

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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Center:
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February

Sunday	Feb. 1	10:00 a.m.	*First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	Feb. 2	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Saturday	Feb. 7	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting Northeast Harbor, ME (see p. 3 January newsletter)
Friday	Feb. 13	5:30-7:30 p.m.	*“Vittles & Videos”
Sunday	Feb. 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Feb. 16	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Saturday	Feb. 28	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	FCMPP Meeting, Augusta

March

Sunday	March 1	10:00 a.m.	*First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	March 2	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Friday	March 13	5:30-7:30 p.m.	*“Vittles & Videos”
Sunday	March 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	March 16	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

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

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—January 18, 2015

Clerk Jim Matlack called the meeting to order with some twenty Friends present as well as two visitors from New England Yearly Meeting staff—Holly Baldwin (former member at Midcoast) and Shearman Taber.

The meeting began with a period of silent worship. The agenda was reviewed and the minutes of the November 16 Business Meeting were approved. The recent death of longtime attender **Tom Reardon** was noted. A Memorial Minute will be presented at a future meeting.

The clerk welcomed the **visitors from New England Yearly Meeting**. Holly Baldwin spoke briefly about seeking fuller engagement between local meetings and the Yearly Meeting staff and programs. Further discussion with Baldwin and Taber was to take place at the rise of the meeting.

PASTORAL CARE: Carmen Lavertu reported that a Meeting member needs assistance with unusual medical expenses beyond what the committee can provide. Those who wish to contribute should send a check to Treasurer Deb Haviland at 33 Stonewood Rd., Rockland, ME 04841. Be sure to designate on the check made out to “Midcoast Friends Meeting” that it is to be allocated to: “Pastoral Care Financial Assistance.”

MINISTRY & COUNSEL: Sue Rockwood noted the success of the previous **Sunday’s Potluck event with children** and parents in attendance. Friends accepted the presence of small children and their “small noises” in the opening minutes of the worship hour and were pleased at their energetic play after the meal as a sign of potential growth for the meeting.

A report and request then came from **Alex Ulin**—a sophomore at Bates College and Polly Ulin’s granddaughter. Alex has an opportunity to work for five weeks this coming summer with an organization focused on women’s needs in Katmandu, Nepal. She would likely work with a childcare program. To help meet expenses Alex is eligible for a grant from the Pickett Endowment but needs explicit endorsement from a local Friends meeting as part of her application. After her clear and compelling report Alex was warmly supported by the meeting to pursue her plan. A suitable letter will be sent forward by the clerk. Patty Seybold will serve as liaison in this process.

Sue Rockwood then presented preliminary **lists of committee members** based upon voluntary sign-ups as is the current practice. Additional names will likely be added since committees are open to new members at all times. A more complete list of committees and their clerks will be presented for approval at a future Business Meeting. Ministry and Counsel will also prepare a “State of Society” report in time for submission to Yearly Meeting by May 1.

The committee lists led to a discussion about procedures for assigning members to committees and selecting their clerks. Current practice at Midcoast has evolved over recent years as the former Nominating Committee was replaced by a Gifts and Leadings Committee that encouraged a voluntary sign-up process. The voluntary approach was broadly successful—enough so that Gifts & Leadings Committee was laid down last year when committee lists were approved. Brewster Grace offered to research the Minutes of the last few years to document this overall evolution in committee process. Contrary to a suggestion made in the discussion, there are no stated terms in office or on committees. The full slate of officers and committees is approved each year. It is reasonable to expect “rotation” for those serving in the most demanding offices (e.g., clerk) but no multi-year term limit is involved. It is hoped that Meeting members will take part in committees and the overall governance of Midcoast Meeting as they are led. Ministry & Counsel will continue to have general oversight of these matters as they do on all aspects and issues bearing on the wellbeing of the Meeting.

FINANCE: Martin Imm distributed a current Financial Report and explained several items on the chart. Deb Haviland said that she expected to serve one more year as Treasurer. She noted that pledges already made seem likely to cover the current shortfall in the annual budget total for income received. A suggestion was made that the Meeting website have a “DONATE” button to ease the process for those wishing to contribute. It became clear in the discussion that this was not a simple matter to implement. Holly Baldwin said that she has some experience in a similar situation and offered to help. Shearman Taber suggested consulting Fred Martin, who had worked on creating a “Donate” feature for the Yearly Meeting. Finance Committee will gather on Tuesday, January 27. After a separate session Finance will then hold a joint meeting with the Steering Committee of the Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center to clarify budget and other issues.

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MIDCOAST OUTREACH & PEACE CENTER: Sue Rockwood reported on the two committees that share responsibility for the center—Steering Committee and Program Committee. She has had success in getting local people engaged in various ways at the meetinghouse. **Andy Burt's first "Video and Vittles"** event was well attended.

