

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



My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

-- Isaiah 55:8 (NRSV)

If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshiped.

-- Evelyn Underhill

March

Saturday	March 29	6 p.m.	"Semi-Potluck" & Visit with Sylvia Graves of FUM, Vassalboro MM Meetinghouse, East Vassalboro
Sunday	March 30	Rise of Meeting	*Threshing Session to sort priorities for FCNL (before refreshments)

April

Sunday	April 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	April 13	11:30 a.m.	Peace Center Steering Committee Meeting
Saturday	April 19	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	*VQM Workshop: "Ministry of the Meeting in a Broken World," Winthrop Center Friends Church
Sunday	April 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business.
Sunday	April 27	Rise of Meeting	* Second Hour Talk: Quaker Work at the U.N.

*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--Meeting for Business

Third Month 16, 2008

The first half-hour of the meeting was devoted to worship-sharing on the state of the meeting in 2007.

Correspondence--a letter from Thomas Steele-Maley requesting membership in the Meeting was welcomed and referred to Ministry & Counsel.

Statistical Report--a revised report was **approved** by the Meeting. Total membership has increased from 49 to 51.

Schedule of Events--A threshing session to sort priorities for FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) will be held March 30. The youth group from the Unitarian Universalist church in Rockland will worship with us April 6 and, hopefully, stay for potluck lunch [*Ed. note: UU youth group visit has been cancelled.*].

Finance Committee--Friends are urged to study a new report, "Financial Policy and Procedure," in preparation for discussion and possible approval at the next Meeting for Business. The report states, in part: "Midcoast Monthly Meeting is experiencing declining annual revenues but increasing costs. On the other hand, the generosity of some departed Friends towards the Meeting has provided us with reserve funds amounting to about six years' worth of expenditures, at current levels." Among other things, the report proposes that the Meeting not dip into reserves for five years in order to reestablish equilibrium. It proposes that a portion of the reserves be made permanent.

Treasurer's Report--The treasurer reported that contribution income this year will be 10-15% below budget. It is hoped that committee clerks will submit preliminary budget requests before the April business meeting.

Meetinghouse & Grounds--**Approved:** The Meeting approves Meetinghouse & Grounds proposals for solar panels, change of hot water heating, and hot and cold temperature security monitoring. The total costs of the three proposals should not exceed \$6,900, of which half the cost of the solar panels (\$2,325) should be financed through special project fundraising, with the remaining amount being financed through funds already available for Meetinghouse & Grounds (\$1,283) and through existing reserve funds, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Ministry & Counsel--The committee is processing two applications for membership and beginning to meet with applicants. It is seeking assistance from outside the committee for memorial minutes for Lee Coolidge and Sally Wood. It is working with the Peace Center Steering Committee to develop guidelines for the Center. It will draft a state of the meeting report. Committee clerks will please note: the Meeting requests that in the near future each committee write up its accomplishments and struggles in 2007 for Ministry & Counsel to use in drafting the state of the meeting report.

Peace & Social Concerns--The next presentation at the meetinghouse with the Human Rights Team of Lincoln Academy will be the film *The Corporation* in April. Thomas Steele-Maley has been warmly received as a member of the committee.

Religious Education--Sally Tukey reported good news: Rachel McGinness will cover the fourth week of each month, and children/young people have been attending First Day School virtually every week.

Peace Center--Brewster Grace reported that the Center is hosting its very first event, the Iraq War Vigil, on March 19. Sub-groups on militarism and on environment/alternate energy are hard at work. The Meeting **approved** a letter from the Peace Center soliciting financial contributions toward the solar project for the meetinghouse. Other goals of the committee include a mission statement and appropriate governance. Friends are reminded that the Steering Committee remains open.

Unfinished Business--The Meeting discussed how best to handle 1) letters to the editor from a committee and 2) meetings open to the public that are sponsored by a committee of Meeting or co-sponsored with another organization. Do the above need first to be approved by the Meeting for Business? The Meeting decided that approval by Monthly Meeting is desirable whenever possible but that we do not want to restrain a committee.

