

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



April

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
James Matlack, 236-0903

Recording Clerk:
Bruce Rockwood, 350-2256

Newsletter—April 2015
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Edit/design:
Diane Kirkman, 236-9078,
diane_kirkman@hotmail.com,
17 Grove St.
Camden, ME 04843

Address changes:
Pat Spock, 373-0898,
patriciaspock@gmail.com,
8 Franklin Ln
Topsham, ME 04086

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

Midcoast Outreach & Peace
Center:
Sue Rockwood, 350-2256,
midcoastcenter@gmail.com

Saturday	April 4	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy Meeting
Sunday	April 5	10:00 a.m.	*First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	April 6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Thursday	April 16	6:30-8:30 p.m.	*Doodle-ography Workshop
Saturday	April 18	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	*Listening Workshop (originally scheduled in January)
Sunday	April 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	April 20	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	April 26	Rise of Meeting	*New Abolitionists Film
May			
Saturday	May 2		*All Maine Gathering, South China
Sunday	May 3	10:00 a.m.	*First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	May 4	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Wednesday	May 6	3:00 p.m.	Meeting re: Warren Prison Ministry
Sunday	May 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	May 18	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

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 10 a.m. at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta
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 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

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—March 15, 2015

Sixteen in attendance. Clerk Jim Matlack called the meeting to order and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. The agenda was reviewed and approved without amendment. The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastoral Care—Jean Crawford reported. Due to snow, the **Listening Workshop is now set for Saturday, April 18**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., though you do not need to stay for the whole period to participate. (*See p. 3 for details.*) The **Emergency Fund** has fallen below \$1,000 so this is reported to the Finance Committee and Meeting for Business for consideration of an appropriate response. Members and attenders are reminded that two copies of emergency contact forms are kept by the Meeting, one in a binder at the meetinghouse and one with the clerk of Pastoral Care. Guy Marsden pointed out that blank contact form are available on the web site so if you have not prepared one or wish to update it you can get a copy there.

Library—Rachel McGinness reported. The number of meetings was limited due to snow, but when they did meet they made a good deal of progress. They have a number of **duplicate books** and request input on which duplicates should be maintained in the collection (if rare, out of print, most used, etc.) or stored, and which might be donated or sold to make room. Karen Cadbury has asked to have a list of the duplicates so she could check against a list of valuable books. Sue Rockwood pointed out with new members joining that some books on Quakerism may be more in demand, and she will check if some duplicates are out of print.

Finance—Martin Imm distributed a a copy of the current **finance report** and went over it, discussing the budget planning process, and the "special finance assistance fund" request that was in the recent newsletter (aimed at helping replenish the Emergency Fund as reported by Pastoral Care). Sue Rockwood pointed out that some Ministry & Counsel and First Day School expenditures that she'd made did not seem to be reflected in their accounts. Currently the Emergency Fund balance is zero, and the Finance Committee will propose alternatives to replenishing it after discussion at their next meeting, which is set for April 7, so that it can report back with the draft budget for the new fiscal year at the next (April) Meeting for Business. **Committees are asked to submit suggestions for their budgets for the next fiscal year** and to indicate how much that remains unspent in their budgets for this current fiscal year will probably be spent between now and the end of May. For example, outstanding bills for snow plowing, or expenditures expected for Meetinghouse & Grounds after the snow melts. Bill Hallett asked where the snow bills are in the finance report and Martin indicated line 42 under operating expenses. Sue Rockwood indicated a plowing bill had come in recently and was given to Deb Haviland. This information will help us sort out how to plan for the future. Tom Hagan has offered to help with gathering and formatting this information to help us plan for the long term and is planning to talk to each committee's clerk to ask them what their plans and expected expenditures are. The next fiscal year will run from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016.

Ministry & Counsel—Sue Hallett reported as clerk. They met on March 27. Sue Rockwood then reported that there was an article in the *Boothbay Register* (March 12, 2015, Section II, p. 7) about Patty Seybold's receiving an award as a "woman of distinction" for her work in Uganda since 2006 in support of the African Rural University for Women and the Uganda Rural Development and Training Program. A copy of this article will be kept in our archives. Patty Seybold is also involved locally in planning housing for the elderly.

