

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
Suzy Hallett, 563-6084 &
David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:
Jim Matlack, 236-0903

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February

Saturday	Feb. 2	9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	*VQM, Belfast
Sunday	Feb. 3	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Feb. 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

March

Sunday	March 3	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Tuesdays	in March	mornings	*"Quaker Month" at the Ecumenical Food Pantry
Sunday	March 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Saturday	March 23		*NEYM Mid-Year Gathering Portland Friends Meeting

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

PENDING MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Eighteen Friends gathered for an opening period of silent worship. David Cadbury served as Clerk. The agenda was reviewed and the minutes of the Business Meeting on November 18, 2012 (there was no December meeting) were approved.

Ministry & Counsel--Mallory Waldman reported on queries sent to members of the Meeting who have been infrequent attenders. She also announced that the new **Roster of Committee Members** will be posted to the website and will appear in the newsletter [*ed. note: see roster p. 5*].

Karen Cadbury announced that the **Outreach Group** will meet soon. She also reported that the scheme to lay in supplies to provide refreshments after Sunday worship has been working well. Sign-ups are still needed to assure a person is able to take responsibility for each Sunday.

Letters of appreciation were received from New England Yearly Meeting, Holly Baldwin, and CHIP.

George Chappell spoke briefly about the effort to fund a new building for the Portland **Friends School** in Cumberland. Although the public stage of fund-raising is not yet under way, Friends can seek more information or send early contributions to: Portland Friends School, 1 Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME 04105. [*Ed. note: See item p. 7*]

Pat Spock is preparing a new **Meeting Directory**. Members should check their entry on the large sheets laid out on the credenza each Sunday to provide corrections if necessary.

In light of frequent **unsolicited requests for financial assistance from the Meeting**, questions were raised about how such requests should be handled: Should they at least be acknowledged? What about the competition between giving from the Meeting budget and the donations to worthy causes by individual members? Since Martin Imm was absent, a follow-up discussion was laid over to the next business meeting.

New England Yearly Meeting has received a very large sum from the sale of a building. A discernment process is under way to determine both how to decide to what purposes these funds might be devoted as well as to assess the range of potential recipients with a view to final disposition of the funds. A small group will seek to discern our Meeting's best response to the NEYM query in this matter. The members are David and Karen Cadbury, Suzy Hallett, and Sue Rockwood. [*Ed. note: see item pp.3-4 of the January 2013 newsletter.*]

In light of potential attendance at Sunday meeting by families with small children, volunteers are needed to work out arrangements for suitable "**Sunday School**" or child care to be provided on two Sundays each month.

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will gather on Saturday, February 2, in Belfast. A presentation on Restorative Justice will be on the program. [*Ed. note: see item page 3.*]

The regular **potluck lunch on Sunday, February 3**, will be expanded to serve as a shared meal with as many as 30 visiting Unitarian-Universalists. Please notify Suzy Hallatt or Karen Cadbury if you plan to take part in the meal and can bring an ample dish to share.

New England Yearly Meeting will hold a session in Portland on March 23. Carmen Lavertu provide information about this gathering. [*Ed. note: see page 4 below.*]

Jim Matlack reported on the Annual Meetings of the **Friends Committee on National Legislation** held in November. A larger-than-usual turnout of Friends took part in lobby visits to staff in the offices of House Members and Senators to urge that cuts in the military budget be included in any overall budget/deficit/debt deal to be made in following weeks. Six Friends from Maine engaged in these visits. One of the highlights of the FCNL meetings was the presentation of the Edward Snyder Award to Senator Richard Lugar. Legislative Priorities for the upcoming Congress were also approved. Members of the meeting are asked to join in a discernment process that will result in revision of the foundational FCNL Policy Statement. Jim Matlack will lead a discussion on FCNL Policy Concerns on Sunday, March 10, at the rise of meeting for worship.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. These minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

Vocations—Do you respect the value of all useful work, whether paid or unpaid, whether physical or intellectual, whether performed in the home or in the larger community? Does your daily work use means and serve goals which are consistent with the teachings of Jesus? Are you honest and trustworthy in all business transactions, prompt and just in payment of debts? By counsel and example, do you encourage young people to enter vocations which will serve society?

