

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714 Damariscotta,
ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
Suzy Hallett, 563-6084 &
David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:
Jim Matlack, 236-0903

Newsletter--April, 2011
Vol. 23, No. 4
Published every month but
August.

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

Address changes:
Pat Spock, 729-0826,
wspock@zwi.net,
10 Curtis St.,
Brunswick, ME 04011

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

April

Sunday	April 3	Rise of Meeting 2:00 p.m.	Potluck Lunch Peace Center Program
Sunday	April 11	Rise of Meeting	FWCC consultation on Climate Change [see March newsletter, p. 3]
Sunday	April 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday thru Sunday	April 25- May 1		*Midcoast Sustainable-Living Fair, Round Top, Damariscotta
Saturday	April 30	9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	*All-Maine Gathering, Friends Camp, South China

May

Sunday	May 1	Rise of Meeting 2:00 p.m.	Potluck Lunch Peace Center Program
Sunday	May 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	May 22	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	*Quakerism Reading Group

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--March 20, 2011

After a period of silent worship, Clerk David Cadbury opened the meeting with twenty Friends present.

Correspondence: Friends were reminded of the F.G.C. Gathering in Iowa in June. Quaker Choral Productions seeks singers for a NEYM performance based upon the life of George Fox.

Meetinghouse & Grounds:

- George Waldman submitted a written report. Given the puddles now evident in the parking area despite the new surface, some additional layer of material will be considered.
- Coastal Kids pre-school continues to make good use of the building and will do so at least until summer.
- The large pine branch that fell into the yard is being removed.
- A proposal to put in new plantings that would be edible and more self-sustaining drew interest from the meeting. A proposal with a budget will be presented at a later business session.

Finance: Bill Spock gave an overview of meeting finances and reported that budget is on track. He raised a concern that someone is needed to serve as a back-up to the Treasurer. Martin Imm then presented detailed budget charts and explained some modifications that he had made to achieve greater clarity.

Ministry & Counsel: Mallory Waldman noted the request from Deborah Humphries to visit Midcoast Meeting as part of her traveling ministry as a released Friend. Her letter of request will be in the next newsletter. It was agreed to suggest Sunday, May 8, as the date when Humphries could best be received at the Meeting. *[Update: Further discussions with Deborah have indicated that she is unable to visit us on May 8, as she is completely booked through her two weeks in this area.. She will be sending her schedule of visits to other meetings in case individuals would like to visit her there. Her schedule will be posted in the next newsletter.]*

A memorial minute for George Sparks was read and approved *[that memorial minute appears in this issue of the newsletter]*. Following his death in 2008, his ashes were the first to be buried in the Memorial Garden at the meetinghouse.

First Day School: A proposal to hire a caretaker for young children during Sunday worship during July and August was approved.. A budget and a careful recruitment process will have to be arranged.

New Business: Suzy Hallett proposed that whenever Coastal Kids Pre-School no longer uses the building arrangements be made to facilitate regular gatherings of young mothers and their children for shared social time, playtime for the kids, and possible enrichment of parenting skills. The Meeting encouraged Suzy to develop this idea more fully and to move toward implementation at a future date.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 17, 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.

DAVID CADBURY, Clerk/JIM MATLACK, Recording Clerk



QUERIES

Meeting for Worship– Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are you faithful and punctual in attendance? Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Do all other activities of your meeting find their inspiration in worship, and do they, in turn, help to uphold the worshipping group?

For the Meeting's Attention from Carmen Lavertu:

"Concerned organizations and individuals around the state have created the Maine Campaign to ***Bring Our War \$\$ Home*** as a way to promote the idea that our state's fiscal crisis is in large part due to the current spending on endless war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The current wars and occupations have now cost US taxpayers well over \$1 trillion. Maine's share of that war spending is more than \$3.4 billion. We invite you to imagine how that war money could have been spent here in Maine on education, health care, social programs, repairing our decaying roads and bridges, and building a world-class public transit system.

"The total debt of all state governments in the U.S. is now \$130 billion. The U.S. will spend \$170 billion on our wars in Iraq-Afghanistan-Pakistan this year.

