

Third Month

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

March 2009



Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

-- Romans 12:9-18 (NRSV)

March

| | | | |
|--------|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Sunday | March 1 | Rise of Meeting | A period of reflection and response on NEYM Peace Minute [See February newsletter] followed by Potluck Lunch |
| Sunday | March 8 | 11:30 a.m. | Book Discussion Group |
| Sunday | March 15 | Rise of Meeting | Monthly Meeting for Business |
| Sunday | March 22 | Rise of Meeting noon-1 p.m. | Ice Cream Social, followed by Book Discussion Group *Book Signing, Alice Lacy |

April

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Fri.-Sun. | April 17-19 | | *Called Meeting to discuss NEYM Peace Minute, Portland |
| Sunday | April 19 | Rise of Meeting | Monthly Meeting for Business |

*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–February 15, 2009

The Statistical Report, received from Diane Kirkman, was read. Following recommendations for action by various committees, the report was approved.

Ministry & Counsel has received input for the State of Society Report from only one committee. Other committees are reminded to send in their contributions.

Hospitality – Mallory Waldman asked if members would consider bringing their own dishes, mugs, and silverware to potlucks rather than continuing the practice of washing dishes. Hot water has been running out. It is possible that it would not run out if we left it running but that may not be the solution. Friends are asked to consider options in preparation for the next monthly meeting:

- bring our own dishes, mugs, and flatware
- have the Hospitality Committee provide paper plates
- bring our own plates but have our mugs left in a special mug rack
- continue washing as before

Gifts & Leadings – Please add Katlin and Chris Wagner to the Library Committee and delete Martha Brown from the Hospitality Committee.

Old Business – Jean Crawford has been in touch with Lisa MacKeeman, who is expected to need a kidney transplant soon. Information about this need is being sent to meetings in Vassalboro Quarter and will appear in our newsletter. *[Ed. note: Please see article, page 4.]*

Upcoming Events –

- **The Called Meeting** to discuss the New England Yearly Meeting Peace Minute will be held the weekend of April 17-19 in Portland. More information will be forthcoming.
- Alice Lacy is organizing a **women's group**. *[Ed. note: Please see item below, this page.]*
- There will be a **book signing** at the meetinghouse when **Alice Lacy's book** is published. *[Ed. note: Please see item, page 3.]*
- **Carmen Lavertu will teach a seminar** at Coastal Senior College during the spring term, which begins March 26. The title is "Is There a Good War?" *[Ed. note: Please see article, page 3.]*

The next meeting for business will take place Sunday, March 15, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the February session are available at the Meeting website www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

ADVICES

The Meeting Community--Let us live in love as members of a Christian community. Let us be ready to give and receive help, to rejoice together in the blessings of life and to sympathize with each other in its trials.

Let us maintain unity: let us avoid tale-bearing and detraction, acknowledge differences and seek to settle conflicts promptly in a manner free from resentment and all forms of inward violence; let us visit one another, making sure that those who are alone are drawn into the wider family of Friends. Thus, we may know one another as fellow workers in the things that endure.

SINGLE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Alice Lacy is interested in hearing from women who live alone and might be interested in forming a support group. She believes that such a group could help single women find support and resolve some quality-of-life issues. A professional sociologist, Alice has many years' experience in women's studies and in leading groups. Please contact Alice with any interest at 677-3594 or 104 McFarland Shore Rd., New Harbor, ME 04554.

SUMMER 2009 SERVICE-PROJECT TRIP TO KAKAMEGA, KENYA TO WORK WITH THE USFW FRIENDS ORPHAN PROJECT

Friends of Kakamega, the U.S. partner to the Kakamega Orphan Project run by Kenyan Quaker women (USFW) is announcing a three-week mission trip to Kakamega for summer 2009.

This will be the seventh year that Friends of Kakamega is conducting such a trip, each year with a group of 10 people. The primary focus of the trip is working with the 48 children who live at the Kakamega Friends Orphan Care Center and the 90 children who live in the rural areas and are being sponsored while living at home. It is a trip filled with laughter, music, wonderful new friends, and impressions and experiences that will alter one's perspective on life forever.

CAMP. Each summer, a day camp is held by Friends of Kakamega at the Orphan Care Center to give the children a unique, exciting, and enriching experience that is rare for Kenyan children and unheard of for orphans. Camp activities vary with the skills and inclinations of the people going on the trip who become like camp counselors. But the kinds of activities include things like arts and crafts, journal making, dancing, singing, storytelling, cooperative games, soccer and other active games, woodworking, and computers. The camp experience is incredible for the Kenyan children and unforgettable for the Americans who participate. We are assisted by very capable Kenyan adults who are extremely caring of these children and who enjoy being a part of this exceptional annual event.