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, February 2

Program:

- 9:00 - Coffee, teas, muffins and chat
- 9:15 - Start announcing Meeting for worship so it can actually start at 9:30
- 9:30-10:30 - Meeting for Worship
- 10:30 - Break, teas and friendly conversation
- 11:00-12:00 - Meeting for Business
- 12:00 Meeting for Eating, followed by conversations
- 1:00 - ~3-ish - Program- Restorative Justice program in Waldo County
- 3-ish~3:30-ish - Worship sharing, or M for B continued if necessary, or just more chatting if Friends prefer

Belfast Area Friends Meeting is hosting Quarterly Meeting on February 2, at the United Methodist Church, 23 Mill Lane in Belfast.

Directions: Coming from the north on Rt 1, before the bridge into Belfast there is a Shell station/East Side garage. Just before the garage is Mill Lane, a right turn. There is a sign, not a big one. Go up a hill and the church is on the right, less than a quarter mile from Rt 1. It's a big, white church with plenty of parking. Coming from the south on Rt 1, you cross the bridge over the Passy river and immediately see a Big Apple store, then the Shell station/East side garage. Turn left onto Mill Lane, up the hill, church on the right.

We look forward to seeing Friends. Email (jinnar@mainelywired.net) or call me (338-3080) with any questions.

--Jean Goldfine, Recording Clerk, Belfast Area Friends Meeting

NEWS FROM THE FOOD PANTRY



March is Quaker month at the Ecumenical Food Pantry. The food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00 Tuesday. We try and get there a little early to set up and it takes some time after 11:00 to put things away. Wendell Stephenson can answer all of your questions (563-8681 or slstephenson40@gmail.com).

On Tuesday, January 8, the food pantry sponsored a food truck which provided food for over 150 families (over 300 people) who came to the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle. The food pantry would like to sponsor this truck on a bi-monthly basis. To do this, they need help from all who can afford it. If you can, please send donations to: Ecumenical Food Pantry, PO Box 46, Newcastle, ME 04553.

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NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING 2013 Mid-Year Gathering

Saturday, March 23 | Portland (Maine) Friends Meeting

With John Fitzgerald & Simon Lamb, Ireland YM, exploring
the theme arising from the 6th World Conference of Friends:

Let the Living Waters Flow:
Friends Serving God's Purposes



Organized by NEYM Sessions Committee, the NEYM Committee on the Friends World Committee for Consultation, and the FWCC Section of the Americas

-What does it mean to be “living water”?--How do we know our source?--How do we let the “living waters” flow?--
What transformation does the “living water” work - in us, and in the world?-

Taste the living waters flowing between and among Quakerism’s branches at the 2013 NEYM Mid-Year Gathering. John Fitzgerald and Simon Lamb of Richhill Preparative Meeting, [Ireland Yearly Meeting](#), will lead and inspire a conversation on bringing a vital spiritual Quaker ministry into the world. Opening and closing in worship, John and Simon’s program will mix presentations, exploration in small groups, and large group activities. Expect an open and dynamic dialog with these world-traveled Friends who seek the challenge of sharing a concrete, transformative experience of the Inward Christ within a liberal yearly meeting. Lunch, supper, and snacks will be provided. The gathering is part of a global intervisitation program organized around this theme by the [Friends World Committee for Consultation](#).

Registration: Registration for the program is \$40 per person, including all meals (meeting vegan, vegetarian, gluten free and other dietary needs) and materials. [-Register Online Here-](#) Same-day registration will be available as space permits from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. No children’s program or child care is offered. You may also register by calling the NEYM office at 508-754-6760. You may also contact the office with any registration changes.

Overnight Arrangements: Friends from Falmouth Quarterly Meeting will provide overnight hospitality to Friends coming from long distances, and there will be space in the meetinghouse for those willing to sleep on the floor with sleeping bags. If you are requesting overnight hospitality, register by March 17.

Location: [Portland Friends Meeting, 1837 Forest Ave., Portland, Maine](#)

Indicate when registering if you are interested in carpooling.

FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS, VISIT: <http://neym.org/mid-year/>

MEETING DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are starting the process to print a new and updated Meeting directory. To facilitate the gathering of current information, there are sheets on the credenza in the lobby with enlarged copies of the current directory and lots of space to make additions, deletions, corrections. Please take a minute or two to review the information and indicate any changes. Also feel free to suggest the addition of names. If you would like to have a cell phone number added to your data, provide that as well. Please call me (729-0826) if you have any questions. Thank you for your help with this project.