Sue requested a more permanent **sign by the road to signify that MOPC** and its programs are based in the meetinghouse. With some attention to careful design, the Meeting approved having such a sign mounted under the existing sign.

At present Guy Marsden has the **e-mail distribution list for all Meeting members**. It was suggested that Sue Rockwood also have access to this list since Guy was not always available for timely notices. The Meeting agreed to this shared approach. Both Guy and Sue will consult the clerk if any doubts arise about the suitability of sending out a specific item.

Sue also requested that the Meeting arrange to **mow the grounds** twice in the summer now that more activities will be held at the meetinghouse through the summer months. This suggestion was well received but passed on to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for possible implementation.

George Chappell reported that **Portland Friends School** exceeded their December fundraising goal. **Appreciation was expressed to David Cadbury and Suzy Hallett for their service as co-clerks.** The meeting closed with a brief period of silence.

The next meeting for business will be at the rise of meeting on Sunday, February 15. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

Home and Family—Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God become more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life? Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustments? Should conflict or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from our meeting and from the larger community?

GOOD-BYE, FRIEND

We were saddened to learn of the death on January 4 of long-time attender Tom Reardon. As Carmen Lavertu said, "We remember Tom for his gentleness, wisdom, and clear witness of the Inner Light." Tom's wife, Maria, tells us that she considers Midcoast Friends her spiritual home and that she loves us all and holds us in the Light always. Letters of condolence can be sent to Maria at 46 Meadow Brook Road Apartments, North Wales, PA 19454.



DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please note that the e-mail address for Paul and Viki Diamond is pauldiamond2642@comcast.net.

VITTLES & VIDEOS

Please join Andy Burt at the meetinghouse for soup supper, entertaining and compelling environmental videos, and conversation about how we can act locally while learning and thinking globally. The public is invited to attend.

Friday, February 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m., (snow date February 20) we will celebrate, with others around the world, Global Divestment Day of Action. The program will feature compelling videotaped stories and testimony from several Maine activists of all ages engaged in the growing movement of divestment of fossil fuels, as well as inspirational clips from Bill McKibben's film *Do the Math*. In follow-up reflection and discussion over vegetarian soup and bread, participants will be invited to share their own stories of activism. The filmed stories are part of a climate-justice education and action project that Andy is developing with small grants from a Friends' foundation and small Maine trust. Martha Speiss, a videographer who focuses particularly on peace and justice stories, is working with Andy on the project.

Friday, March 13, Jay O'Hara, a Young Adult Friend who was arrested in an act of nonviolent civil disobedience blocking a coal freighter from docking at the Brayton Point Power Plant in Somerset, Massachusetts, has been invited by Friends and 350 Maine to speak in Maine. His appearances, currently being scheduled, tentatively includes speaking on March 13 at Bowdoin College. Vittles & Videos may organize carpooling to attend the event and reschedule that evening's film for another night.

For more information on either program—and to give Andy a headcount for meals, please contact her at 207-380-5387 or annedburt145@gmail.com.



Midcoast Meeting is delighted to cheer on Alex Ulin as she travels to Nepal this April. Alex has been attending Midcoast periodically over the years, at first during visits to her grandma (Polly Ulin of Damariscotta) and more recently since she is now attending Bates College. Alex has been offered an internship at The Women's Foundation in Kathmandu, Nepal, for five weeks starting in mid-April. She will be doing a range of things including farming for the women and children's shelter, childcare, and helping with English-language fundraising material. As Alex contemplates possible career paths of medicine and Women & Gender Studies, she says "I hope the work I do will be valuable to the Women's Foundation, but I also know that, more than anything, it will be an experience of personal growth and discovery. I look forward to exploring a new part of the world, listening to women from an experience different from my own, and

reflecting on where my life may take me."

Midcoast Meeting first got involved in this adventure when Alex approached our Ministry & Counsel Committee as she was applying for a Pickett Endowment Grant (<http://pickettendowment.quaker.org>) to help her fund the travel to Nepal. She had been nominated by Deanna Boyd, her supervisor while she was clerking the FGC high school program in 2013. The Endowment requests that applicants have a meeting's support "for the project in order to provide a base of spiritual support and accountability." As the nearest meeting, and the one she has attended most recently, Midcoast was her choice. Members of Ministry & Counsel were impressed with Alex's plans and asked her to bring her request to Business Meeting. We contemplated the Pickett Endowment's suggestion that we assign a "committee or person to provide support and oversight for the grantee," wondering how best to enhance Alex's experience. We were very excited that Patty Seybold agreed to serve as contact person for Alex. Patty has great experience advising and mentoring (as CEO of Patricia Seybold Group and also as a board member helping young girls from rural villages in western Uganda through work with the URDT Girls School).

As Alex presented her plans to Business Meeting, it was clear that Midcoast will hold Alex in our care and look forward to hearing about her life and work in Nepal. As Alex recently commented, "I really think being under the care of a meeting will enrich my experience so much. I'm excited to share the adventure and the required reflection will definitely add meaning to the trip."