LANGUAGE. Most Kenyans speak some English. By the end of 8th grade, school children must be fairly fluent in English to go into high school, so there is no language problem.

ACCOMMODATIONS and SIGHTSEEING. While in Kakamega, "trippers" live at the Care Center and stay in the homes of host families, where they learn a lot about how Kenyans live and find they make very close friends. While in Nairobi, the group stays in a hotel. Although the purpose of the trip is to work with the children and to learn about life in Kenya, we also spend a few days at the Nakuru Game Park and in Nairobi, getting to know its markets and other aspects of Kenya.

DATES and COST. The trip will leave approximately July 28 and will return August 19. The Kenyan part of the trip is \$1000 for nearly three weeks. This includes the van, fuel, our guide and driver, hotel accommodations and all housing in Kakamega. It includes all the meals in Kakamega and breakfasts while traveling and game park fees. It does not include any lunches and dinners while traveling or personal expenses. On top of that is the airfare, which depends on when tickets are paid for. As of February, the fare is about \$2,100. It goes up as time goes on. Other costs are the visa, shots, and malaria pills.

A COMMITMENT to help the orphanage financially is made by each person on the trip. It is expected that each tripper will raise \$500 for the orphanage. This seems daunting to many, but in reality trippers have often found they can raise not only that amount but significantly more.

CONTACT: FRIENDS OF KAKAMEGA if you are interested in the trip. The trip usually fills up by April, so the sooner you express your interest the better. Call Sukie Rice at 207-865-3768 for more information. Or e-mail: sukierice@suscom-maine.net.

QUERIES: Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine life?



Carmen Lavertu advises us that Alice Lacy has edited *The Autobiography of Pacos Tacos*, an interesting and amusing book, with pictures, of the life of a "Spanish noble dog." Alice will sign copies of the book at the Meetinghouse on Sunday, March 22, from noon to 1 p.m.

Midcoast Friend Needs Kidney Transplant

Friends at Midcoast Meeting almost didn't know that a Friend in their area is seriously ill with chronic kidney disease and in need of a kidney donor. Lisa MacKeeman had attended Midcoast's meeting for worship with her husband Sam and son Colin in 2007 and enthusiastically signed up for the newsletter. A year and a half later, we called and learned from Sam that Lisa had been virtually bedridden ever since.

In two years, the efficiency of Lisa's kidneys has decreased from a low 30% to an even lower 20%. Her doctors say it will inevitably decrease to 15%, and then she will require a transplant. Lisa knows she needs to be ready. She also understands it is important to find a donor indirectly; if she were to ask someone outright, it could overwhelm the prospect.

Kidney-transplant surgery has changed greatly in recent years. It is now accomplished with laparoscopy rather than the major surgery of days gone by. The only requirement of the donor is to be a healthy adult who, through a simple blood test, is identified according to six "markers." No member of Lisa's immediate family is available as a donor, but fortunately Lisa is a "universal recipient" who can receive a kidney from a donor having one of a variety of blood types. If necessary, a kidney can be donated in one city and expressed to Lisa's location. There is no cost to the donor, as Lisa's insurance would cover all costs.

Lisa MacKeeman grew up a Quaker in Wilmington, Delaware, where she attended Wilmington Friends School. Nine years ago, she and her family moved to Maine. Their home area was becoming more developed, and they'd fallen in love with Maine's scenery. But Lisa hasn't been able to do much in the outdoors; in fact, she has undergone a number of major surgeries. She has nearly lost her battle for life several times, and sometimes she feels isolated since she is shut in so much of the time and most of her good friends from the days when she was strong and active are in Delaware.

Friends at Midcoast Meeting are hoping they can be a catalyst for bringing Lisa and potential donors together. They want to support a neutral space where a person can investigate possible steps without feeling emotionally involved with Lisa's situation. Midcoast Friends encourage anyone who is led to make an inquiry to please contact Jean Crawford, 207-236-4176 or jeancraw@zwi.net.

PACIFISM SEMINAR LED BY CARMEN LAVERTU



I will be facilitating a pacifism seminar entitled "Is There a Good War?" at Coastal Senior College in the spring term (Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., March 26-April 23). I am interested in gathering together both people who profess pacifism and want to deepen their own faith or belief through study and discussion with other pacifists and those who are attracted to the ideas of pacifism and want to learn more. The meetings will be conducted in seminar form: the focus and topics of discussion will be selected according to the interests, questions, and readings of the participants. A central text, *The Penguin Gandhi Reader*, will be provided free. Participants will be encouraged to read at least one other book as well as to research additional information.