--Pat Spock

MIDCOAST FRIENDS MEETING OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES—2013

Co-Clerks: Suzy Hallett, David Cadbury

Recording Clerk: Jim Matlack

Treasurer: Deb Haviland, Martin Imm (Assistant)

Ministry & Counsel: Mallory Waldman, Brewster Grace Co-clerks, Jean Crawford, George Chappell, Deb Haviland

Representatives to Friends' Committee on ME Public Policy: Jim Matlack, Bruce Rockwood

Ecumenical Food Pantry: Wendell Stevenson

Damariscotta/Newcastle Area Clergy Group: Andy Burt

CHIP: Nancy Booth

Quarterly Meeting: Carmen Lavertu

Library: Deb Haviland, Sally Tukey, Willow Roundtree, Carmen Lavertu, Rachel McGinness

Communications:

Audio Visuals: Guy Marsden

Directory Data Base: Pat Spock

Newsletter Editor: Diane Kirkman

Website: Guy Marsden

Circulation & Mailing: Sally Tukey

E-mail Chain and Newsletter E-mail Announcements: Guy Marsden

Statistical Recorder: Diane Kirkman

Pastoral Care: Carmen Lavertu, Willow Roundtree, Nancy Booth, Jean Crawford, Louisa Gray

Finance: Bill Spock, Martin Imm, Deb Haviland

Peace Center: Karen Cadbury, Jim Matlack co clerks, Sue Rockwood, Carmen Lavertu, George Chappell

Meetinghouse & Grounds: Bill Hallett, Guy Marsden, Anne Spencer, Linda Murray, Patty Seybold

Hospitality: Suzy Hallett, Sue Rockwood, Karen Cadbury, Rachel McGinness, Pat Spock, Louisa Gray

Peace & Social Concerns: Linda Murray, Carmen Lavertu, Gretchen Hull, Anne Spencer, Rachel McGinness, Nancy Booth, Bruce Rockwood, Sally Tukey

CONDOLENCES



We were saddened to learn that Mary Lavendier Myers's husband, Henry, died unexpectedly at their home on Peaks Island on January 1, 2013. He died peacefully in his sleep.

A graduate of MIT and Cal Tech and equipped with a Ph.D. in physics, Henry worked in Washington D.C. at the State Department's Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, writing the Nuclear Test Ban Treaties, during the Kennedy administration, and later with the House Interior Committee on oversight of the NRC. The notice in the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram* said, "Henry was dignified and soft-spoken. Till the end of his life he was a Citizen Watchdog, championing nuclear safety and deeply committed to honesty and transparency in government. He enjoyed sailing and skiing, breakfasts at Becky's and Moody's Diner, and his office on Union Wharf, where he researched and wrote about current events for his Internet publication, *Casco Bay Observer*."

Mary and Henry lived in Waldoboro from 1999 to 2004, and during that time Mary was a regular attender of Midcoast Meeting and a part of our Quaker community. There was a Quaker memorial gathering for Henry on January 5 at the Portland Friends Meetinghouse.

Mary's address is P.O. Box 88, Peaks Island, ME 04108, and her website is www.maineislandartist.com.

Teach Our Kids Peace, or We May Never Recover
by Louise Gray

At least 700 Brunswick Elementary School students attend a new, handsome, superbly equipped facility and campus on McKean Street. It is aptly commemorated to Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote her famous book on the horrors of slavery, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in 1861 while living in Brunswick at a time when her husband taught at Bowdoin College.

Uncle Tom's Cabin quickly became a worldwide success and contributed substantially to the beginning of the Civil War. In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous comment to Harriet Beecher Stowe: “So you're the little lady who started this great war!”

What you may not know is that “this great war” became tragic for her own family—like so many thousands of others—due to the severe injury of her only surviving son, Capt. Frederick Stowe, in the famous Battle of Gettysburg. He never recovered—only one small example of the outcome of more than 23,000 Union soldiers either killed, missing or wounded over those three days at Gettysburg.

The total number of casualties from that battle has been estimated at 51,000 American soldiers and is often described as “the most stunning carnage of the entire Civil War.”

The valiant Mrs. Stowe, while totally broken-hearted as a mother, continued to lobby relentlessly for the emancipation of slaves.

The 150th anniversary of the Civil War will soon draw to a close. It has indeed been awesome and highly educational, marked by a steady stream of extremely well-documented articles in all our country's leading publications.

One would hope his past year's exhaustive documentation of the most deeply tragic period of our history to date has caused a tremendous reawakening of our entire population to the evils of war and our almost continuous participation in “back to back” wars throughout the 150 years since.

Have we become more aware of the actual legacy we have created and are leaving for our cherished young people? What have we been awakening in the millions of students across the country as they move into the future of our nation ahead of them?

