

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



First Day School at Play

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714 Damariscotta,
ME 04543

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March

Sunday	March 6	Rise of Meeting 2:00 p.m.	Potluck Lunch *Peace Center Speaker: Dick Erstad
Sunday	March 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business *Stone Soup Lunch
Sunday	March 27	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	*Quakerism Study Group

April

Sunday	April 3	Rise of Meeting 2:00 p.m.	Potluck Lunch Peace Center Program
Sunday	April 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

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 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 Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com a request. Thanks!*

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

Minutes (Pending)--Monthly Meeting for Business--February 20, 2011

The Meeting for Business opened with a Moment of Silence. Minutes of the January 16 Meeting for Business, were approved.

Old Business:

Peter Haviland reported that the Clearness Committee set up by Ministry & Counsel had met with **George Chappell** and unanimously recommended his membership. The Business Meeting **unanimously approved his membership.**

Kathy Gass requested ideas be given to students in the **First Day School** for expenditure of the \$163 raised at the Holiday Fair. Kathy also asked if the Meeting would be interested in having an inter-generational "**Stone Soup**" **luncheon** [*ed. note: See item p. 3*]. It was agreed that this would happen before the next Business Meeting March 20. Members will bring items for the soup.

Bill Spock & Deborah Haviland discussed the confusion about **budget line items** that do not reflect Committee budgets. These concerns will be on the agenda for the next Finance Committee meeting.

Carmen Lavertu reported that the first in the series of **upcoming Peace Center presentations** will follow the potluck lunch on the first Sunday in March. She reminded the Meeting that Midcoast Meeting is hosting the **Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting** in November. The topic for the November quarterly meeting will be the African Great Lakes Commission.

New Business:

Carmen Lavertu read highlights from the report from **the most recent Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting**, which included:

- A request from **Debbie Humphries to visit our Meeting in May** as part of her traveling ministry in NEYM.
- A request that **Ministry & Counsel take up the idea of intervisitation** as a way to keep monthly meetings more closely connected.
- A request to **Midcoast Meeting to pledge funds for a new Sybil & Eli Jones Fund** to financially support students in the Ramallah School.
- A reminder that our **Hospitality Committee** will be responsible for providing food during November's Quarterly Meeting,
- A request that **Midcoast Meeting's contribution to VQM should be reduced** to half of recent contributions.

Dates for in-depth committee reports to Monthly Meeting were proposed and discussed. Updates were presented. The **Finance Committee report** was changed to April. There will be no committee report in August. Any other schedule changes should be coordinated with Suzy Hallett.

Outreach, education, and service will be topics discussed when there are no committee reports scheduled.

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

The **next Monthly Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 20**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

These **pending minutes** are also available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

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?

Meetinghouse & Grounds wishes to continue the tradition of communal work on the grounds after potluck social gathering at rise of meeting during warmer months, beginning in May.

--George Waldman

Please remember that the first Sunday of every month is **Potluck**. For the next three potlucks, we are asking people to bring extra food to provide for the guests we hope are coming to the Peace Center presentations immediately following Potluck in March, April, and May. *[Ed. note: See item in below about March 6 Peace Center speaker.]*

News from the Peace Center

Dick Erstad to speak at Peace Center gathering Sunday afternoon, March 6.

Dick Erstad, the Interim Associate General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) will speak on "Cultures and Conflicts: U.S. Relations with Central America." For more than 25 years, Dick was Director of Latin American Programs for the AFSC, responsible for Quaker work in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

In the 1980s and 1990s, when Central America was engulfed in social and political movements for justice and change, civil wars, massacres, and U.S. military intervention, the AFSC was extensively engaged in humanitarian work, peace building, and supporting women's movements in garment factories.

Friends from other meetings in Maine have been invited to join us in worship and in a potluck luncheon. Before the afternoon program begins at 2:00 pm and following lunch, Dick will make some informal remarks on the AFSC.

--Brewster Grace

The Peace Center & FWCC

The Peace Center Steering Committee is proposing an engagement with the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). What is FWCC?

FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. *[Information from FWCC web page <http://www.fwccworld.org>, where you can also see the organization's mission statement and additional details..]*

FWCC is engaging in a "consultation" this year on **Global Change**. This is a process by which meetings can participate with Friends around the world to discern our response to the urgent problems (and opportunities) of global change. The beginning of the process is to form a "cluster group" for sharing our knowledge, concerns, and responses. In our Meeting, we will soon decide a time frame for a series of meetings in worship to gather our thoughts, concerns, and hopes, which will then be reported to FWCC project directors. The process ends with a report to the 2012 World Gathering of Friends to be held in Kenya.

Midcoast Friends who are interested and wish to know more can go directly to www.fwccglobalchange.org then let Carmen Lavertu (354-9556 clavertu@gmail.com) or Brewster Grace (594-8082 bgrace@midcoast.com) know of your interest. We would like to begin in March.

