

# Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



## MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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### April

Sunday	April 6	Rise of Meeting Following Potluck	Potluck Lunch Rufus Jones and AFSC Discussion
Wed.	April 9	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change
Sunday	April 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Wed.	April 23	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change

### May

Sstursday	May 3		*Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting Blue Hill
Sunday	May 4	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Wed.	May 7	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change
Saturday	May 17		*Friends and the Internet Providence, RI
Sunday	May 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Wed.	May 21	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change

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!*

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

## Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—March 16, 2014

Meeting began with **silent worship**. Fifteen people were in attendance.

**February Minutes** were approved, with the substitution of *Friends Journal* for “Friends Newsletter.”

**Maine Clean Elections concern:** Carmen Lavertu noted the F.C.N.L. priority sorting of Midcoast Friends Meeting on Feb. 9, 2014, listed one priority as “Reduce the influence of money on elections and political processes.” In keeping with that priority, she shared a summary of the work of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, which has had a history of Friends’ support. She wished to bring forward their work and asked Friends as individuals and as a Meeting to consider this a priority for Maine. She wishes to bring the concern to the Quarterly meeting on May 3 and that individuals approach Carmen, the Challenge of Change discussion group, or [www.mainecelelections.org](http://www.mainecelelections.org) to find out how to participate.

It was agreed that the newly formed Outreach Committee take this up at its April meeting.

**Ministry & Counsel:** Sue Rockwood reminded members that Brewster Grace will be leading a discussion on Rufus Jones and the AFSC after our potluck on April 6. George Chappell has been helping on the Quarter’s “State of the Society” report and has agreed to work on our Meeting’s as well. He hopes to present a draft at April’s business meeting and welcomes input in the meantime. In response to the question Leslie Manning brought forward last month, of our taking under our care a worship group to provide MFW at the high-security prison facility in Warren, the committee reported that it felt that we probably do not have the resources to train and oversee such a commitment. It felt we would need a committed core of perhaps 4 trained volunteers to be able to divide up the calendar and commit to holding the MFW. It was pointed out that the membership of Meeting has not been polled for interest, and Deb Haviland who is very interested in this potential project, would be happy to be contact person for others interested. It was agreed that an article in the newsletter would encourage others interested to contact her.

Sue reported that Ministry & Counsel has decided in future to send all memorial minutes on to the Quarter, and has recommended wording for a footnote to help with archiving, “Submitted by \_\_\_ to Midcoast Meeting and approved on such and such a date.” Deb reported that she has maintained a binder of Memorial Minutes and copies of Marriage Certificates, and a separate list of members who have died has been maintained by Diane. It was agreed that this committee should oversee their maintenance.

Ministry & Counsel has sent an appreciation of flowers to Diane Onken Kirkman in recognition of her sharing her gifts so generously. Finally, this committee will meet jointly with Pastoral Care during May.

**Outreach:** Karen Cadbury presented the minutes from its February 28 meeting, sharing that Sue Rockwood has been appointed to serve as its coordinator. The document proposed a committee structure of a Steering Committee, Program Committee, and an Advisory Committee. Tasks assigned to each committee, committee composition, and terms were also outlined. Friends agreed to the proposal that the current committee members stay on for one year as the Steering Committee. Karen reported that Internet services have been installed at the meetinghouse. Karen and Suzy Hallett both reported that the recent rearrangement of the furniture in the middle room had caused some consternation and asked that people realize that nothing was permanently changed and to give the new Outreach Committee six months or so to “try things out,” although feedback would be welcome. A good deal of discussion occurred between Library Committee, Archive Committee, and other members over the arrangement of space and the desire to have everyone in these groups included in loop. Also discussed was the Quaker nature of the Meeting and how to be mindful of that while conducting outreach activities. Discussion over the use of the worship space yielded general agreement that our current practice of explaining the nature of the space and Quaker worship whenever opening the room for others was an important practice to be continued. Guy Marsden reported that he is making and intends to donate a desktop surface to replace the corkboard that was currently being used to make a work surface for the Coordinator, and that when and if it was decided to split the credenza he would be able to do so.