"Forty-six states in the US today are in fiscal crisis. We must demand that our Congressional delegation vote against any further war spending and that they become leaders in the Congress on this important issue. We must also urge all elected officials (local, state, and federal) to speak out against continued war spending. Help us call on Maine's elected leaders to demand that we ***Bring Our War \$\$ Home*** now." [from <http://www.bringourwardollarshome.org>]

A news conference/rally is planned for 11 a.m. on Monday, April 4, at the Hall of Flags in Augusta, and a rally and walk scheduled for the following Saturday, April 9, starting at 1 p.m. from the Paul Bunyan Park in Bangor. For more details on these events and others information about Bring Our War \$\$ Home, visit the organization's website or call Bruce Gagnon (443-9502) or Lisa Savage (399-7623).

New Reading Material for Quakerism Study Group

Our next Quakerism Study Group will take place on Sunday, May 22, from 11:30-1 p.m. We will be discussing our reflections on Pendle Hill Pamphlet 403, "Integrity, Ecology, and Community: The Motion of Love," by Jennie M. Ratcliffe. There is a review of this pamphlet on page 35 of the June/July 2010 issue of *Friends Journal*. We will make a group order for the pamphlets by the April 26 and expect them to cost around \$6.50. Call or e-mail Linda Cote-Small at 563-6712 or chezcote@roadrunner.com if you want to order a booklet.

From the Hospitality Committee:

Friends were very generous with their pot luck last month. Please help again in April and May, when we have our usual potluck for members--but we want to include anyone coming for the Peace Center Program speaker.

An Update on a Friend: We have an update on John Lacy's address, which is now Post Office Box 316, New Harbor, ME 04554. His phone number is unchanged, 677-3594, and his e-mail address is still johnplacy@gwi.net.

ALL-MAINE GATHERING

Vassalboro and Falmouth Quarterly Meetings--Plus other Friends, Attenders & Guest

Saturday, April 30: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friends Camp, South China, Maine. Featured speaker, Arthur Fink, at 11 a.m., on "Art and Spirituality." Portland Friend Arthur Fink asks that you bring something you have created or are creating that feels important to you, completed or not, "successful" or not. Cost \$15-20 per person, sliding scale, includes lunch. R.S.V.P. by **April 25:** Leslie Manning (leslieam55@gmail.com) or Margaret Wentworth (207-725-6935). The camp needs a headcount for Friday overnights, Saturday food, and any special needs. For carpooling information: www.exploremaine.org/parkandride/index.htm.



GEORGE SPARKS MEMORIAL MINUTE

October 23, 1915-September 6, 2008

George Sparks appeared at Midcoast Meeting in the early 1970s wanting to participate in our worship, and he joined the Meeting in December 1976. As time went on, we all got to know each other and a very strong bond was made. He didn't speak often in Meeting, but when he did, it was brief and to the point. His messages came from the heart, and his silent worship was deep.

He was born in Norwood, Pennsylvania, into a railroading family. His grandfather was in charge of developing safety devices for the railroad and was acquainted with Thomas Edison, whose biography gave the young George a desire to be an inventor, which indeed he achieved. Before the war, he was assigned to a machinery business his boss owned and worked a 60-hour workweek as a machinist. Right after the war in Europe was over, he entered the Merchant Marine Training School and shipped out on a troopship going back and forth to Marseilles to bring the GIs home. When he got back home, he joined a package business, and his inventions included cardboard boxes for the foil-backed blister pill package with which we all are acquainted and on the lighter side, the window package for Easter chocolate eggs and bunnies. He also designed the packaging for filled syringes to be shipped without breakage. One of the syringe packages he designed went to the moon with Neil Armstrong. He was very proud of that.

He was a good athlete, a gemologist, and a creator of jewelry. He learned to fly and piloted his own airplane. He also loved to play the banjo and dance. On top of all that, he was an artist all his life. In his early years in Pennsylvania, he lived near Andrew Wyeth, and they became friends and occasionally they painted together.

As a child, he went to Sunday School and was interested in reading about various religions of the world. A Quaker family named Mendenhall lived nearby, and he was impressed that their son, about his age, would never fight, no matter the provocation. George went with him to Springfield Meeting and liked what he found there. After the war, he joined Germantown Meeting, where he taught First Day School, served as a clerk of the finance committee, and was a Trustee of the meeting. He had found his niche for life.

