

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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Recording Clerk:
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April

Sunday	April 7	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	April 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	April 28	11:30 a.m.	*Ministry & Counsel Discussion Program

May

Saturday	May 4		*“Food and Climate Change: Global Challenges and Maine Responses” 1 st Congregational Church, Camden
			*All-Maine Gathering, China, ME
Sunday	May 5	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	May 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	May 26	11:30 a.m.	*Ministry & Counsel Discussion Program

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

MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—March 17, 2013

Twenty-one Friends gathered for an opening period of silent worship. Clerk David Cadbury led a review of the Agenda. The minutes for the January Meeting for Business were approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Martin Imm distributed a current Income/Expense Tally Sheet with a positive current balance. Some \$4,000 in additional payments due on pledges is hoped for by the end of the fiscal year. A discussion followed in which distinctions between “active” members, “resident” members, and “contributing” members were explored, especially in relation to the annual census reported to the New England Yearly Meeting as well as the accompanying payment made to NEYM. It was agreed that the Co-Clerks will resolve the numbers and status of meeting members/attenders. Martin Imm reminded members and committee clerks that next year’s full budget will be discussed in April and should be approved at the May Meeting for Business.

It was agreed that the Co-Clerks will try to arrange a presentation by a representative of New England Yearly Meeting to explain the full range of **NEYM activities**.

OUTREACH—Karen Cadbury reported on the process of defining the position of Outreach Coordinator, who would be responsible for arranging use of the meeting house by community groups as well as making connections with local groups and individuals.

USE OF THE MEETINGHOUSE—Carmen Lavertu described an ongoing seminar/discussion group held under the auspices of the Coastal Senior College. This bi-weekly gathering is led by Winslow Meyer under the title “The Challenge of Change.” Since several Meeting members now participate, Carmen asked the Meeting to enter into a partnership with the Senior College as co-sponsors with the result that no charge would be made for use of the meetinghouse to host the sessions. A \$100 contribution can be expected from Senior College. The proposed co-sponsorship was approved for six months after which an outreach coordinator may be in place.

George Chapel proposed a Creative Writing Course for Veterans to be held at the meetinghouse. This would provide important service and outreach to veterans to help them tell their stories of wartime experiences. George has been a teacher in such classes. The Meeting responded favorably to this project, encouraged George to carry it forward, and approved use of the meetinghouse for such a class without charge.

A **Memorial Minute for ALICE LACY** was read aloud and approved. [*Ed. Note: Please see excerpt p. 3.*]

Sue Rockwood will take photographs of Meeting members and mount them on a bulletin board in the meetinghouse visible to all who enter the building.

The meeting adjourned after a period of silent worship.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, April 21, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

—David Cadbury, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

QUERIES

Peace & Reconciliation—Do you "live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you faithfully maintain Friends' testimony against military preparations and all participation in war, as inconsistent with the teachings and spirit of Christ? Do you strive to increase understanding and use of nonviolent methods of resolving conflicts? Do you take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? When discouraged, do you remember that Jesus said, "Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears"? (John 14:27 NEB)

DON'T FORGET!

How climate change may affect global food supplies and security, around the world and here in Maine, will be the subject of the one-day symposium on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at the First Congregational Church in Camden, "Food and Climate Change: Global Challenges and Maine Responses." The program is being organized by our Peace Center and the First Congregational Church of Camden, in collaboration with the Camden Conference. For complete details and registration forms, visit <http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/peace-center>. The registration fee is \$25 for the symposium.

For additional information, see March newsletter, p. 4, or call Bruce Cole, First Congregational Church, at 691-4893.

FROM THE MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR ALICE LACY . . .



Alice became a member of the Midcoast Friends Meeting in 2002. She was an active member of the

Peace & Social Concerns Committee, participating in community-outreach programs and also joining in public protest events. For example, in the looming invasion of Iraq by our country, she joined the Standing on Bridges weekly protests and went to New York City for the final march on Fifth Avenue. In the mid-90s, she and John had also made a trip to Cuba to bring first-aid supplies and medical equipment that they had solicited from local pharmacies.

Alice was devoted to the meeting for worship. She reminded us that as she settled into the silence she would glance at everyone in the room to feel the sense of the "gathered" meeting. She frequently rose to share vocal ministry that always had an uplifting and compassionate message for persons—individually as well as for all the people of the world.

At the rise of meeting, Alice would usually find one person to engage in conversation to whom she would devote her full attention. She was sincerely interested in, and had a gift for, drawing out what was important in a person's life. As she became hard of hearing, she would find the Friend who had spoken in meeting to ask him or her what their vocal ministry had been.

* * *

Alice was in nursing homes for the last three years of her life. But even when she was confined to a wheelchair, she made an effort to come to meetings for worship, up to a time when she could no longer sit for an hour and would stretch out on a bench and fall asleep. Her last attendance at meeting was on the occasion of her 91st birthday in December 2011, when the Meeting had prepared a lovely meal and bestowed flowers and presents on her.

* * *

There was a final meeting for worship with her at the nursing home in Freeport. A few Friends with John, John Eben and another resident sat with her in the silence. As the worship meeting was explained to a roommate, she smiled and smiled in deep appreciation for the silence of meeting.

Alice followed with determination the way of Peace and Justice in the world. She was a gracious, loving presence among us. We are grateful to have walked with her in Light and Love and Peace.

(Accepted at the monthly meeting of Midcoast Friends Meeting March 17, 2013.)