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

NOTE--The entire minutes may be found on the Meeting's website www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

ADVICES--Home and Family: Let your lives 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 the differences with patience. Be ready to seek the counsel of your own parents or 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

Notes from the Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee

As spring approaches, the Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee is looking for help, ideas, and advice. We hope to have a number of Sunday Work Hours this spring and summer, but before we start, we would love to hear your ideas on plantings and ground cover that could make our grounds more beautiful and attractive. Alas, we don't have a huge budget, and whatever we plant should not require extensive care and maintenance. But we would treasure your ideas--and even more so, your participation in that part of the work of the Committee that concentrates on the grounds. Any member of the Committee--Andy Burt, Paul Diamond, Dick Harris, Pete Haviland, Anne Spencer, and George and Mallory Waldman--would love to chat with you and hear your ideas.

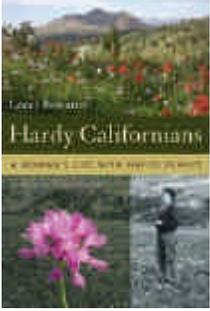
A number of projects relating to the meetinghouse are coming to fruition, including a new way of heating hot water, a new system for monitoring temperature extremes, and, once the Peace Center's appeal for funds bears fruit, the introduction of solar power. The committee is considering new projects relating to the meetinghouse, and would be delighted to hear your ideas. Some thoughts already under consideration relate to making the social room more attractive for children, making better use of storage areas, upgrading bathrooms, and protecting our audio/visual equipment.



Note from the Treasurer

A new fiscal year will begin on June 1. Our budget for the new year will need to be approved by Monthly Meeting in May. Committees are invited to consider their programs for the coming year and to submit proposals for spending to the Treasurer, Paul Diamond, before the end of April. Sadly, contributions to the Meeting have been in decline in recent years, which implies that, unless conditions change, next year's budget may need to be a little tighter than this year's.

LIBRARY NEWS--April 2008



The library has received a gift from Rowan Rowntree of a book written by his grandmother, Lester Rowntree. The book, *Hardy Californians: A Woman's Life with Native Plants*, was first published in 1936 and has come out in a new expanded edition in 2006. To quote one reviewer, "Lester Rowntree (1879-1979), free-spirited adventurer and pioneering botanist, was fifty-two when she traded a comfortable home for the life of a peripatetic traveler in the California mountains and forests." The book is fascinating to read thoroughly or to browse through. Take it home and enjoy learning more about this amazing woman.

Please let Theta Torbert or Deborah Haviland know of any specific titles you would like us to consider for purchase. You can also put your suggestions in the box on the piano.

PEACE CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Dear Friends,

Midcoast Meeting of Friends has an opportunity this spring to make visible our Testimonies on Peace and Simplicity through a renewable energy project proposed for the meetinghouse. The project has inspired enthusiasm among Friends in Meeting for Business and on the Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee. Some Friends in our Meeting have already committed funding toward the project. Meeting for Business in March approved going forward with the project, contingent on raising funds from members and attenders. **We hope that you will want to contribute at whatever level you can. (Please see the draft project outline and budget beginning on the next page of the newsletter.)**

We are proposing to purchase and install by early June a small photovoltaic (solar) electrical system with panels on the meetinghouse's south-facing roof that would generate most of the power we consume in the summer and a considerable amount of power we use in the winter. Our system would be tied to the New England electrical grid. On days when the sun is shining and the meetinghouse is using little electricity, our electric meter will spin backwards!

Our well-insulated and efficiently powered meetinghouse consumes relatively little electricity, so the investment in photovoltaics is not based on financial savings or a short payback period. Rather, our solar installation would serve as a beacon to local young people and the wider community that we are concerned about the environment and the future. Our "green" meetinghouse would become an educational center to increase the knowledge about and familiarity with renewable energy and climate change as part of a strategy to encourage peace in the world. We might help to engage local interest in the public policy concept of a "feed-in-tariff," a successful financing system that has stimulated photovoltaic production and installations in Germany and elsewhere. Our neighbor and friend Paul Kando and others in the community are currently working on model legislation that would implement a feed-in-tariff system in Maine. If such public policy were enacted, we would be paid a premium price for every kilowatt we send to the grid from our PV system. Midcoast Friends and our Peace Center could encourage others in the wider community to install similar small PV systems (Blue Link) on their homes and businesses, resulting in many solar systems together contributing many kilowatts into the grid.

