

Fourth Month

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

April 2010



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

--Romans 15:13-13

God is not too hard to believe in. God is too good to believe in, we being such strangers to such goodness. The love of God is to me absolutely overwhelming.

-- Rev. William Sloane Coffin

April

Sunday	April 4	Rise of Meeting 12 noon	Potluck *Quakerism Study Group
Sunday	April 11	10:00 a.m.	*United Society of Friends Women of New England Yearly Meeting, Amesbury Mtg, Amesbury, Mass.
Sunday	April 18	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business
Saturday	April 24	9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	*NEYM Extended Worship & Prayer, Vassalboro QM

May

Saturday	May 1	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	*Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Whiting
Sunday	May 2	Rise of Meeting 12 noon	Potluck *Quakerism Study Group
Sunday	May 16	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business

Upcoming

Saturday	June 19	10:00 a.m.	FCMPP Meeting, Alford Center
Sun.-Sat.	July 4-10		FGC (Friends General Conference) Gathering: "Accepting Gifts of the Spirit," Bowling Green, Ohio [<i>See March newsletter.</i>]

*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--March 21, 2010

Karen Cadbury, Presiding Clerk, opened the meeting with twenty Friends present. Minutes of the February 21 Meeting for Business were approved.

Suzy Hallett reported for **Ministry & Counsel** that the committee had decided not to go forward with Quaker Quest but to rely upon persons and resources within the meeting instead. A new "welcoming pamphlet" is being developed.

For the **Peace Center Steering Committee**, Brewster Grace described various projects that were under consideration including work with Right Relationships, "Fishes and Loaves," Restorative Circles, Non-Violent Communication, and a Film Series which may begin with a film on Gaza by Tom Jackson. Norman Olsen, a Friend and former U.S. diplomat with experience in Gaza, may be invited to speak on the current crisis there.

Paul Diamond gave a **Financial Report** indicating that overall balances in meeting accounts were in good shape. A total contribution of \$1,000 was sent to aid **relief work in Haiti**.

George Waldman and Bill Hallett reported on **Meetinghouse & Grounds**. A move from three to two sub-committees was proposed and approved along with a new statement of purpose for the committee [*see appendix to the full text of the Minutes*]. Planting a vegetable garden, fruit trees, or berry bushes on the grounds was discussed at length but no decisions were reached.

The new **Meeting Directory** was distributed with deep thanks to Pat Spock and others who prepared it.

A **Certificate of Transfer for George and Mallory Waldman** was received from Birmingham Meeting.

The meeting then engaged in the second stage of a process to select **Legislative Priorities for the Friends Committee on National Legislation** led by Jim Matlack. In the end, five items were agreed to as the recommendations from the Meeting--Militarism, Afghanistan, Climate Change, Palestinian-Israeli Peace Accord, and the Undue Influence of Money and Corporate Power in our Political System. [*Full text of this list in the full version of the Minutes.*]

After several short announcements, the meeting closed with a period of silence.

The **next meeting for business will take place Sunday, April 18**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the March 2010 session are available at the Meeting website www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

United Society of Friends Women of New England Yearly Meeting

Location: Amesbury Meeting, Amesbury, Massachusetts (directions are in minute book and on NEYM website)

Date: Sunday, April 11

- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Amesbury Friends
- 11:00 Announcements and Introductions
- 11:30 Potluck Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Program: JUBILEE

All will share personal insights/testimonies on the meaning of Jubilee or how they have gotten connected/reconnected to the Divine Center/God/Christ in ways other than through a Jubilee year. This can be by sharing a poem, song, quote, or story. Be creative! Let's learn from each other, challenge and refresh our souls in the process.

- 1:45 Business

Carpool and bring others with you. Please contact Martha McManamy, 978-463-3259, for overnight hospitality.