Here in our town, it has become one of the most cherished and exciting educational traditions for fifth-grade students over the past 10 years to mount their own re-enactment of the Battle Gettysburg each spring, following intensive study of the Civil War. These students are to be commended for their enthusiastic efforts to re-enact this famous battle.

Additionally, they need to be congratulated for their impressive use of dramatic improvisation—an especially powerful teaching tool—to re-create this particularly shocking and bloody battle. These elementary school students have been using their wonderful imaginative powers to re-create this history. What if they could be encouraged to redirect it to envision their own deep dreams and hopes for their future inheritance as citizens in the United States of America? Would it be one of a peaceable, loving, cooperative and just community reaching out to everyone living on Earth?

We adults all know that a very precarious future lies just ahead for every one of us, and that there are deep divisions within our citizenry continuing to deter our desire to become a stronger, more unified democracy.

Are we willing to admit war is wrong, that it has always been wrong for human beings to kill other human beings, and that our present-day warlike behaviors need to be confronted and healed? Are more of us ready to admit that war as we have known it is now obsolete? How are we going to prepare our children for the future challenges ahead of us as they continue playing war games, and as gun violence in our schools continues to escalate? Can we begin to mount a big educational effort throughout our schools to begin to build a world without war and the further destruction of our beautiful earth? What can we begin to do right here in Brunswick—right here and right now—no matter how small?

Louisa's essay appeared in the December 3, 2012, issue of the Times Record.

A QUOTATION & A RECOMMENDATION FROM CARMEN

"Poetry is something many of us seem to be hungry for these days. We're hungry for fresh ways to tell hard truths and redemptive stories, for language that would elevate and embolden rather than demean and alienate." --Elizabeth Alexander

On Being with Krista Tippett

Carmen Lavertu heard this on NPR on a recent Sunday morning and passed it along to share with Friends. It was part of an interview with Ms. Alexander on *On Being*. A program recently added to the Maine Public Broadcasting schedule, *On Being* (formerly *Speaking of Faith*) describes itself as "a spacious conversation — and an evolving media space — about the big questions at the center of human life. . . what we cover as 'conversation about religion, meaning, ethics, and ideas' drives towards ancient, animating questions at the heart of the great traditions and beyond them: What does it mean to be human? What matters in a life? What matters in a death? How to love? How to be of service to each other and to the world? We explore these questions in all the variety, richness, and complexity with which they find expression in contemporary lives. We pursue wisdom and moral imagination as much as knowledge; we esteem nuance and poetry as much as fact. Our guests as well as our radio listeners, podcasters, and readers span many traditions and the spectrum of devotion and agnosticism. We keep finding new ways to listen to them, and they keep teaching us where to go with this adventure."

You can hear *On Being* on Maine Public Radio Sundays from 6-7 a.m. or at www.onbeing.org, where you can also listen to archived programs and read transcripts and related materials.



Friends School of Portland is an independent preschool through 8th grade school arising from Quaker faith and practice and built upon long-held standards of exceptional Friends schools. Embracing the Quaker belief in the unique worth of each individual, we seek students from diverse ethnic, economic and family backgrounds. In small, multi-age classes, as well as in after-school and summer programs, we nurture children's unfolding development as curious, creative, and compassionate world citizens. We emphasize high standards for independent thinking and personal integrity. We offer a place-based curriculum with cooperative, hands-on learning in a close community where simplicity, service, stewardship, and peaceful resolution of conflict are practiced every day. For almost 400 years, Friends Schools have offered students a blend of loving acceptance and vigorous challenge. We invite you to learn more about us!

Friends School of Portland is a member of the Friends Council on Education and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

For further information, visit: <http://friendsschoolofportland.org>.



Linda Heinl, who worships with the Megunticook Worship Group (Camden/Rockport) during the summer, is a member of a Meeting in Florida. She sent us this picture with a note: "There is another worship group at our Meeting place and today when we left we loved the arrow and message on their sign as it related to our sign."

Let's hope all Quaker Meetings have "Spirit-Filled Worship"!

ADVICES

Vocations—In our relations with others in our daily work, let us manifest the spirit of justice and understanding and thus give a living witness to the Truth. While trying to make provision for ourselves and our families, let us not be anxious, but in quietness of spirit trust in the goodness of God. When we suffer from unemployment, let us seek the support and encouragement of our meetings. When we have a choice of employment, let us think first of the service that we may render. Let us be ready to limit our engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from a business that we may be free for new service as God appoints it.

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