We know with growing certainty that the impacts of global warming and the depletion of finite resources, such as oil and water, provide the seeds for future wars around the world. Economic and environmental devastation as a result will be most keenly felt by our most vulnerable neighbors--the poor, the sick, the young, and the elderly. Calls from scientists, policymakers, religious leaders, and concerned citizens for an immediate and total reorganization of our energy system towards renewable power generation--solar, wind, geothermal, tidal, etc.--have gone largely unheeded, particularly in the U.S. at the national level.

Our Meeting has an opportunity to model renewable power generation and make a difference for the planet and our neighbors. Let's join together in community and let the Light shine!

Thank you,

The Peace Center Steering Committee

Peace Center Environmental Stewardship Project Proposal

Campaign to purchase/install/celebrate PV system on roof--Spring 2008

PURCHASE

- 1) Approval to go forward with purchase contingent on raising \$2,325 to be matched by Meeting funds of \$2,325... Meetinghouse & Grounds (3/5) & Meeting for Business (3/16)
- 2) Raise \$2,325+ from Meeting members/attenders **March/April**
 - Letter in April newsletter
 - Appeals in the meetinghouse...artistic container for checks, etc.
- 3) Guy purchases panels from Solar Market **before June**

INSTALLATION

- 1) Guy leads half-day workshop to install panels (public invited) **late May/early June**
- 2) Workshop date/rain date and celebration date publicized at Energy Expo on April 18/19 at Damariscotta Y. Lincoln Academy youth invited to participate.
- 3) Celebration/dedication on **June 21 or 22 (Solstice)** Poetry, international music (Vicki Diamond?), food, film? John Woolman drama (see below). Focus on the sun/solar power. Committee is planning. INVITE COMMUNITY

PUBLICITY/OUTREACH

- 1) Celebration--see above--media stories across the state (not included in budget)
- 2) Create attractive brochure describing meetinghouse energy efficiency and renewable-energy technologies. Relate to Friends testimonies. Distribute brochure at Damariscotta River Assn and Farmers Market. Put in library, Rising Tide, other places. Brochure will be updated after one year and include info about CO2 emissions reductions, gallons of oil saved (instant hot water heater), etc.

Sister PV Solar System Project 2008-2009 Goal: Identify a meaningful project where solar would make a difference (Todd Garth/other Friends) and raise at least \$5,000 to purchase/install system

- 1) Small committee (Peace Center/others) researches project partner and puts together information piece about candidates for a sister solar project
- 2) Meeting/other churches/community organizations as partners form fundraising committee--hold fundraisers dinner/silent auction (\$2,500-\$3,000) other events/ideas
- 3) Workcamp to help with installation?? Summer 2009/Christmas 2009. Involve youth

Program Ideas on Energy/Climate Change/Earth Stewardship to complement "Green" Meetinghouse Accomplishment

- 1) Ruah Swennerfelt/Louis Cox present their entertaining dialogue between John Woolman and a woman at his time and Joan Woolman and a man in 2008. Traveled with this program from California to British Columbia, walking from meeting to meeting.
- 2) Presentation by FCNL: How Green Building Reflects the World We Envision for Our Children and Public Policy Work in the Nation's Capitol,
- 3) Maine Public Policy: Paul Kando presents a talk on Feed-in-Tariffs, the successful renewable-energy fee structure that has incentivized solar production and installation in Germany and elsewhere. A bill will be put into the next legislature. Mike White, green builder, could present at the same meeting about how this bill would help him build greener.
- 4) Ray Sirois, trained Al Gore presenter, presents update of the slideshow *An Inconvenient Truth* and the science. Ray works for Wright-Pierce Engineering, which is looking at how to design wastewater systems in light of climate-change impacts.
- 5) Affected neighbors around the world--Tuvalu in the Pacific (film/speaker from Dartmouth College or ambassador...ambassador from Marshall Islands??) Friends at the U.N.?

Continued next page.