WARRIOR FOR PEACE

Poverty sounds less violent - when called, "Free loading unmotivated others!"
Bigotry sounds acceptable - when others are called, "Immigrants not like us!"
Abuse may be justified -when called, "Discipline or punishment!"
Soldier sounds less human when called, "Troops or boots on the ground!"
War sounds less violent- when labeled, "Keeping the peace abroad!"
Unilateral aggression-sounds better when called, "establishing democracy!"
Gun violence and massacres are less important than, 2nd Amendment Rights!
Civilian deaths are acceptable- when called, "Collateral damage!"
Torture is acceptable- when called, "Enhanced interrogation!"
Violence can be perpetuated best with lies and more lies.
Replacing lies with the truth is the nonviolent duty of a Warrior for Peace.
Truth is victory, "I see you in me and me in you!"
Warrior for Peace living is dangerous since peacemakers challenge authority.
Jesus, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr. have died for their beliefs.
Lies destroy trust which causes fear and lost hope for many.
Truth builds trust which is essential for a peaceful world.
Patriotism requires the courage to demand truthfulness in all matters.
Free speech is just that - Speech that includes full disclosure.
Truthfulness is the best protection against violence and a patriotic deed.
Dialogue is free speech that helps build a less violent world.
Warriors for Peace strive to build a safer world with freedom for everyone.
Exposure to war motivates Warriors for Peace to seek a world beyond war.

—Glenn Plyler Summer 2011

[Carmen Lavertu tells us, "Glenn Plyler was an attender (and taught First Day School) at the Meeting for several years and will soon leave Maine for year-round living in Florida. I asked for a poem to publish in the newsletter and this is one he sent."]

UPDATE FROM USFW KAKAMEGA ORPHANS CARE CENTRE

2013 started off with intense energy. A new administrator, was hired, Maurice Selebwa, he son of Dorothy Selebwa. Dorothy felt for some time the need to step back from the day-to-day operations as she was involved in so many other Quaker groups. Maurice began in December and hit the ground running, setting up a new QuickBooks system, and preparing the Centre for the return of over 40 children in January. He had to get over 40 of the sophomore-thru-senior high-school students back to school (paying fees, uniforms, books, etc.). He says they went off with tremendous smiles. Now he is getting 15 freshmen students sorted out into their new schools. It's a huge deal for these students as many of them are going from dirt-floor homes, where they are going from days mixed with schooling and fetching water and firewood, to schools with three full meals, a bed, hundreds of new friends and activities until 8:00 each night. HUGE change.

Check out our new website: www.FriendsofKakamega.org.

—*excerpted from New England YM USFW Newsletter, March 2013*



Upcoming Ministry & Counsel Program

Ministry & Counsel is facilitating three discussion groups honoring Rufus Jones's 150th birthday. The first discussion group, on April 28, will be on Jones's writings about mysticism, which you will soon be able to access by clicking "Concerns" at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org. There you will find the information to be discussed.

Each discussion group will be on the 4th Sunday of the month & begin at 11:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited whether they have read the information or not!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

All-Maine Gathering, May 4, South China Community Church

The program will provide an opportunity to discuss Right Relationship and the practice of our testimonies in relation to a number of social/economic/political issues and to anticipate illustrating at Common Ground Country Fair (where there may be a Quaker booth!) several of our current activities and concerns; e.g., FCMPP and possible organizing around advocacy, AFSC and the Wabanaki, support for Ramallah and Kakamega, etc., in addition to commemorating the 150th year of the birth of Rufus Jones.

Further details will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter.

GOODBYE, FRIEND

From the *Lincoln County News*:

Mary Lee Rushmore
Jan. 3, 1934 - March 17, 2013

Mary Lee Rushmore, 79, of New Harbor, died at home on March 17. She was born Jan. 3, 1934 in Mineola, N.Y. and attended Quaker schools: Friend's Academy (NY), George School (PA) and Earlham College (IN).

After college, Mary Lee was a guide at the United Nations in New York City. Her love of history and current events led her to obtain a master degree in education from Hofstra College in New York. She then taught middle school social studies in the Rye, N.Y. school system. Mary Lee loved to travel, and had been to every continent. She used her experiences and photos to inform others.

Upon retirement, Mary Lee moved to New Harbor. She enjoyed the beauty of the rugged coast of Maine. Her Quaker faith led her to be a voice for the needy and underprivileged. She was an active volunteer with the Bristol Lions, Friends of Colonial Pemaquid, and the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP).

She is survived by her sister, Carly Hellen of Durham, N.H.; and brother, Steve Rushmore of New York City, N.Y.

A private family celebration of her life will be held later this year.

Condolences, and messages for the family, may be expressed by visiting www.StrongHancock.com.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Strong-Hancock Funeral Home, 612 Main St., Damariscotta.

Carmen Lavertu adds that although Lee had not attended meeting for worship for many years, she was a member of Midcoast Friends. Carmen reminds us that Lee “was last active in Peace and Social Concerns ten years ago, when the U.S. invaded Iraq. She has come to the meetinghouse from time to time for programs. She was the Meeting representative to CHIP for many years and continued her participation until recently. I was in touch with her in CONA and Coastal Senior College, but I missed her at the last meetings of CONA in the fall. Paul Diamond will remember her through their participation in the UN Student Program.”

ADVICES

Peace & Reconciliation—Every human being is a child of God with a measure of God's Light. War and other instruments of violence and oppression ignore this reality and violate our relation with God. Let us keep primary, therefore, Friends' concern for removing the causes of war. Let us seek, through God's power and grace, to overcome in our own hearts the emotions that lie at the root of violence. At every opportunity, let us be peacemakers in our homes, in our communities, and in our places of work. Let us take care that we who declare against war do not nourish the seeds of war in our possessions. Friends are urged to support those who witness to their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace, who choose not to participate in war as soldiers nor to contribute to its preparations with their taxes. Let us support in all possible ways the development of international order, justice, and understanding.

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