Midcoast Outreach & Peace Committee (MOPC)—Sue Rockwood reported. The program committee met recently and is developing a schedule for speakers and events. Anne Burt is working on a film *Maine's New Abolitionists* about local climate-change/environmental activists, which will be shown at the meetinghouse. A program on "Drawing and Centering" is being planned. (*See items p. 5 about the film and the drawing program.*)

The program committee asks the Meeting for Business to consider two proposals now: (a.) Local churches, hospitals, pediatricians and the food bank are coordinating a proposal to provide a disposable **Diaper Bank** for local families who are eligible for Mainecare. Small children use a lot of these and they are such an expense some are left in the same diaper for a long period and are showing up at daycare or doctors' appointments with diaper rash. Local laundromats do not permit

(continued on page 3)

washing cloth diapers. Sue Rockwood attended the planning meeting as part of MOPC outreach, and would like the Meeting for Business to indicate its support for this program in principle. Polly Ulin stated this was an important collaborative effort, and cited an instance from her work with Restorative Justice where a young father was arrested for stealing money to buy diapers. The project will be run like the Food Bank and avoid conflict with its existing programs. This would not be a budget item for our Meeting, but members would be encouraged to make voluntary contributions, and this could be noted in the newsletter. Carmen Lavertu pointed out we do have a budget item for the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and that community needs are more urgent than ever. Guy Marsden indicated this request for support could also be noted on the Website, along with the e-mail to our members and attenders about this being our month to lend support to the food bank. There was a consensus that the Meeting for Business agreed to have the Midcoast Friends Meeting included in the list of local groups supporting the Diaper Bank. (b.) Sue Rockwood then noted that 2015 is the **20th Anniversary of the opening of the meetinghouse**, which opened with two weddings. MOPC's Program Committee suggested that the Meeting consider a program this spring/summer to honor the founders responsible for building and opening this facility. Suggestions were made including doing video interviews with those who were involved at the time and are still with us; a program for sprucing up the building and grounds; and a plan for a picnic or other program in the summer. Please think about this and bring your ideas to the April Meeting for Business. Rachel McGinness and Sue Rockwood volunteered to be on a planning committee. It was agreed to put this request for ideas in the newsletter.

Meetinghouse & Grounds—Bill Hallett reported. Bill thanked Sue Rockwood for the suggestions for fixing up the building for the anniversary. The committee has met and feels the structure is in pretty good condition, that painting the interior might be a goal for the spring, and is something we could probably do ourselves to keep the costs down. Carmen Lavertu suggested restoring **room-darkening curtains or opaque shades to the social room** to facilitate when videos are shown there. Suzy Hallett offered to investigate window treatments and paint color ideas and to help coordinate with plans for **sprucing up the meetinghouse for the 20th anniversary**. Martin Imm suggested this could help attract new members. Suggestions should be given to Meetinghouse & Grounds, and thanks were given to the volunteers who cleared the brush at the front circle of the meetinghouse last year and to Guy Marsden for cutting branches to improve the line of sight and driving safety at our entrance.

Special Concerns—Uganda and the "New Underground Railway," Carmen Lavertu reported. There is a person from Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting who has been visiting meetings in VQM with a "traveling minute" in support of the needs of LGBTQ persons in Uganda who are threatened with violence and death there. (See *Minute p. 6.*) Efforts are being made to provide funding and support to enable individuals to escape the threat there, and VQM has twice met with her and approved a minute in support of her ministry. Carmen asked that the Meeting invite this person to speak to us after the rise of meeting sometime this month or next, depending on her speaking schedule. The Meeting approved inviting this person to speak and asked Carmen to coordinate the speaker's schedule with Ministry & Council and the program calendar.

Other Concerns—Martin Imm reported that a **lock has been placed on the contribution box**, and there was discussion as to how the joint meeting of MOPC and Finance Committee last month agreed that it was to be handled. Martin's recollections differed from those of others at the meeting, and Jim Matlack will attempt to resolve this. Jim Matlack reported on the first meeting of the **revived Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy (FCMPP)**, of which he is now clerk. The second meeting will be held at the meetinghouse on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and all are welcome to attend. Some of the issues under consideration are the failure of the state to fully honor tribal rights under Federal law, and criminal justice and prison reform.

Respectfully submitted,

—Jim Matlack, Clerk; Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk

Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship. The next meeting for business will be at the rise of meeting on Sunday, April 19. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available on the meetinghouse bulletin board and at <http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/newsletter.htm>.

