

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
James Matlack, 236-0903

Recording Clerk:
Bruce Rockwood, 350-2256

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Edit/design:
Diane Kirkman, 236-9078,
diane_kirkman@hotmail.com,
17 Grove St.
Camden, ME 04843

Address changes:
Pat Spock, 373-0898,
patriciaspock@gmail.com,
8 Franklin Ln
Topsham, ME 04086

Web:
Guy Marsden, 443-8942,
guy@arttec.net,
61 Delano Rd.
Woolwich, ME 04579

Midcoast Outreach & Peace Center:
Sue Rockwood, 350-2256,
midcoastcenter@gmail.com

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		*“Vittles & Videos”
Saturday	March 14	9 a.m.-3 p.m.	*Extended Worship, Winthrop
Sunday	March 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	March 16	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Saturday	March 21	1:30 p.m.	*Exploratory Meeting re: Warren Prison Ministry

April

Sunday	April 5	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	April 6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	April 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	April 20	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—February 15, 2015

The meeting for business was canceled due to an anticipated severe winter storm. The next meeting for business will be at the rise of meeting on Sunday, March 15. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

Care of Children—Do children receive the loving care of your meeting? Does the meeting nurture their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Are you an example to your children in your faithfulness to the ideals you profess? Do you promote your children's moral and spiritual development by loving oversight of their education, recreation, and social activities? Do you listen to children, recognizing that the Spirit may lead them along paths you have not foreseen? Do you assist them to assume their rightful responsibilities in the home, the meeting, and the community?



Don't forget the **SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND** set up at the January meeting to assist Members with extraordinary emergency medical expenses. If you wish to help Friends in this way, please send your checks, payable to

“Midcoast Monthly Meeting/Financial Assistance Fund,” to Deborah Haviland, Treasurer, 33 Stonewood Rd, Rockland, ME 04841.

Winthrop Center Friends in Winthrop Center, Maine, is hosting the **SECOND ANNUAL MAINE-BASED OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENDED WORSHIP** on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This will be an opportunity for an extended time of worship in the manner of Friends; no program is planned. Morning snacks and beverages will be provided, and lunch will be a potluck. There is no registration fee, and there will be no child care. However, overnight hospitality is available. Please contact Ann Dodd-Collins for hospitality, if you have questions, or to register. We are asking that people register, as space is limited. Contact Ann at doddco@gmail.com, or call and leave a message at 207-832-6103. (If you e-mail please put “Extended Worship” in the subject line and send your name, your monthly meeting, what you will bring for the potluck, your phone number, and your email address.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Quaker Prison Ministry—Meeting to discuss discuss the possibility of a meeting for worship in at the prison in Warren, how to implement it, and what would be involved. All Friends/friends are invited to participate. Saturday, March 21, 1:30 at the meetinghouse. FMI call Deborah Haviland (593-7823).

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting—The next meeting will be May 2, 2015, at All Maine Gathering, S. China Community Church, Falmouth Quarter, as hosts with Dorothy Grannell, Clerk. The program will be “Conflict Transformation,” a workshop with presenters Heather Cook and Peter Phillips of NYYM. They say, “Many monthly meetings are troubled by tensions among members. These may be experienced as ‘problems with difficult Friends,’ a newcomer inattentive to the meeting’s traditions, a personal animosity that spills over into Quaker worship, or a Friend who is led to offer ministry in ways the meeting perceives as outside our traditions. Frequently meetings feel that ‘if only that Friend would stop, things would be better and we could go back to the way we were.’ This one-day workshop will explore these commonly arising incidents and share insights into how they can be acknowledged, how they can be addressed, and how the meeting can use conflict as an opportunity for advancement and transformation.” The workshop will fill the day, with no time for Meeting for Business. A Ministry & Counsel Meeting may be scheduled the night before. FMI contact Carmen Lavertu, clavertu@gmail.com.

Vittles & Videos March 13 Special Event

Vittles & Videos will be taking to the road on Friday, March 13, with carpools to hear Friend Jay O'Hara speak at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick at 7p.m. Jay was one of two participants in the Lobsterboat Blockade of a coal freighter at Brayton Point power station in Massachusetts. He was arrested and was tried in a highly publicized trial where he convinced the prosecuting attorney of the sincerity of his convictions and the rightness of his actions. His story is powerful and inspirational to all ages.

Carpools will leave from the meetinghouse at 5:45. Andy Burt is arranging logistics. For Friends south of Damariscotta, we will arrange pick-up points along the way. Contact Andy if you are interested in going (annedburt145@gmail.com or 380-5387). Some Friends have suggested we might go for coffee, dessert, and discussion at a Brunswick restaurant after Jay's presentation, depending on the hour and people's wishes. We will discuss future film/speaker and supper programs as part of Vittles and Videos beyond March 13 through email exchange.



One snowflake falls
feather-like
into my palm,
an ethereal
and transient prayer
from the heavens.

—Kathie Gass

* * * * *

Friends New Underground Railroad

There is a grave crisis in UGANDA for the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender) community. Friends have learned that as a result of the 2014 Anti-Homosexuality Act passed by the government, many individuals have been kicked out of their homes, universities, schools, and jobs. They have been denied shelter and healthcare, beaten, imprisoned, and even killed. Members of their families and community allies are also being threatened. The call for resistance from Ugandans is to provide immediate assistance to threatened individuals to flee their homeland and to seek refuge in safe countries. Friends are responding in support of the "New Underground Railroad." In North America, Olympia Friends Monthly Meeting (Washington) has initiated and are providing an assistance process for this urgent effort. At the fall gathering of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, a committee of concern came together under the leadership of Diane Dicranian (Farmington Meeting) to present the information and the call from Olympia Meeting.

After due consideration, VQM issued a Minute for distribution to Monthly Meetings:

We ask that Vassalboro Friends, both individually and through their monthly meetings, learn more about the Uganda situation by visiting the Olympia Meeting's site <http://friendsnewundergroundrailroad.org>, which contains background information and reports on current activities. We also ask that individuals and monthly meetings prayerfully consider if they are led to financially support the work of the Olympia Monthly Meeting and the FNUR. The committee of concern reported at the VQM meetings in December and February. The Monthly Meetings at Eggemoggin Reach, Winthrop Friends Church, and Vassalboro shared their Minutes of support.

The following minute by the Meeting for business at Acadia Meeting on February 7 is:

Friends affirmed their support and encouragement for Diane Dicranian to carry this message to VQM monthly meetings. and note that she is available to speak with individuals and meetings on this topic.

As representative to VQM from our Meeting, I recommend that this matter be placed on the agenda for the monthly meeting for business on March 15. I recommend that Friends be informed of this concern, to be willing to invite Diane Dicranian to meet with us, and to urgently take under consideration the support by our Meeting to this grave humanitarian crisis.

—Carmen Lavertu (clavertu@gmail.com, 354-9556

ADVICES

Care of Children—Care of the children of the meeting should be the responsibility of every Friend. Let us share with our children a sense of adventure, of wonder, and of trust and let them know that, in facing the mysteries of life, they are surrounded by love. Both parents and meetings need to guard against letting other commitments deprive children of the time and attention they need.

Friends are advised to seek for children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education. All Friends are cautioned against harshness of tone or manner when offering counsel or reproof. To the child, even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of repentance or growth, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended. Let us nurture a spirit of common concern, thereby giving children a sense of belonging to a larger community.

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