- 6) Convene local congregation "EarthCare Teams" to talk about how we can work together in the faith community locally to address climate change.
- 7) Tom Tietenburg, Colby Economics professor & member of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: talk on economics of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Seeds of war
- 8) Film series co-sponsored with Sierra Club/other congregations re: Energy/Climate Change (part of film & speaker series?...films from Quaker EarthCare Ministry)

DRAFT BUDGET for PV Project PHASE ONE

EXPENSES:

PV Blue Link System	510-watt system	\$4,650 (Solar Market Quote)
PV System Installation		In-kind donation Guy/others
TOTAL		\$4,650

INCOME:

Donations from Friends	\$ 600 (received) Rowan & Willow
	\$ 200 (promised in e-mail) Guy
	\$1,000 (50 Friends X \$20)
	\$ 500 (Ernie Foust donation)
General/Capital/Memorial Funds	\$2,325 (Budget Committee approved)
TOTAL	\$4,625

Funding to create a brochure about our "greening" meetinghouse, to purchase additional PV panels for our meetinghouse or a "Sister PV Solar System," or to implement any of the program ideas listed above has not been included in this draft budget. Donations over and above those required for the budgeted meetinghouse PV system will be applied to a Peace Center fund that will support some of these initiatives. It is anticipated that the Peace Center will engage the wider community in fundraising efforts to underwrite some of the future projects, such as the Sister PV Solar System.

Second Hour: Quaker Work and the U.N.

On April 27, 2008, Brewster Grace will give a Second Hour Talk on Quaker work at the United Nations, New York and Geneva.

Since 1947, these two Quaker United Nations offices have represented Quaker concerns for disarmament, peace building, human rights, and economic justice. Their various efforts over the years have energetically supported multilateral negotiations on banning chemical weapons and prohibiting landmines, preventing the recruitment of child soldiers, and establishing a U.N. Peacebuilding Commission, and in the World Trade Organization on trade in generic medicines for HIV/AIDS.

This work is carried out on behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), which brings to these offices concerns of Quakers worldwide. The FWCC has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council that provides broad access to many UN bodies and negotiations. Brewster will talk about the offices in general and give some examples of how they go about their work.

Before moving to Maine, Brewster was director of the Quaker U.N. Office in Geneva and served as the FWCC representative for trade and development, working mostly with the WTO and the International Labor Organization on worker rights.

QUERIES: Home & Family--Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes 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 your meeting and from the larger community?

A Letter from Heather Burt

March 5, 2008

Dear Friends,

I am writing to let you know about a new business that I am starting this year. Several Midcoast Friends Meeting members supported my previous business, Tikvah Cafe and Catering, co-owned with my mother, Andy Burt. I hope you will let people know about this one as well.

As you can see from the enclosed brochure (*Ed. note: posted at the meetinghouse*), Bunchberry Farm & Kitchen will offer a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program beginning in early June. If there is enough interest by members of Midcoast Friends, I would like to provide a special drop-off time outside the meetinghouse on Sundays after Meeting for Worship. I expect that this would enable some people to participate who might not otherwise. I would be happy to answer any questions about this proposal at the March Meeting for Business or at another time that may be convenient for members.

The Bunchberry Farm CSA program, "The Maine Dish," is unique. It brings local foods to its subscribers as fresh vegetables and as homemade, wholesome soups, breads, and occasionally, entrees. Recognizing that people may lack the time or interest to cook but still want to eat fresh, in-season, local produce, we will offer the best of both worlds. In addition, we have decided to offer two versions of "The Maine Dish," "My Choice" and "Surprise Me!" For those people who like to choose what they receive, "My Choice" provides a weekly order form, including produce, soups, breads, etc. Participants can choose \$25 worth of whatever products they feel would best meet their needs for the following week. For instance, some weeks you may have guests coming to town and would like to serve everyone homemade soup. You are welcome to order only soup that week. The second option, "Surprise Me!" is determined each week by "The Maine Dish" and is made-up of a quart of soup, bread or rolls, a head of lettuce or comparable mixed salad greens, and additional fresh vegetables available that week. Subscribers can sign-up for either version of "The Maine Dish" and can also switch at anytime during the season.

Bunchberry Farm is committed to environmentally friendly farming methods. Currently, we are not certified organic, but we do all of our growing and processing using the guidelines required of organic farms. We intend to become certified in the future once the business is established. The produce that we use that is not from our farm comes from other local, primarily organic farms. In order to be able to offer healthy, interesting value-added foods, we do use some ingredients (e.g., olive oil, spices) from other parts of the country or world. These products will always be certified organic and fair trade.