**Finance Committee:** Martin Imm shared that he is in the throes of an update to our accounting software that requires him to redo the specifications to produce the reports he shares in their regular format, so there was no paper budget update this month. He reported his sense that we are on budget and that the Committee will be working on a draft budget for next year during to distribute in April.

[continued next page]

[MINUTES—continued from page 2.]

**Library Committee:** Rachel McGinness shared that this committee's concerns had been raised during the outreach discussion, above.

**Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting:** Deb shared that the Quarter had funds available for programs and it was agreed that the Meeting would request \$200 to be sent to the Restorative Justice Program, which presented at Quarter.

**Meetinghouse & Grounds:** Guy Marsden shared pictures of possible designs for a fresh face on the Meeting sign, which he wishes to donate. He also offered to try and sell an IBM Selectric typewriter online and to recycle a disused printer. Guy also communicated with Linda Murray over the garden space, and it was agreed to invite her to garden again this year and ask her to communicate through the Outreach Coordinator when she might desire some help with it.

The meeting closed with a period of **silent worship**.

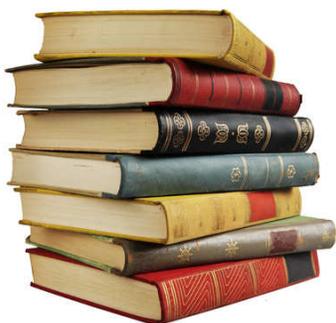
—Recording, Susan Rockwood

The next Business Meeting will be April 20. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org) and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

### QUERIES

**Social Responsibility**— Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all? Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings? Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake?

### FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE



The Library Committee has found that a few books have been signed out by persons that we do not know. If anyone knows Doug Zyskowski, Tyson, or Shannon Park (?) please let us know so we can get in touch with them. For all of us, it is very important that a phone number be put on the library card from the book when anything is signed out. Today many people have cell phones that are not listed. Also please provide the date (including year) that the book is checked out. Thank you!

### Jonathan Schell, Author Who Explored War, Dies at 70

Carmen Lavertu shares this quote from Schell: "The machinery of destruction is complete, poised on a hair trigger, waiting for the 'button' to be 'pushed' by some misguided or deranged human being or for some faulty computer chip to send out the instruction to fire," Schell wrote in the book, which drew upon a series of articles for The New Yorker. "That so much should be balanced on so fine a point — that the fruit of four and a half billion years can be undone in a careless moment — is a fact against which belief rebels." You can read a complete obituary at [The New York Times](#).

## NEWS FROM ANDY BURT

Dear Friends,

I have recently attended 3 inspiring events that were focused on creating community around solutions to address climate justice and local economies.

At Woolman Hill in Deerfield, MA, almost 50 New England Friends active in climate justice concerns convened for Climate Spring. It was a time spent in a spirit of worship to share our ministries and discern ways to support each other. During this retreat, I was simultaneously reading a book on contemplative ecology, **Blue Sapphire of the Mind**. That weekend I experienced both the deep pain of examining in my heart the ecological crisis we are facing and the challenges to overcome it and at the same time the joy of coming together in community and communion to commit to bold actions in our lives. From that time I came home with a leading to call together Friends and others to provide a prayerful witness and support at the trials of several Maine activists who have been arrested for nonviolent civil disobedience as a witness to the injustices of fossil fuels extraction. Friends who would like to join me may contact me either by phone or email. I plan to drive on May 15 to a trial in Fall River, MA for young adult Friend Jay O'Hara who faces federal charges for anchoring an old lobster boat in the channel used by freighters to deliver coal to the Brayton Point power plant. Maine activists are facing trials on May 6 in Cumberland County and at times still not determined.

