

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEET- ING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714 Damariscotta,
ME 04543

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March

Sunday	March 4	Rise of Meeting	Priority-Sorting Session—Issues for FCNL, followed by Potluck Lunch
Sunday	March 11	Rise of Meeting	*Simplicity Testimony Group
Sunday	March 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	March 19	4 p.m.	*Peace Center Steering Committee
Thurs.	March 22	6-8:15 p.m.	*Screening of <i>Inside Job</i> , sponsored by CONA & Peace Center
Sunday	March 25	Rise of Meeting	*Quaker Methods of Resolving Differing Viewpoints
Thurs.	March 29	6 p.m.	*Citizen Seminar: Follow-up on <i>Inside Job</i>
Saturday	March 31	8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.	*NEYM Mid-Year Gathering, Wellesley, MA

April

Sunday	April 1	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Thurs.	April 5	6 p.m.	* Citizen Seminar: Follow-up on <i>Inside Job</i>
Sunday	April 8	Rise of Meeting	*Simplicity Testimony Group
Sunday	April 15	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 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 (Draft)--Monthly Meeting for Business--February 19, 2011

Co-clerk David Cadbury opened the session with moments of silence. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Communications were announced.

Library Committee – Deb Haviland reported; the committee recommends we discontinue our subscription to *Friends Journal* for budgetary reasons. After discussion, the Meeting asked the committee to increase its annual budget request to cover the cost of the *Friends Journal* subscription. There is some space for back issues in the bookshelves in the all-purpose room. There is a backlog of Newsletters in the wall rack between the restrooms.

Finance Committee – Bill Spock asked committees to submit their budget requests soon as preparation of the annual budget has begun. Discussion of the question of establishing an endowment fund will take place in April or May. Also to be discussed: do we do enough to encourage bequests?

Gifts & Leadings – The 2011 Committee submitted a written report on difficulties it encountered last year. The report requests a process for “exploration in an open and deliberate manner the concerns ... especially the need for a commonly understood manner of dealing with conflict as a loving community of Friends.” Mallory Waldman asked for a meeting of all interested individuals on March 25 to discuss Quaker methods for resolving differing viewpoints [*ed. note: see notice below*]. Other concerns include: The proper relationship and functioning of committees; The absence of volunteers for the 2012 Gifts & Leadings Committee; Whether the Meeting wants to advise the committee on how best to communicate with member/attenders; Whether the name Gifts & Leadings Committee should be changed to Nominating Committee?

Coastal Kids Preschool – George Waldman reported all issues have been resolved. The Meeting will send a letter to the editor expressing appreciation for the preschool’s presence in our meetinghouse.

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting – Carmen Lavertu reported on the recent quarterly meeting at Acadia Monthly Meeting, Bar Harbor. At Acadia there is continued involvement with the Kakamega Orphan Project in Kenya and participation by students from College of the Atlantic. [*Ed. note: see article p. 3 on VQM & Occupy Movement.*]

The **next monthly meeting** will be held on Sunday, March 18, 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.

RESOLVING DIFFERENCES

The Ministry & Counsel Committee will host a discussion of Quaker Methods of Resolving Differing Viewpoints on March 25 at the rise of Meeting. Please bring your copy of *Faith & Practice*.

QUERIES

Peace & Reconciliation— Do you "live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you faithfully maintain Friends' testimony against military preparations and all participation in war, as inconsistent with the teachings and spirit of Christ? Do you strive to increase understanding and use of nonviolent methods of resolving conflicts? Do you take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? When discouraged, do you remember that Jesus said, "Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such the world cannot give"? Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears"? John 14:27 NEB

VQM and Occupy Mount Desert Island--by Carmen Lavertu with Steve Perrin

At the last Quarterly Meeting, the discussion about “the missing young adult Friends, the 20s and 30s” continued. The first time we had considered this topic, it was suggested that these young people might be at the Occupy encampments. The second discussion at Acadia Meeting was a fortuitous place to consider this question because since September, members of Acadia have joined an OCCUPY group started by students from the College of the Atlantic. Here is what happened.