It is my hope that this hybrid CSA will help promote greater support for a local food system, while meeting the needs of additional members of the community. Over the past several years, I have chosen various ways to support and advance local foods and environmentally friendly lifestyle choices. From Compassion Unlimited--Respecting Everyone (C.U.R.E.), my environmental nonprofit, to Tikvah Cafe & Catering, I have been working to offer positive alternatives and products to people in Maine. It is my goal that Bunchberry Farm & Kitchen will be able to encompass this personal mission while simultaneously providing a sustainable income for my family.

Please read the . . . brochure and let me know if you have questions. As I mentioned, I would like to be able to offer a special pick-up on Sundays for Meeting members. Please let me know if this may be a possibility and how this could best be facilitated.

Warmly,


Thank you for your time. Heather Burt heatherkburt@yahoo.com 882-9235

"I have not come here to pass judgment on my fellow soldiers; I am here to pass judgment on war itself."

-- Private Clifton Hicks, Winter Soldier testimony 3/18/08

NEWS FROM KENYA

by Deborah Haviland

I am on a list to receive news regularly from the Friends Peace Team Coordinator in Kenya and find this a good way to keep up with what is happening. David Zerembka is the coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) of the Friends Peace Team (FPT). Some information from his most recent letter (3/22) follows:

As you may remember, I have spent the last three weeks in the United States participating in the Friends Peace Teams annual meeting and making 15 presentations on Kenya including one radio interview. The presentations went well and there was a larger turnout than expected at most of the talks. Many of the people who attended received my e-mailed reports from Kenya, others were long-time AGLI supporters, and a number of Kenyan nationals came (and approved most of what I said). The talk included my nine interpretations of the events in Kenya. I hope to get a chance to write it up, in which case you will receive a copy.

* * *

We returned to Kenya on Friday (3/21) and came back to Lumakanda on Saturday. . . . The mood in Nairobi didn't seem quite as buoyant as the reports I was reading from Kenya on the Internet. While everyone is relieved that a seemingly successful power-sharing agreement has been reached, the concern is now that all three major political parties are in the government, all cooperating together so nicely, perhaps the bad old days of one-party dictatorship can easily return in the form of a three-party dictatorship. This remains to be seen.

As we traveled up-country through Naivasha, Nakuru, Timbaroroa, Burnt Forest, Eldoret, and Turbo--all hard-hit by the violence--we could see the plastic huts of many displaced people still in the camps alongside the road. There was the same destruction of houses, shops, and farms as we could see before, but seeing all this again was discouraging since it all seemed so unnecessary.

When we left for the U.S., it was still the dry season and dust was everywhere with four months of almost no rain. By the time we returned, the rainy season had come to Lumakanda, so the air and atmosphere are very different. After the dry season, the first rain is like the first snow for a five-year-old in America. Here everything stops for that first rain. The dogs bark, the cows jump up and down, the children go run in the rain and wiggle their toes in the mud, and everyone looks forward to planting of the new crops. It's a different kind of spring.

Much news is available at: <http://www.fum.org>. Anyone who wants to be on David's list directly should contact Dawn Rubbert at: aunt dawn@charter.net. She is the AGLI person on the ground in St. Louis.

A TIME TO GRIEVE THE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

The March 19 open meeting to vigil in silence, to pray, to read, and to contemplate the suffering of the Iraqi people was well attended despite the snowfall (not much accumulation but large flakes on our windshields). Nancy, Gretchen, and others reported that attendance on the bridge the previous Saturday was large (about fifty), and they noted the contrast between the demonstrations prior to the war and now: the bridge protests in 2002 attracted counter-protesters who supported the war, while this year, all passersby were honking and waving agreement.

Friends who were not able to be present on the 19th may pick up materials we gathered for the Reading Room on three major subjects: Iraqis as refugees or displaced in their own country, the ravages of five years of war, and American soldiers who have written about the cruelties of the war. Since the mainstream media did not cover the conference of the Winter Soldiers, we urge everyone to read their testimonies. They were covered on Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now," and we will soon have film coverage by Tom Jackson (some footage can be seen at his website <www.joepublicfilms.com> or on YouTube or at the Iraq Veterans Against War web site: <www.ivaw.org/wintersoldier>).

--Carmen Lavertu

MINISTRY OF THE MEETING IN A BROKEN WORLD

JAN WOOD

VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 9:00-4:00, WINTHROP CENTER FRIENDS CHURCH

- Bridging the gap between Doers and Be-ers
- Finding solidarity with those of different theologies & perspectives
- Discovering new empowerment
- Sustaining centeredness & energy

Don't miss the opportunity to spend the day with Jan exploring these subjects that challenge us in our meetings.