Look for updates in April and afterwards. Travel well, Alex!

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES—2015

OFFICERS

Clerk: Jim Matlack
Recording Clerk: Bruce Rockwood
Treasurer: Deb Haviland
Assistant Treasurer: Martin Imm
Statistical Recorder: Diane Kirkman
Archivist: Pat Spock

REPRESENTATIVES TO:

CHIP: Rachel McGinness
Ecumenical Food Pantry: Wendell Stephenson
Quarterly Meeting: Carmen Lavertu
Maine Counsel of Churches: Andy Burt
NEYM: Finance Committee: Bruce Rockwood,
Martin Imm
Volunteers will be asked when representation is
needed at New England Yearly Meeting for NEYM
M&C, Peace & Social Concerns, China Camp

COMMITTEES

Archives:

Willow Roundtree
Deb Haviland

Communications:

Circulation & Mailing: Sally Tukey
Directory: Pat Spock
E-Mail Chain: Guy Marsden
Mailing Labels: Diane Kirkman
Newsletter: Diane Kirkman
Web Site: Guy Marsden

Finance:

Tom Hagan
Bruce Rockwood
Bill Spock

Hospitality:

Rachel McGinness

Library:

Sally Tukey
Rachel McGinness

Meetinghouse & Grounds:

Steve Gorry
Bill Hallett
Guy Marsden

Ministry & Counsel:

Karen Cadbury
David Cadbury
George Chappell
Brewster Grace
Suzy Hallett
Alianne Rockwood
Sue Rockwood

MOPC Program Committee:

Andy Burt
George Chappell
Brewster Grace
Carmen Lavertu
Jim Matlack
Rachel McGinness
Karen Cadbury on occasion

MOPC Steering Committee:

Karen Cadbury
Brewster Grace
Suzy Hallett
Jim Matlack

Pastoral Care:

George Chappell
Jean Crawford
Deb Haviland
Judith Imm
Carmen Lavertu
Willow Roundtree

February and March Children's Programs

Themed Programs: *A monthly exploration with children for first day followed by a family style potluck lunch!*

February 1: Looking for the Good & Sharing our Gifts--Stewardship Testimony: Children's Activity: **Song:** Love is like a magic penny. **Scavenger Hunt** (for the pieces for our "extra hug" **craft**). Read aloud: **Crow Boy** by Taro Yashima. (Or similar book about individual differences and commonalities). *Testimony of Stewardship: Friends strive to use our gifts wisely, with gifts conceived of in the broadest of terms. To Friends, good stewardship means taking care of what has been given, not just for ourselves, but for the people around us and for future generations as well. Friends strive to use their gifts in accordance with their beliefs.* Luncheon theme: Variety—we'll provide a variety of fruits and fruit dishes to explore!

March 1: Spring Celebrations—Stewardship and Diverse Communities: Introduction: Share about spring holidays around the world (like the Polish *Smigus Dyngus*, or Wet Monday; India's *Holi*; and Russia's Pancake Week). Read aloud: George Shannon's **Seeds**. Activity: **Planting real and imaginary seeds**. Song (if time): **Sing a Rainbow**. *Another phrasing of the Testimony of Stewardship: also called "Care for the Earth," is valuing and respecting all of God's creation, using our fair share of the earth's resources, working for policies that protect the planet.* <http://fmcquaker.org/about-2/testimonies/> Luncheon theme: Eating the different parts of a plant! (Roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds!).

ADVICES

Home & Family—Let your life benefit from the power of friendship and the solace of solitude. Rejoice in the beauty of those friendships which grow in depth, understanding, and mutual respect.

Friends are advised to seek divine guidance when considering marriage and to enter marriage with a commitment to cherish each other for life. In marriage, treasure the joys of intimacy, share the sorrows of losses, and mediate differences with patience. Be ready to seek the counsel of your own parents or of other experienced persons as it is needed. Consider together the responsibilities of parenthood.

Let us trust in the Light and witness to it in our daily living. We and our families are children of God with a rich accessible record of God's dealings with humanity. In dress, in furnishings, in manners, in diet, and in entertainment, let us choose the simple, the wholesome, and the beautiful. Let us be cooperative and creative in family recreation so that it encourages mutual activity and sharing.

Let us dwell with thankfulness on the blessings and happiness that life has brought us. Friends are advised to try throughout life to discern the appropriate moment to relinquish responsibilities to others. Let us face with courage the approach of old age, both for ourselves and for those dear to us, realizing that even as our outward activity lessens, our seasoned thought and prayer may liberate love and power in others.

Friends are advised to make provision for the settlement of their affairs while in health so that others may not be burdened. Such provision may include maintaining an up-to-date will and discussing with family and doctors our wishes in the event of serious illness or death.

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