In 2011, some students from the College of the Atlantic attended Acadia's meeting for worship. Several of the students had been to Zucotti Park. Returning very enthusiastic about what they experienced there, they attended Peace and Social Concerns to share their personal experiences. The students proposed an initial meeting of Occupy MDI for October 15 on the Village Green in Bar Harbor. Six or seven Acadia Friends attended, and five of them have attended every meeting of the Occupy MDI General Assembly ever since.

In January they felt strong enough to begin outreach. They planned a community affair, a “Free Speech Event” to which they invited other students and neighbors, offering a program “to solve problems in new ways.” There was music and food and arts projects following a meeting of the General Assembly, which the public was invited to attend. One of the activities was a creative exercise to “Imagine Mount Desert Island in 50 years.” In the end, participants produced a large banner with 47 “dreams” suggesting ways to develop community life on Mount Desert Island.

Friends involved from the outset began to make analogies between OCCUPY and the origins of the Quaker movement. Both movements sprang up in revolutionary times, in a “world turned upside down,” a time when institutions were failing, socially, culturally, intellectually. Here is where all Friends will learn from the response and contribution made by our Friends in Acadia (especially Ed Snyder, Steve Perrin, Jan Church, and Carole Beal). The following is what Steve Perrin has written for us:

Regarding connecting with young people, the main thing I have learned is that many of the students at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor have concerns that closely parallel those expressed in our monthly meeting of Acadia Friends' Peace and Social Justice Committee. Five members of our meeting regularly attend the Occupy MDI General Assembly meeting for two hours starting at noon on Saturday, not to direct the discussion to our interests, but to participate as equals. The Internet demonstrates that young people around the globe are striving to achieve lives of dignity, integrity, and mutual respect. Friends speak their language, wherever they are found.

The big learning for me is that my best approach is to listen to the voices of the young, not impose my sense of order on them. In general I would say that Friends will attract young people more by listening to them than indoctrinating them in Quaker history. The history will flow naturally by providing examples from the past, but the young are focused on the world as it is in their lifetime, not distant days in northern England.

I find it buoying to discover vital kinship with twenty-year-olds. It makes me feel less crazy than I sometimes do when I see my little world crumbling away before forces I don't understand. I still spend my days doing the best I can with the skills I have learned over a lifetime, but now I make a special place for those with similar sensibilities who are motivated by their personal life situations. It doesn't require an English Revolution to engender a Friendly perspective. What the monarchy, nobility, church, and local sheriff did in the 1640s and '50s to generate a strong reaction among all the sects that arose at that time, the financial services industry--together with callous self-serving corporations, ossified political parties, and elected officials whose main interest is getting (re)elected rather than governing the nation--is doing for young people today.

I suspect Quakers will have to adopt a more forward-looking perspective to make an effective appeal to the young. It's not so much that they will seek to join us as that we will find ways to open our doors to them. As equals, albeit with different backgrounds and experience, we are much alike. If we insist on framing our interests in terms of events that took place 360 years ago, I doubt we will have much appeal. Certainly the ongoing nature of Friends' concerns as exemplified by the Friends Committee on National Legislation provides common ground between our dwindling numbers and those of growing youth. At least that is what we in Acadia Friends have discovered in the youthful cohort we join every Saturday at noon in our leaderless and creed-less meetings together.

And now, Midcoast Friends, let us go out and find young friends in our communities, and let us listen to their views of the world, what concerns them, and what new ideas excite them at this moment in time.

As we search for what it is we are to say or do in any particular situation, let us above all else be aware that the creative Word resides within us. We are to speak it out of our very being, at levels deeper than what can be outwardly heard. We can be bearers of it in the places we love by simply choosing to be there. Whether in silence, or in times of audibly speaking and acting for justice, the passion of God can be uttered in our lives.

—J. Philip Newell, *Promptings from Paradise*,
(NY: Paulist Press, 2000), p. 52.