Climate Solutions Expo and Summit at the Civic Center in Augusta on March 12, organized largely by 350 Maine, drew more than 1000 people on a snowy day. Using a world cafe model,

information about current programs and ideas for future solutions were brainstormed and discussed in small groups at the day-long summit attended by nearly 100 people of all ages. Stephen Mulkey, president of Unity College, gave a keynote talk on ideas for an education system, both public and private, that is transdisciplinary and experiential. Simultaneously in the exhibit hall, about 100 groups showcased exciting energy, food, and transportation solutions already in place. Almost 500 high school students attended the Expo and engaged many of the exhibitors in thoughtful discussions. I will inform Friends of ideas for local implementation that emerged from that conference. Beedy Parker, one of the leaders in creating the event, may have more specifics to add.

Creating and Sustaining Vibrant Local Economies in Maine, held at UMaine at Augusta on Saturday, March 22, brought together more than 100 concerned community members from across the state to identify assets and barriers and envision the future we want for our state. We recognized many areas in which we are boldly moving forward with strategies for the world we want. The food sector is one area that is strong as the members attending the forum demonstrated. Transportation, no surprise, was the area most lacking but the group brainstormed many exciting ideas for local solutions. Creating alternatives to our current money system — time banking/bartering our knowledge and gifts — as well as looking into developing a state bank and "community supported financing") were all discussed. The many ideas that were generated during the day are being organized and shared. I will share these with Friends in a future newsletter.

Guy Marsden has brought to our attention the launching of the new **QUAKER SPEAK** videos. The first one, on the beginnings of Quakerism is at: <http://quakerspeak.com/quakerism-began/> .



## A Memoir of Interest to Friends

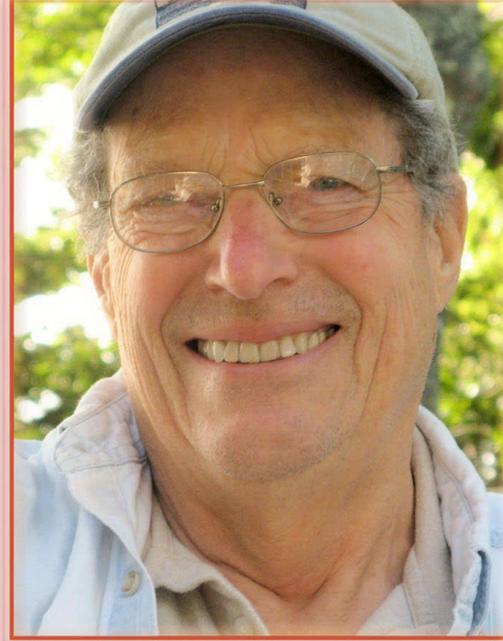
We have heard from Robin Schmidt, letting us know that [Tom's memoir](#) has been published:

# SEEKING ADVENTURE, FINDING HOME

**by Thomas C. Schmidt**

*"I first sought adventure to get away from home. It wasn't many years before I began to realize those adventures were giving me some of the raw material from which to build my own home."*

**You can order "Seeking Adventure, Finding Home" through your local bookstore; or online, at Amazon:**  
[amazon.com/Seeking-Adventure-Finding-Home-Memoir/dp/1494402467/](http://amazon.com/Seeking-Adventure-Finding-Home-Memoir/dp/1494402467/)



COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA (1955-58)  
NEW LONDON, CT (1958-61)  
LONGMEADOW, MA (1961-65)  
ZULULAND, SOUTH AFRICA (1965-66)  
LONGMEADOW, MA (1966-68)  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (1968-71)  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, RI (1971-74)  
  
GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM/POLICY OFFICE (1973-74)  
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION (1974-80)  
WASHINGTON, DC (1980-83)  
WORLD BANK STAFF (1983-93)  
VALLEY VIEW FARM (1994-2006)  
FINDING HOME (2007-12)

**JOB NOTICE:** Friends Meeting at Cambridge (MA) invites you to encourage one or more gifted Friends whom you may know (or a couple to share the position) to apply for the **position of Resident Friend**, an important spiritual and administrative position at the heart of our Meeting.

