

# 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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### April

Sunday	April 1	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Thursday	April 5	6 p.m.	* Citizen Seminar: Follow-up on <i>Inside Job</i>
Friday	April 6	noon-2 p.m.	*Silent Peace Vigil, Damariscotta- Newcastle Bridge
Sunday	April 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	April 22	Rise of Meeting	*Simplicity Discussion Group
Sunday	April 29	Rise of Meeting	* <i>Faith &amp; Practice</i> Study Session

### May

Saturday	May 5	8:15 a.m.-4 p.m.	*Vassalboro QM, Orono
Sunday	May 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	May 13	Rise of Meeting	*Simplicity Discussion Group
Sunday	May 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	May 27	Rise of Meeting	* <i>Faith &amp; Practice</i> Study Session

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](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com) a request. Thanks!

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**For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:**  
[www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)

## Minutes (Draft)--Monthly Meeting for Business--March 18, 2011

Clerk pro-tem Mallory Waldman opened the session with a moment of silence. Minutes of the previous month were approved as corrected.

**Finance Committee**--Committees will please submit budget requests soon so the committee may prepare the 2012-13 budget. Discussion of the concept of an endowment fund is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 3. Friends discussed the desirability and expense of renewing the Meeting's listing of meetings in the back of *Friends Journal*. A Friend recommended that the meetinghouse's handicap accessibility be included in listings. George Waldman will ask Guy Marsden to update the Meeting's website. Deb Haviland will ask how much it would cost for the Meeting to be listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book.

**Ministry & Counsel**—The committee will sponsor James Merkel, author of *Radical Simplicity*, on June 10 for the Simplicity Discussion Group [ed. Note: see article p. 3]. Friends closing meeting for worship were reminded of the Meeting's agreement to close with "Good morning, Friends." Linda Murray expressed interest in serving on Ministry & Counsel; however, she is not available on workdays.

**Meetinghouse & Grounds**—George Waldman raised the possibility of the Meeting's hiring a gardener for one day a week during the growing season. He will research the cost and report to the budget committee.

### New Business:

Linda Murray hopes to create a **vegetable garden** outside the meetinghouse. The food raised would be donated to the food pantry. The "three sisters" method—combining corn, squash and beans—would be used. The garden would be approximately 50 x 30 feet; stakes will be placed. Children who attend the school where Linda teaches could participate. Food recipients could participate. All others would be welcome. Meetinghouse & Grounds supports the concept. George Waldman has offered to serve as liaison. The Meeting approved the project in principle. Linda and George will put an item in the April Newsletter. The project will be generally publicized. Recipient families (expected to be five, found through the food pantry) will be invited to the potluck on June 3.

Carmen Lavertu brought up for discussion three matters: 1) A **book on the Kakamega orphanage** has been donated to the First Day School; Carmen recommends the Meeting invite Sukie Rice, leader of the American project in Kakamega, to come speak to the meeting; 2) Is there interest in planning a **Good Friday peace vigil** on April 6? The public would be invited. The question was referred to the Peace Center. [Ed. note: see item next page.] 3) Does the Meeting wish to review its **policy on consumption of alcoholic beverages** on the meetinghouse property? (At present consumption is not allowed.) No action was taken.

The **next monthly meeting** will be held on Sunday, April 15, 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](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org) and on the meetinghouse bulletin board.

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### News Notes

Bruce and Sue Rockwood write: "We have closed on a year-round home in Damariscotta and will be moving up in stages over the summer; still have to finish the school year here and get our PA house ready to put on the market. Corwin will start at Lincoln Academy in the fall. He has been attending Middle School Friends weekends run by the PYM and is active in their Call to Action training sessions as well, so we will be looking to see what kind of high school 'Young Friends' programs are available in the Maine/New England region. Take care."

### QUERIES

**Spiritual Life**--Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way? Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?

The **SIMPLICITY & FINANCES DISCUSSION GROUP** will meet after the rise of meeting on Sunday, April 22. We will resume Sunday, May 13.

Also, please note that the PDF form of our text, the July 2006 issue of *Friends Journal*, is now posted on the Meeting's Web site under the "Concerns" tab or directly at [http://midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/pdf-files/July\\_2006\\_Friends\\_and\\_Money.pdf](http://midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/pdf-files/July_2006_Friends_and_Money.pdf). (We have permission from *Friends Journal* to copy and distribute articles for our discussions.) For further details about the discussion group, contact George Chappell [gchap@zwi.net](mailto:gchap@zwi.net).