I will make available my own books and other readings, including those I have collected from New England Yearling Meeting workshops on peace and non-violence and the Spiritual Transformation Program, "Faith and Witness."

I invite Friends to join me in this effort. I am currently compiling a bibliography, which I can share with anyone wishing to read in advance of the meetings. Please contact me at clavertu@gmail.com or 354-9556.

To enroll in the Coastal Senior College, visit the website <www.coastalseniorcollege.org> or call 800-286-1594. Membership, open to individuals age 50 and over, is subject to a \$25 annual fee, which allows members to take classes offered by CSC at an additional cost of \$30 per course. The seminar will be held in Room 208 of the Thomaston Library (Academy Building).

Upcoming Fundraisers at Friends School of Portland

- Saturday, March 21 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Therapeutic Massage Fundraiser
- Saturday, April 4 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Auction & Brunch Fundraiser

~INVITATION FROM NEYM TO SPECIAL MID-YEAR SESSION, APRIL 2009~

You are being invited to worship with all New England Friends in the first-ever Mid-Year Sessions of New England Yearly Meeting. We will gather in the Portland, Maine area over the April 17-19 weekend.

Mid-Year Sessions will be convened in response to Minute 52 approved at our 2008 Sessions, which reads in part: We are mindful that Friends testimony on peace calls us to root out the causes of war from our own lives and from the political and social structure about us.

In addition, having heard an expressed sense by many New England Friends that we need to gather in extended prayer with far less official business, we plan to do so -- listening together to find what God calls us to do. We pray that seeking truth out of a spirited silence may empower our actions and witness as a community.

Since we have no historical experience to base judgment on - it is difficult to judge how many people will attend Mid-year Sessions April 17-19th. We need to know within 10 days whether to plan for a gathering of under 220 Friends or to plan for an event that can accommodate up to 500 people.

Therefore: Please help us! Respond soon to Registrar@NEYM.org with how many people in your household are more likely than not to attend. Actual Registration is expected to begin on March 4, 2009. The intention is to have child-care and financial assistance available (via our normal Equalization process) so that those issues will not be barriers. Part-time attendance by some Friends is expected.

Just below this letter is a set of DRAFT queries and a DRAFT Schedule that we hope will be useful in preparing for the Mid-year Sessions.

We hope very much you will attend Mid-Year Sessions April 17th-19th.

Yours in service,
Linda Jenkins, Presiding Clerk

Draft Queries

- Is substantial transformation of ourselves a condition that The Spirit asks?
- Do we believe it is possible for God to lead us to a common understanding of what we should be doing?
- What does it mean ³to root out the causes of war from our own lives and from the political and social structure about us?
- What actually needs to be said and done to effect transformation in the persistent ways of violence and societal mismanagement practiced by humankind?
- What exactly needs to be said and done to effect transformation within ourselves if we have decided that such an outcome is the will of God?

Note: It is expected that various queries when finalized will be inserted into the Schedule as centering possibilities for each Worship Session. Friends are invited to offer comments and suggestions regarding the draft queries.

Draft Schedule

Friday Night: 6:30-7:15 p.m.--Registration
7:30-9:00 p.m.--Opening Worship

Saturday: 9:30-11:15 a.m.--Worship
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.--Small-Group Discussion
2:15 p.m.--Lunch
2:30-5 p.m.--Worship
6-7:30 p.m.--Dinner
8-10 p.m.--Meeting for Business or Open Worship

Sunday: 9-11 a.m.--Closing Worship
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.--Lunch

Friends Camp News--Youth Sessions in 2009



Consider sending your child or grandchild to Friends Camp in South China, Maine. Traditional youth sessions run for two weeks each and are full of all kinds of interesting activities and three outdoor-experience camps, three drama camps, and an aquatic-safety camp for older campers who wish to become lifeguards. Elementary-age youth can attend Friends Camp for one week of the Jones Camp; older youth must come for two weeks or four weeks. Campers develop a strong loyalty to Friends Camp and return summer after summer. In an increasingly hectic world, Friends Camp is one of the few remaining places that allow young people to reconnect with nature and to learn a sense of community through spiritual fellowship. Please visit www.friendscamp.org or call 207-873-3499 for more information.