--Carmen Lavertu

Stone Soup

Friends are invited to come a little early to worship on March 20. Bring some veggies to help us create a Friends' feast. This is how it will work: young Friends will be awaiting your arrival ready to help prepare your carrots, celery, greens, onions . . . whatever you have to share. Following the food prep, enjoy worship to the wonderful aromas of simmering soup to be shared by all following meeting. A donation bowl will welcome contributions that will benefit local families.



REMINDER: The next **Quakerism Study Group** will be Sunday, March 27, from 11:30 am-1 pm. We are on chapter 8 in *Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity* by Catherine Whitmire.

For details about the upcoming auction and other events and news from Friends School of Portland, visit:

www.friendsschoolofportland.org



A Message from Friends Camp



Young people from ages 7 to 17 attend Friends Camp in four age-appropriate traditional sessions and several camps with a special focus. Our traditional sessions run for two weeks each and are full of all kinds of interesting activities. In addition, we offer three drama camps, and one week of Family camp. Youth can attend Friends Camp for one, two, four, and in some cases, six weeks. Friends Camp is a small camp with 75 to 95 campers. Our rustic cabins have bunks for between 7 to 10 campers, with one or two counselors sleeping in each cabin. 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 young people can go to reconnect with nature and learn a sense of community through spiritual fellowship. At Friends Camp, we provide a place for children to get away from television and video games, cell phones, e-mail, and instant messaging.

Friends Camp has been a very meaningful and life-changing experience for many young people. They have taken part in this summer adventure and have learned new things, tried new activities, become more thoughtful, and have shared special bonds with some very special friends. Some of our campers come from Quaker families, but most hail from other backgrounds. We welcome youth of all faiths as well as those who identify with no particular faith at all.

For further details, visit: www.friendscamp.org.

Learning about race and white privilege ***March 2011***

From the Working Groups on Racism of Framingham Friends Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting
To comment or report items of interest: contact: music1@charter.net.

At **Boston's Museum of Science: "Race: Are We So Different?"** Exhibit through May 16. The story of race from biological, cultural, and historical viewpoints, the project explains the differences among people and reveals the reality—and the unreality—of race, while encouraging visitors to engage in discussion about how race continues to shape people's lives today. Uses the Museum's excellent multimedia interactive presentations with historical artifacts and compelling photographs. Open Sat.–Thurs from 9 to 5 and Fridays 9 to 9. More info: www.mos.org/race. Bring the family or organize a field trip for your class or FDS (teachers) or F/friends.

Minnesota in April: The White Privilege Conference will be held in Bloomington, near Minneapolis April 14–16, 2011. The conference looks at the flip side of racism: the unearned privilege that comes from being of European descent. People of color also participate as witnesses and allies and to learn to undo their own internalized racism. FGC is forming a group to take advantage of lower registration rates—and, importantly, to be a Quaker presence at one of the best-attended conferences of the year (nearly 1,000 people, including at least 100 young people with special programs). See <http://www.fgcquaker.org/cmr/2011-white-privilege-conference> for information on the conference and to register at a lower rate, if you decide to attend.

Friends close enough to Worcester (maybe closer than you think!) can **celebrate Women's History Month** with a special March 27th event with many women/poets familiar to Friends: **"VISIONARY WOMEN:"** The Master Singers of Worcester and the Worcester Women's History Project celebrate the remarkable achievements of New England Women with a concert in Tuckerman Hall, Tuckerman and Salisbury Streets. Settings of Massachusetts poets, including Emily Dickinson, Mary Oliver and Worcester-born Elizabeth Bishop, will be featured in choral compositions by contemporary composers. Three outstanding women of the Women's Rights Movement with strong ties to Worcester—Clara Barton, (Quaker) **Abby Kelley Foster**, and Lucy Stone—are celebrated in another new collaborative work. Special guest performers include renowned mezzo-soprano D'Anna Fortunato and a string quartet.

The concert is at 4 p.m. Arrive early for a pre-concert 3 p.m. lecture by the Worcester County Poetry Association on New England's famous female poets and their place in the history of American poetry.

A bonus: Tuckerman Hall is "an architectural gem" designed in 1902 by one of the first women architects and recently restored to its original "breathtaking" beauty.

Order tickets at <http://www.mswma.org/tickets> or send check or money order to arrive 10 days prior to the concert date to The Master Singers of Worcester, Inc.; P.O. Box 7203; Worcester, MA 01605 (\$25 or \$20 for seniors/students. Or call 508-842-1349.



UPDATE: Megunticook Worship Group (Camden/Rockport)

Beginning March 6, the Megunticook Worship Group will meet for worship at Meetingbrook Hermitage every Sunday through May, from 9-10 a.m. (Beginning the first Sunday of June, they will resume meeting at the Children's Chapel in Rockport). Worship will take place in Meetingbrook's Thomas Merton building--light filled, woody, and heated.

Meetingbrook Hermitage is located at 64 Barnstown Road in Camden, next to the Snow Bowl.

For details, visit <http://meetingbrookhermitageupdate.blogspot.com/> or contact Diane Kirkman at 236-9078 or diane_kirkman@hotmail.com

ADVICES

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.

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