### **Jim Merkel: Radical Simplicity–Radical Spirituality**

Living sustainably is technically easy. It means doing less, working less, consuming less, and possibly even thinking less—while feeling an inner lightness. But for people embedded in the ether of consumerism, it is very tough. We happen to be alive during a period in history when a headline might read “Seven Billion People Eat Planet.” We’ve altered the climate, initiated a mass extinction, and are engaged in brutal warfare over Earth’s gifts. The sentiments in the Shaker song “Simple Gifts” and the indigenous wisdom of considering our life’s implications seven generations forward take on new meanings in 2012 as individuals yearn to help establish balance. On June 10, as part of the Simplicity Discussion Group series, Jim will share thoughts and ideas from his 23-year experiment in global living.

Jim Merkel moved from military engineering to peace and ecological activism after the EXXON Valdez oil spill. He is the author of *Radical Simplicity* and founder of the Global Living Project. Jim teaches at Unity College, volunteers, writes, lectures and consults with campuses and municipalities on sustainability initiatives. He lives in Belfast, Maine. ([www.radicalsimplicity.org](http://www.radicalsimplicity.org))

### **Faith & Practice Study Sessions**

Ministry & Counsel will host three study sessions on *Faith & Practice*. Please gather at the rise of meeting on April 29, May 27, and June 24. Copies of *Faith & Practice* will be made available to those who need them.

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### **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Willow Rowntree has changed her e-mail address to [wrowntree11@gmail.com](mailto:wrowntree11@gmail.com), and she and Rowen wanted Friends to have their complete mailing address: 2101 Golden Rain Rd. #15, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.



“The symbolic meaning of the bridges on which free citizens stand during this present crisis is a reminder to Americans and to all the people of the world that we are one human family. . . . Blessings on those who stand on bridges . . .” --Ernie Foust

A **Peace Witness** will be held on Good Friday, April 6, from noon to 2, on the Damariscotta-Newcastle bridge. It will be a SILENT VIGIL. We will have a signboard to name our vigil and a handout to assist prayer and reflection. We hope many Friends will join us.

Gretchen (563-5416) and Carmen (354-9556)

## PRIORITY SORTING FOR FCNL

On Sunday, March 4, 23 Friends entered into a worship-sharing session at the rise of the regular Meeting for Worship in order to ponder which legislative issues should be the focus of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) lobby endeavors in the new U.S. Congress to be elected in November. Jim Matlack, a member of the FCNL Policy Committee, clerked this session. After reflection and careful deliberation a number of issues were proposed as priority concerns. Given the instructions from FCNL that no more than five issues be reported, further exchanges among those present led to selection of the following five issues (NOT listed in order of importance or preference):

- REDUCE the MILITARY BUDGET and Overseas Interventions; BOLSTER FUNDING for Diplomacy, Development, and Support for Non-Violent Popular Movements/Uprisings
- Work to PREVENT WAR WITH IRAN; PROMOTE Diplomatic Alternatives to an Attack on Iran's Nuclear Facilities
- Work for SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICIES with SUPPORT for RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES
- CHALLENGE "CORPORATE PERSON-HOOD"--Seek to Un-Do the *Citizens United* decision; Reform/Control Campaign Financing
- DEFEND the "Affordable Health Care Act"

### Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting May 5, 2012

Hosted by Eggemoggin Reach and Narramissic Monthly Meetings  
United Methodist Church and Islamic Center, Orono

Join our Muslim brothers and sisters at an outreach program that will educate us, create awareness, and increase our understanding of Islam and the background of Maine's Muslim population.

- 8:15 a.m. Warm up with drinks and muffins at the United Methodist Church, 36 Oak Street, Orono ([www.oronoumc.com](http://www.oronoumc.com))
- 8:45-9:30 Worship, followed by walking or driving to the Islamic Center, 151 Park Street (approx. 1 mile from the church) in a spirit of worshipful silence
- 10:00-11:30 Islamic Center Program ([www.theicmo.com](http://www.theicmo.com)) will include a tour of the facility, presentation about the basics of Islam and Muslim diversity, observation of prayers, Q&A. Please honor the Center's etiquette requirements: Remove footwear upon entering the mosque; no food or drinks in prayer hall; for reasons of modesty, avoid handshakes or physical contact with opposite gender; turn off cell phones; modest, non-revealing clothing
- Noon Potluck lunch. Sandwiches and drinks provided. Please bring fruit and desserts.
- 1:00 p.m. Meeting for Worship for Conduct of Business with meetings of "Groups of Concern"
- 3:30 p.m. Reports from "Groups of Concern"
- 4:00 p.m. Join hands in a circle of gratefulness and good-byes

The phone number for the United Methodist Church is 866-4605. Suzanne Ruch is the contact person for Eggemoggin Reach MM and can be reached on her cell phone during Quarterly Mtg. at 479-3666. For questions, e-mail [suzanneruch@myfairpoint.net](mailto:suzanneruch@myfairpoint.net). For additional details, contact Carmen Lavertu, [clavertu@gmail.com](mailto:clavertu@gmail.com). A full schedule & maps are available at the Midcoast Friends meetinghouse.