ADVICES--Meeting for Business

In meetings for business, and in all duties connected with them, seek again the leadings of the Light; let our utterances be brief and without repetition. Let us keep from obstinacy and from harshness of tone or manner and admit the possibility of being in error. In all affairs of the meeting community, let us proceed in a peaceable spirit, with forbearance and warm affection for each other.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON MAINE PUBLIC POLICY--March 6 Meeting

From minutes by Jim Matlack

Eighteen Friends from eight meetings attended. Paul Bisulca, a Penobscot Indian leader who recently completed a four-year term as Chairman of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission (MITSC), reviewed the history of problems in relations between Native tribes and the state rooted in the disparity between the parties. Native peoples feel the state leaves them little recourse for defending their rights because state officials often fail to recognize each tribe's independent nationhood. Bisulca recapped the history of relations since the 1980 Land Claims Settlement Act and the subsequent formation of MITSC, noting that issues and disputes remain unresolved.

In the last few months, however, some progress has been made. Governor Baldacci issued an important Executive Order, which instructs all state agencies and officials to consult more fully with the tribes on pending decisions and policies and protecting the MITSC budget from cuts. But tribal leaders continue to wonder if they will be able to seek needed remedies and jurisdictional changes under the terms of the Settlement Act. New tensions have arisen over the confidentiality of Indian records and documents; mandated state access to such records is seen as a refusal to acknowledge the tribes' sovereignty. Bisulca commended Friends and FCMPP for steadfastly supporting Indian peoples and tribal concerns. Friends thanked Paul for his committed leadership and approved sending a thank-you message to Governor Baldacci for issuing the Executive Order.

Andy Burt reported that, to begin implementing the "listening project to the tribes on environmental issues" approved at the December meeting, a joint meeting with tribal representatives will likely be held on Indian Island.

Two additional items related to Indian issues--the United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous People and the "Doctrine of Discovery" (upon which Europeans based their claims to lands in the New World)--were discussed and will be addressed at Quarterly Meeting.

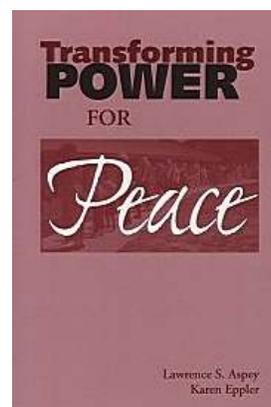
Ed Snyder reported for the Legislative Committee about the bill on solitary confinement in the prisons (LD1611). Richard Kelly had represented testimony on behalf of FCMPP. Seeking to assure humane treatment for prisoners in solitary, Friends focused on mental-health concerns and the need to remove the seriously disordered to suitable medical facilities. Friends should continue to voice their concern for humane treatment and adequate state facilities to treat those with mental illness. Ed Snyder will draw up a compact statement of FCMPP positions and views to be sent to the gubernatorial candidates.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m., June 19, at the Alford Center.

The next **Quakerism Study Group** will be held on Sunday, May 2, after the potluck. We will be sharing our experience of reading *Transforming Power for Peace* by Lawrence S. Apsey and Karen Eppler. See or contact Linda Coté-Small, 563-6712 or chezcote@roadrunner.com, to find out how you can order the book.

We will be encouraging the use of the following study questions when reading our chosen materials:

1. What is the authors' main point in this passage?
2. What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage?
3. Is this passage true to my experience?
4. What are the implications of this passage for my life?
5. What problems do I have with this passage?



**SAVE THE DATE--*Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting*
Join Cobscook Friends on Saturday, May 1, 2010**

**9:00a.m.-Noon
Cobscook Friends Meeting House in Whiting**

8:30 a.m. Coffee
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

**Noon-3:30 p.m.
Whiting Community Building**

12:00 noon Lunch (Please bring fruit and desserts)
1:30 p.m. Afternoon presentation: John Dieffenbacher-Krall will address issues related to the "Doctrine of Discovery."

If there is a single cultural idea that could be regarded as an impediment to the entire world appreciating and adopting Indigenous Values it would be the Doctrine of Christian Discovery. In July 2009, the Episcopal Church unanimously adopted the resolution D035 "Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery." This was largely the result of the work of John Dieffenbacher-Krall of Maine.