Jan Wood is a member of Northwest Yearly meeting and has led the NEYM/NYYM pastors' retreat three times.

We just can't get enough of her! Jan is a former pastor, teacher, administrator, and gifted minister called to writing and speaking, organizational consulting, and spiritual direction.

She also currently directs GOOD NEWS Associates.

She authored *Christians at Work: Not Business as Usual* (Herald Press, 1999) and *Practicing Discernment Together: Finding God's Way Forward in Decision Making* (Barclay Press, 2007).

Fee for the day's seminar, lunch, and refreshments is \$40.

Winthrop Center Friends Church is one mile south of Rte 202 on Winthrop Center Rd. (Rte 135).

Telephone number for the building is 395-4790.

Any questions, contact Maggie at 685-4797 or hearthstone1@verizon.net.

From A Very, Very Brief History of Quakerism:

PART V: Meanwhile, back in New England:

In the 1940s, Yearly Meetings began to reunite. New England reunited in 1945. NEYM includes evangelicals, conservatives, those who are Christ-centered, and universalist Friends who believe that Quakerism is not necessarily Christian. We acknowledged that our beliefs were diverse but that we were not going to let our diversity keep us apart. We had been involved in FUM since its beginning. In 1960 we also became a member of Friends General Conference.

PART VI: And today:

We are one of five dual-affiliated Yearly Meetings, which means we belong to both FUM and FGC (Friends General Conference). The others are Canadian, New York, Baltimore, and Southeastern. The theological spectrum in FUM is wide, from convinced Friends drawn by antiwar activism in the 1960s to more conservative Friends, from evangelical to universalist Friends. This has been most noticeable in recent years (since the 1970s, actually) around the issue of homosexuality in general and the FUM personnel policy in particular. As New Englanders acknowledged in 1945, our beliefs are diverse. However, most of the dual-affiliated meetings are committed to remaining in FUM and working through our differences.

[*Ed. note:* This excerpt, courtesy of Carmen Lavertu, is the last from Ann Dodd-Collins's presentation at VQM on the history of the Religious Society of Friends. Full copies of the presentation are available at the meetinghouse or by e-mail from Carmen Lavertu (clavertu@gmail.com) or Diane Kirkman (diane_kirkman@hotmail.com).]

March 30 Threshing Session: At the rise of meeting and after a short break (but no refreshments), those who wish to take part in the "threshing session" will gather in the meeting room in silence. After a short period of quiet worship, Jim Matlack will briefly review the purposes of the session. Then in a spirit of worship-sharing, Friends will be invited to speak briefly to those concerns that seem urgent enough to be on the Meeting's short list of recommendations to FCNL. The toughest part of the exercise may be to cut the list of relevant issues to only FIVE. We hope to conclude our "threshing" in 30 to 35 minutes, after which all can enjoy refreshments and the usual social time.

The Gospels, then, stand at the opening of a mystery in which our lives are deeply, dangerously and inescapably involved. This is a mystery that the Gospels can only partially reveal, for it could be fully revealed only by more books than the world could contain. It is a mystery that we are condemned but also are highly privileged to live our way into, trusting properly that to our little knowledge greater knowledge may be revealed. It is this privilege that should make us wary of any attempt to reduce faith to a rigmarole of judgments and explanations, or to any sort of familiar talk about God. Reductive religion is just as objectionable as reductive science, and for the same reason: Reality is large, and our minds are small.

--from *The Way of Ignorance and Other Essays* by Wendell Berry (Shoemaker & Hoard, 2005)

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543. Co-Clerks: Karen Cadbury, 230-0436, and Deborah Haviland, 354-8714; Recording Clerk: Jean Crawford, 236-4176; Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283. Newsletter--April 2008, Vol. 20, No. 4. Published every month but August. Editing/design: Diane Kirkman, 236-9078, diane_kirkman@hotmail.com, 18 Atlantic Ave., Apt. 3, Camden, ME 04843. Address changes: Pat Spock, 729-0826; wspock@gwi.net, 10 Curtis St., Brunswick, ME 4011. Web: Guy Marsden, 443-8942, guy@arttec.net, 61 Delano Rd., Woolwich, ME 04579.