In brief, this is a 3-6 year position, with the responsibility for caring about and supporting our large urban Meeting (400 members, 150+ at worship). With input from appropriate committees and individuals the Resident Friend will supervise 5 FTE staff members and will exercise significant oversight and coordination of communication, pastoral care, spiritual education, outreach, and other programmatic activities. We particularly wish to improve our ability to attract and integrate young people and families, and welcome a greater diversity of class and race. The job description is attached. Our application deadline is April 15, 2014.

We would be happy to learn directly of any potential candidates you may know (we will try to call them); or you might simply pass the attached job description along to promising candidates. Also, please forward this communication to other seasoned Friends whom you think may be able to help us find just the right fit for this special Quaker job opening.

Thank you for your help. Please call/email me personally if you have any questions.

Kitty Rush [cdrush@comcast.net](mailto:cdrush@comcast.net) / 617-547-8467

For the Resident Friend Search Committee/Friends Meeting at Cambridge/5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge MA 02138

**Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting**  
May 3, 2014  
Blue Hill Congregational Church

The Meeting will open with coffee and muffins at 8:30 a.m. in the lower-level fellowship hall. Worship will begin promptly at 9:00 in the sanctuary. Business meeting will begin at 10:15, with lunch at 11:30.

Our program, the play *The Trial of Anne Hutchinson* by playwright Gary Vencill, will begin promptly at 1:00. Discussion of the play's meaning to Quaker history and our Quaker identity today will follow at 3:00. Based on the actual transcript of the 1634 trial, the play offers insight into the religious and political climate in which Quakerism itself was born. Hutchinson is seen as a "proto-Quaker." Her profound receptivity to inner spiritual revelation is brought to light before the court and becomes justification for her banishment from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

For lunch and lodging - Eggemoggin and Narramissic Friends will provide beverages and soups for lunch. Members of other meetings are asked to bring bread, side dishes, and desserts. Overnight lodging for 10 or 12 can be arranged with Suzanne Ruch, 348-6686. The Blue Hill Congregational Church is at 22 Tenny Hill Road (also Route 15), the main street through Blue Hill village. Contact Phoebe Phelps, 469-7854 with questions.

**Please note:** The play will be presented in a contemplative context and will not be open to the public.

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**Friends & the Internet Day**

Saturday, May 17, 9 to 4  
Moses Brown School, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence, RI

Join us for a day of practical exploration on ways the Internet can help Friends both within and beyond their meetings. Bring your laptop! This will be a 'jump in, try it out' day.

Explore:

- Ways online resources can make meeting life better.
- How the internet can help us communicate our Quaker message.
- Social media as outreach—we'll set up a Facebook ad together
- Using the tools you already have more effectively!

Our Guides:

Jeff Hipp, NEYM Communications Director  
Brent Bill, FGC New Meetings Project Coordinator  
Kathleen Wooten, NEYM Sessions Coordinator  
Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, FWCC  
Mark Barker, Concord Meeting

Coffee at 9 am, program starts at 9:30 am/Lunch is provided, donations welcomed.

RSVP for planning purposes &/or questions to Beth Collea, [recoord@neym.org](mailto:recoord@neym.org)



**STAY TUNED IN!**

# The Center at Midcoast Friends Meeting

Visit Sue Rockwood's Blog on Midcoast Friends' Website: <http://midcoastcenter.blogspot.com/>

**SPRING IS HERE! TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT CAMP**



**Friends Camp**  
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends  
207-873-3499 [director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org)  
25 Burleigh Street  
Waterville, ME 04901 USA

**VISIT: [WWW.FRIENDSCAMP.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSCAMP.ORG) TO REGISTER**

## ***ADVICES***

**Social Responsibility**—Friends are called, as followers of Christ, to help establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Let us strengthen a sense of kinship with everyone. Let that sense of kinship inspire us in our efforts to build a social order free of violence and oppression, in which no person's development is thwarted by poverty and the lack of health care, education, or freedom. Friends are advised to minister to those in need but also to seek to know the facts and the causes of social and economic ills and to work for the removal of those ills. Let us cherish every human being and encourage efforts to overcome all forms of prejudice.