Gathering:
Falmouth Quarter hosts.
Nov. 5, 2011 Midcoast.

Do you have a change in email address or a new member?

Please update the VQM Address List as soon as possible. We hope to make updated copies available soon.

Send changes to:

<vqmmaillist@gmail.com>

Peggy checks it every few weeks and never misses an update.

Many thanks to Peggy Goodenough.

Saturday, Feb. 6, 9am – 3:30pm, Neighborhood House, Northeast Harbor, 276-5039

Directions: When driving onto Mt. Desert Island, bear right on Rt. 3 just beyond the Thompson Island Information Center. Go to Somesville, and just past the "One Stop" Gas is a real stoplight. Turn left at stoplight. Go straight for many miles until you are in Northeast Harbor on Main St. Keep going straight on Main Street until at the end you see the Neighborhood House ahead.

Schedule: 8:30 coffee, 9 am worship, 10 am business, Noon lunch: Please bring fruit and desserts.

1:30 pm Seth Singleton: "Quaker Values in a Different World"

"Seth Singleton holds degrees from Harvard and Yale. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Vietnam and Bolivia, has taught in Tanzania, Russia, Ecuador, and Mongolia, and has been academic dean of universities in the United States and abroad. Among other assignments, he helped Russian colleagues to remake the Higher School of the Communist Party in Leningrad into the Russian government's public administration school (1991-92) and was founding academic head of a new university in Ecuador. He now teaches international relations at the University of Maine at Orono and serves on the Board of Directors of the Camden Conference."

Friday, Feb. 5, 6pm Pizza & Potluck followed by Ministry & Counsel, Everyone Invited, The Tool Barn, Hulls Cove.

Tool Barn: 288-5126,

Judith Bradshaw Brown and husband, Skip Brack, hosts.

Directions: The Hulls Cove Tool Barn can be difficult to find for first time visitors to Mount Desert Island. When driving onto Mt. Desert Island, be sure to bear left on Rt. 3 just beyond the Thompson Island Information Center. Hulls Cove is just prior to the main entrance to Acadia National Park on Route 3, three miles north of (before) Bar Harbor as well as 16 miles south of (beyond) Ellsworth.

As you enter Hulls Cove you will see on your left the ocean and the Chart Room Restaurant. On your right will be the Hulls Cove General Store, Dysart's Station and Post Office. Turn right at the Dysart's sign. After the pumps, the Breakneck Road goes diagonally up a small rise. Look for the large wooden sign for the Tool Barn and Davistown Museum. You will notice the Sculpture Gardens on your left and the red farmhouse on your right at the top of the rise. The Tool Barn is located beside the house. You will be welcomed at the kitchen door of the red farmhouse.

If you pass the turn, just prior to the Acadia National Park Entrance you'll see a small sign directing you back. GPS USERS, PLEASE NOTE: You must enter "Bar Harbor 04609" instead of "Hulls Cove 04644".

Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound...and ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof... —Leviticus 25: 9a, 10a (King James)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. —Luke 4:18-19 (King James)

Dear Friends Everywhere,

New England Yearly Meeting gathered this August in Rhode Island for our 349th Annual Sessions. We pruned our business agenda, allowing more time to pray and listen. We are discovering the spirit of jubilee and the importance of rest to prepare.

Jubilee is a fresh start, the dawn of a new life, blessing and ecstasy, rest in the Creator's beauty and mercy.

Jubilee is justice for the poor and oppressed, liberation for the rich and the oppressors. Jubilee is releasing those burdened by debt, restoring relationships, facing and righting past transgressions, asking forgiveness and forgiving.

Jubilee is letting go of our own willful urgency, trusting in holy love and grace. Jubilee brings healing to the earth, human equality, peace to the nations.

We savored the sweet spirit of confidence and joy in the Light. Our worship with attention to business was deepened by more time to consider weighty issues. Sadly, we acknowledge that some of our actions deeply grieve some Friends. We are charged to seek the Healer's help in the difficult work of restoring relationships. Despite our distress and confusion, the Spirit who is both love and justice will guide us.

Our mutual love is strong and ever stronger. We hunger for deeper engagement and clearer communication among ourselves, with other Quakers, and with all the world. We feel the Living Presence moving among us, teaching and tendering us. We need to surrender to the Eternal Power instead of relying on our own. With humility, forgiveness, and trust we resolve to follow more closely the will of the Friend of all Friends.

With loving Greetings,
— NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS



QUERIES--The 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?

Clerk Deb Haviland submitted the following, which she thought might be helpful to any Friend clerking a committee:

Practical Hints for Clerks (from the Atlanta Friends Meeting newsletter)

The following list was derived from suggestions made at the FGC Ministry and Nurture consultation for yearly meeting clerks in 2005. It is offered here for monthly meetings in the spirit of viewing all clerking as ministry, whether for a monthly or yearly meeting committee:

- Ask one or two Friends to hold the meeting in prayer during meeting for worship to attend to business. If a committee is experiencing difficulty, a committee clerk may also request a prayerful presence during the committee meeting(s).
- If needed, invite Friends to return to Silence to help find the sense of meeting.
- Be aware of teachable moments.
- Have phrases you can use in needed moments - some clerks bring meaningful phrases with them that they can turn to as needed.
- Be aware of where you are on any given concern brought before the meeting and stand aside if you are too involved to be able to clerk a particular piece. (This should not happen too often.) This includes moving physically away from the clerks' table for all discussion of the concern through the minuting of an action. The assistant or recording clerk usually serves as clerk during that time.
- Remember that clerks don't have the answers - our work is to help discern the sense of the meeting.
- Remember that you don't have to call on everyone whose hand is raised. The person called on may have spoken to others' concerns as well. Calling on everyone can serve to encourage Friends to repeat themselves and carry on discussion well after the clerk has come to clarity of the sense of the meeting.
- If many have spoken the clerk may ask a person whose hand is up if this is something new or if he/she is affirming what has already been said. This helps Friends come to understand that they have reached a sense of the meeting and that it is time to form a minute.
- Things the assistant clerk can help with include: helping clerks find clarity; serving as clerk if the clerk needs to stand aside or be absent from a session; honing a difficult minute; helping the clerk keep tabs of physical energy in the meeting...stretch breaks etc.
- When facing a problem of too little time and too many agenda items, the meeting can help make the decision of what to leave out and how best to use their remaining time.

Pray without ceasing - we are servants of God.

American Friends Service Committee in Haiti

The American Friends Service Committee's assessment team in Haiti reports that while the situation is calm, needs are great. Many in Haiti are now homeless, living in temporary camps or sleeping in the streets. In Haiti, AFSC has granted \$50,000 to provide 10,000 meals for 100 days and another \$50,000 to transport medical supplies and provide emergency shelter materials for medical teams. The Service Committee is thankful for the generous contributions from thousands of Friends and others and is in the process of determining a longer-term plan that supports a Haitian-led recovery. For more information, please visit the web site, www.afsc.org/haiti.

Finally, as you know, AFSC Board member Taylor Brelsford's daughter and son were injured during the earthquake in Port-au-Prince. Please join me in holding them, and all in Haiti and in the Haitian diaspora, in the Light.

Sincerely,
Mary Ellen McNish
General Secretary, AFSC

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