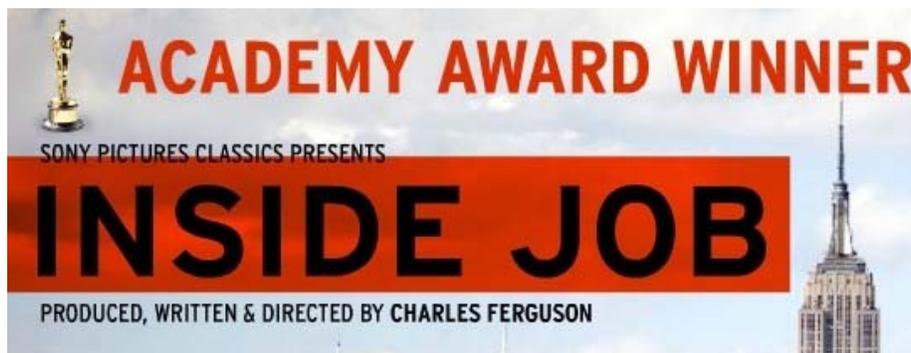
The Simplicity Testimony

George Chappell will lead a monthly discussion group on Friends, simplicity, and money starting the second Sunday in March at the rise of meeting. Materials will be provided.

If anyone has a copy of the July 2006 issue of *Friends Journal*, devoted to Quakers and money, George would like to borrow it for the group's use. (The library copy is missing.) You can reach George at gchap@gwi.net.

News from the Peace Center

Please mark your calendars: The **Peace Center Steering Committee** will meet on Monday, March 19, at 4 p.m. at the meetinghouse. We encourage all Friends to consider joining us as we consider some exciting programs for ourselves and outreach to our communities. Contact the committee co-clerks with ideas and concerns: Karen Cadbury (kcadbury@roadrunner.com) or Brewster Grace (bgrace@midcoast.com).



The Peace Center and CONA are co-sponsoring showing the documentary film Inside Job at the meetinghouse on Thursday, March 22, from 6-8:15 p.m.

Inside Job covers the Wall Street bank crisis of 2008 and the ongoing social and political hardships that have ensued. The events of 2008 are dramatically covered, and the causes and responses are interpreted in bold and interesting interviews by major players and analysts.

The film is long, and we have reserved the meetinghouse to allow time for discussion (with refreshments) and to present plans for follow-up meetings.

The follow up meetings will use a seminar approach to allow full participation, using study material just released by the filmmakers as well as the research of the seminar leaders: Dick Chutter (CONA) and Carmen Lavertu (Midcoast Meeting). For more information, contact Carmen at 354-9556 or clavertu@gmail.com.



REMINDER:

2012 Mid-Year Gathering: INTEGRITY IN A TIME OF CHANGE
Saturday, March 31, 8:30am–8pm
held at St Andrews Episcopal Church, Wellesley, MA

For more information, visit: <http://neym.org/mid-year> or
call Jeff Hipp at the NEYM Office, 508-754-6760



Friends Camp is now a Tree Farm!

This announcement from Friends Camp: Over the last three years, Friends Camp has been working toward becoming a certified Tree Farm. In 2009, we worked with our forester to develop a Forest Management Plan for the fifty acres of wooded land that is on the east end of our property in South China, Maine. Our written management plan has a resource inventory with maps and notes on the streams, swamps and vernal pools. The management plan reports on wildlife habitat, soil conditions, recreational needs and special vegetation concerns. The timber inventory records the various tree species: their size, condition and quantity in our forest. For each of the tree species' zones, our forester has made recommendations as to the best forest practices.

You can see all the latest news about Friends Camp at <http://friendscamp.org>.

ADVICES

Peace & Reconciliation—Every human being is a child of God with a measure of God's Light. War and other instruments of violence and oppression ignore this reality and violate our relation with God. Let us keep primary, therefore, Friends' concern for removing the causes of war. Let us seek, through God's power and grace, to overcome in our own hearts the emotions that lie at the root of violence. At every opportunity, let us be peacemakers in our homes, in our communities, and in our places of work. Let us take care that we who declare against war do not nourish the seeds of war in our possessions. Friends are urged to support those who witness to their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace, who choose not to participate in war as soldiers nor to contribute to its preparations with their taxes. Let us support in all possible ways the development of international order, justice, and understanding.

Finally, dear Friends, let us follow steadfastly after all that is pure and lovely and of good report. Let us be prayerful, be watchful, be humble. Let not failure discourage us. Let our whole conduct and conversation be worthy of disciples of Christ.

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