Photo courtesy Maggie Edmondson

“We are being asked, yet again, to incarnate divine wisdom, to incarnate love, compassion and justice and bring the kingdom of God into physical reality.”

--Maggie Edmondson, Pastor,  
Winthrop Center Friends Church,  
from her article “Occupy: Alive in  
Maine with Room for All” in the  
latest *New England Friend*

See Maggie's entire article at  
<http://nelym.org/NewEnglandFriend/2012-Spring/Edmondson.html>.

## **Clerk's Summary Report, NEYM Permanent Board Meeting at Putney Friends Meeting Putney, Vermont, Saturday, 17 March**

Close to thirty in attendance.

We heard a report and recommendation from the ad hoc Friends Home Property Committee. We affirmed their entering into a purchase and sales agreement for the property, and approved the sale of the property to the Norwell Visiting Nurses Association. The Norwell VNA will use the 18-bed Thayer House and its lovely, peaceful grounds and surroundings, to create the first hospice care facility on the South Shore of Boston, providing end-of-life care to all who require such care in an out-of-home setting. The sale price is \$1,625,000 and closing will take place on 24 April. Mortgages, legal fees, brokers' commissions, and the costs of closing the Friends Home will be subtracted from the sale price; we will expect a full financial report on the transaction from the Treasurer at our May meeting.

We felt comfortable accepting this offer as: 1) it was above our asking price, 2) it was being made by a non-profit organization, 3) the property would be continuing in its use to serve the elderly (and others) as they faced the end of their lives 4) it will be operated by professional health care providers. We could hardly have picked a better use for this stately comfortable home and its lovely environment. The balance of the sale price will be an important legacy gift to the Yearly Meeting and we will seek the discernment of the Yearly Meeting before recommending any special use for these funds.

We also heard a report from the Yearly Meeting Secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, on the issues he has been dealing with over the past months regarding the continuing process of closing the Friends Home. Insurance issues, maintenance issues, and legal issues have absorbed too much of his time and reinforced our understanding that, unless the Yearly Meeting was willing to invest a great deal more into oversight, getting out of the business of running an assisted living facility was a wise decision.

Our treasurer, Ed Mair, reported that currently our expenses outstrip our income, but that that was normal for this time of year. He pointed out that were it not for unbudgeted legal and insurance expenses (primarily for the Friends Home) we would be in excellent shape. He shared that he had no concerns (especially now that a closing was in sight). It was reported that Maria Lamberto from New Haven Friends Meeting has agreed to serve as YM Finance Committee clerk.

Jacqueline Stillwell, reported on plans for Sessions and the upcoming mid-year gathering. She reported on her joyful trip to attend Cuba Yearly Meeting, and we heard travel minutes and letters of introduction for Friends from Hanover Meeting, Fresh Pond Meeting, and Wellesley Meeting, who will be traveling to Cuba to visit with Friends. We heard and endorsed minutes recording travel in the ministry for Anne Dodd-Collins and Kathleen Wooten.

Bruce Neumann updated us on the process for selecting a new Yearly Meeting Secretary, sharing the committee's expected timing, where the committee has placed advertisements, and directing our attention to the Yearly Meeting website where more information was available. He asked us all to look around our Monthly Meetings and not be shy about encouraging Friends to apply for the position.

Nancy Haines reported on the work of the Yearly Meeting Development Committee urging all the members of Permanent Board to become individual donors. Nancy shared the Committee's commitment to their vision statement and to the role they see of increasing the numbers of Friends who make donations to the Yearly Meeting as individuals. We recognized the need for some training for ourselves in the fiduciary responsibilities of Permanent Board.

We worshiped together and enjoyed each others' company and the hospitality of Putney Meeting, and planned to meet again on Saturday 12 May at Dover Meeting in New Hampshire.

--Edward Baker, Clerk of the Permanent Board, New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*--Romans 15:13 [NIV]*

## *ADVICES*

**Spiritual Life**--Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, which are the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It is God's redemptive love that draws us, a love shown forth by Jesus in all his life, on the cross, and in his abiding presence.

Friends are advised to make a quiet place in their daily lives for prayer and communion with God and to be constant in the reading of the Bible and other devotional literature.

Let us cherish the seed of God in ourselves and in others, that we may be open to new revelations of truth. Let us look to our meetings to guide and stimulate our spiritual growth.

## **MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS**

**P.O. Box 714**

**Damariscotta, ME 04543**