When he moved to Maine and joined Midcoast Meeting, we welcomed him gladly. He was on the finance committee for many years and gave astute advice that was especially welcomed when we were considering building our meetinghouse. He served on Ministry & Counsel for a number of years and took seriously his role in helping guide the spiritual health of the Meeting and encouraging our vocal ministry. He was always available to help in one way or another.

He moved to Florida after his ninetieth birthday to be near one of his daughters. Before he died on September 6, 2008, he had two wishes he expressed to his family. One was to have a memorial service at the Midcoast Friends meetinghouse, and the second was to have his ashes buried on the meetinghouse property. His ashes were the first to be buried in our Memorial Garden with a lovely simple marker stone. Midcoast Meeting will always miss his spiritual strength and his full participation in our Meeting that so helped us in many ways become who we are today.

MIDCOAST SUSTAINABLE LIVING FAIR
April 25-May 1, 2011, Round Top Farm, Damariscotta
Free admission (donations appreciated)
Movies, Workshops, Presentations each weeknight from 6 to 8 p.m.

Monday, April 25, 6-8pm

Film: "Food, Inc." the underbelly of industrialized food production

Talks:

Transportation options when gas hits \$4-plus

I can't afford NOT to weatherize my House

Farm to School - a healthy diet (and mindset) for our children

Workshop:

Making interior insulating storm windows

Tuesday, April 26, 6-8pm

Film: "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil"

Talks:

Deep Energy Retrofit: Getting your home ready for the next 50 years

Homes without heating systems: Keeping Warm Without Breaking the Bank

Aging at Home: make your old home ready for your old age

Fiberglass, cellulose, spray foam, what you need to know about insulation

Wednesday, April 27, 6-8pm

Films: "Nourish" and "Meet You Farmer", on food from farm to table

Talks:

Living sustainably and saving money

New Houses for a New World

Cooperatives and Community Economic Development

Workshop:

Making interior insulating storm windows

Thursday, April 28, 6-8pm

Film: "The Real Dirt on Farmer John", the true story of a farmer-artist

Talks:

Community Supported Agriculture and its Value for the Community

Homes without heating systems: Keeping Warm Without Breaking the Bank

Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation

Energy on the Farm, energy and sustainable farming

Friday, April 29, 6-8pm

Film: "Food Beware: The French Organic Revolution"

Talks:

Transportation options when gas hits \$4-plus

I can't afford NOT to weatherize my House

Solar heating and solar power, an overview

Workshop:

Making interior insulating storm windows

Saturday, April 30 at the Chewonki Foundation

campus, 485 Chewonki Neck road, Wiscasset:

9:30, 11:00am and 1:00pm Tours of the renewable energy systems on the campus include a hydrogen energy system, wind power, solar power and heating systems, geothermal heating and sustainable building designs and retrofits. See it all up close and personal!

11:00 am and 1:00 pm Film: "Deep Green: Solutions to Stop Global Warming" a documentary on what people are doing around the globe. (showings are scheduled to mesh with the guided tour schedule, so you can take in both)

Sunday, May 1, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

Local Foods Picnic at Round Top farm,

Join your neighbors for a musical picnic! Celebrate and feast on local food and drink.

15 vendors will be on hand to sell you all you need and you can use our free BBQ grills to roast veggies and meats.

With live music from the Old Grey Goose band.

The Fair is a collaborative offering by the Midcoast Green Collaborative and the Chewonki Foundation.

For more information:

www.midcoastgreencollaborative.org

--Submitted by Guy Marsden

"If there is any 'right' way of praying, it is that most simple and yet elusive one: to simply be yourself. A Quaker woman once told me that she was looking for 'unexpurgated prayer.' I believe that is what God is hoping for also: our being with God consciously just as we are with no censorship, no cleaning up our act, no posturing or posing--just being real."

--Gerald May, *The Awakened Heart*

ADVICES

Meeting for Worship—Consider with care how God reaches us in meeting for worship. To every Friend is given a share of responsibility for the meeting. Friends are advised, therefore, to be diligent in attendance at meetings and in inward preparation for them. Let us be concerned to enter reverently into communion with God and with one another, to yield ourselves to the influence of the divine presence. Then what is evil in us may be weakened and the good raised up. God calls each one to the service of the meeting; let us be obedient and faithful, whether by word, by song, or by silent waiting, and let us receive the messages of others in a tender spirit.

**MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS
P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543**