--Phil Arnold, Syracuse University

If childcare is needed, please contact Beth Clifford at 214-4988 or at sadie@ccpwireless.com, as no children's program has been planned. Because we are a small meeting, limited--but gracious--hospitality is available. Please contact Janet Weston for accommodations at 733-4821 or jbweston@gmail.com.

Directions: Coming from Machias on Route 1

1. Go approximately 17 miles northeast to Whiting, Maine.
2. Upon arrival in Whiting, you will note the Whiting Community Building on the left, followed by a church and small white school on the left.
3. On the right, you will see a turn onto Route 189, which you will follow.
4. There is a store with a Mobil sign just past the intersection where you turn.
5. Go six-tenths (.6) of a mile and you will see the sign for Cobscook Friends Meeting on the left. Turn left at the sign and you are at the Meeting House. (733-4904).

The Whiting Community Building (which you pass in Whiting on Route 1) is where we will have lunch and the afternoon program. The morning program will be at the Meeting House.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee maintains and oversees the circulation of the Meeting's collection of books, pamphlets, and magazines. It also welcomes suggestions for materials which may be of interest to the Meeting and periodically adds new volumes to the collection. It evaluates any donated books and either adds them to the collection or directs them elsewhere. In coordination with Ministry & Counsel, it manages the availability of small handout pamphlets.



QUERIES--Meeting for Business

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship and prayerful search for the way of Truth? Are all members encouraged to use their talents in the service of the meeting? Do you undertake your proper share of the work and financial support of the meeting?

All-Day Gathering--New England Yearly Meeting Extended Worship and Prayer Vassalboro Meetinghouse April 24

New England Yearly Meeting Clerk and Ministry & Counsel Committee have called for a day of prayer and worship. The theme is "What Prevents Me from Turning Myself Over Wholly to the Will of the Divine?" The schedule is as follows:

9 a.m.	Refreshments
9:30-11:30 a.m.	Worship
Lunch and Fellowship--Bring sandwich. Soup and beverages will be provided	
1-3 p.m.	Worship
3-3:30 p.m.	Sharing reflections

All-day presence is encouraged, but attenders at morning or afternoon worship are welcomed. The contact person is Leslie Manning (Durham Meeting) 592-2659. Also ask Carmen Lavertu (clavertu@gmail.com) for more information on the Yearly Meeting invitation and this year's theme of "Jubilee" [ed. note: And see the article on Jubilee in last month's newsletter.] For directions to Vassalboro Friends: <http://vassalborofriends.org/driving-directions>.

NEW ENGLAND FRIEND

There are copies of the *New England Friend* on the credenza. Please take one and enjoy reading it. If you would like to receive future issues electronically, please sign up for that service at neym@neym.org. NEYM is encouraging Friends to do this since, due to costs, not as many paper copies will be sent out in the future.



Alice Lacy misses the Meeting and all of us so much. She loves visits, cards, and phone calls:

Alice Lacy
Safe Havens
145 Emery Ln.
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538
ph. 633-1222



Friends Camp is a caring and accepting co-ed community offering campers ages 7 to 17 a range of creative activities and fun. Located 15 miles east of Augusta, in South China, the camp encompasses 65 acres of fields, woods, and waterfront on China Lake. Campers choose from such programs as sports, sailing, art, drama, music, ceramics, photography, and many more, and the Quaker testimonies of equality, peace, simplicity, and community are part of the camp's daily life. Affordable and open to children from all backgrounds, Friends Camp may be the perfect summer program for the special youngsters in your life. For details, call 873-3499 or visit the Web site www.friendscamp.org.

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543. Clerk: Deborah Haviland, 354-8714; Recording Clerk: Jim Matlack, 236-0903; Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283. Newsletter--March 2010, Vol. 22, No. 3. Published every month but August. Editing/design: Diane Kirkman, 236-9078, diane_kirkman@hotmail.com, 17 Grove St., Camden, ME 04843. Address changes: Pat Spock, 729-0826, wspock@gwi.net, 10 Curtis St., Brunswick, ME 04011. Web: Guy Marsden, 443-8942, guy@arttec.net, 61 Delano Rd., Woolwich, ME 04579.