QUERIES

Stewardship—Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

LISTENING WORKSHOP

Listening to that of God in another person, being truly heard, and strengthening community within the Meeting are primary goals of a Listening Workshop (originally scheduled earlier this year) on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the meetinghouse. The central activity will be The Walk to Emmaus from Luke 24:13-35, with time for processing and lunch rounding out the workshop. Pastoral Care Committee members Deb Haviland, Carmen Lavertu, and Jean Crawford will facilitate. To sign up for the workshop, please contact Jean Crawford at jrcrawford051@gmail.com or 207-236-4176. Questions are welcome.

ALL MAINE GATHERING OF FRIENDS

Saturday, May 2, 2015, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
South China Community Church, 246 Village St , South China, Maine
(for directions: <http://southchinacommunitychurch.org/directions.html>)
Hosted by Falmouth Quarterly Meeting

Schedule of the Day (No Worship for the Conduct of Business)

8:30 am – Gather and Welcome
9:00 am – Worship
9:30 am – 12:30 p.m. Conflict Transformation for Friends Session I
12:30 – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH and Announcements
1:30 – 4 p.m. Conflict Transformation for Friends Session II

Presenters: New York Yearly Meeting Conflict Transformation Team Members, Heather Cook and Peter Phillips. This one-day workshop will explore commonly-arising situations Friends Meetings experience. The seasoned leaders will share insights into how they can be acknowledged, how they can be addressed, and how the meeting can use conflict as an opportunity for growth and transformation. (<http://www.nyym.org/?q=node/898>)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. See Carmen Lavertu for a registration form or go to www.nyym.org/events/6186.

Program is appropriate for those ages 14 to adult. Child care offered and lunch provided. Program funded by grants from Mosher Book and Tract, Portland Friends Leadings Committee, and Falmouth and Vassalboro Quarterly Meetings

Meet Maine's New Abolitionists and Share Your Story

On Sunday, April 26, shortly after the rise of Meeting, Andy Burt will screen a half-hour film she developed with a Maine videographer that includes inspiring stories shared by a few Maine individuals who have been taking courageous actions for climate justice in their congregations, communities, and college campuses. The film will be followed by a roundtable sharing of our own stories over lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring a sandwich, and Andy will provide a cold beverage and light dessert.

Andy received two small grants from faith-based foundations more than a year ago to develop a program of storytelling and activism that can be used by congregations, Friends meetings, and secular groups. The film we will watch is a pilot for her developing project that will be expanded this spring. Andy is eager to have Friends' feedback as they also share with one another some part of their own stories that the filmed stories may evoke. Friends will leave with some take-home questions for further reflection and discussion. We hope many will be able to join this opportunity for sharing with one another.



Themed Programs on First Sundays

Once a month, a special exploration with children for First Day followed by a family-style potluck lunch!

Sunday, April 5 (Easter): We'll be introducing a centering activity after our greeting time and using smooth stones to build a group sculpture. We'll have a brief focus on the egg (as a part of the cycle of life, rebirth, and many spring holidays including Easter), followed by an egg hunt! Some of the eggs will contain puzzle pieces, and we will work together to assemble the puzzle. None of the eggs will contain candy, but there will be a few treats. Time permitting, we'll practice our "Magic Penny" song. We'll follow with general potluck.

Sunday, May 3: After greeting each other and centering, we will try a mindfulness activity involving bowls of water and keeping the floor dry! Next we'll explore Eric Carle's art, enjoy one of his books, and make our own colorful paper supply to use in our next project. If the weather permits, we'll go outside to explore our meadow and walking paths before the milkweed and crickets and monarchs of summer. We'll follow with general potluck.

Doodle-ography Workshop—April 16, 6:30-8:30

What does doodling have to do with the spiritual search? Find out for yourself Thursday evening, April 16, 6:30-8:30 at Midcoast Meeting of Friends, when Lindy Gifford will lead a workshop in focused doodling. Perhaps you doodle a lot already. Or do you think of doodling as a waste of time? Either way, this workshop will open you to new possibilities.

Currently there is an explosion of interest in doodling and its benefits, and with good reason. Lindy's approach to doodling, called Doodle-ography, differs from most doodling books and programs in that it is a spiritual practice and it is a gentle, non-directive guide. Doodle-ography is accessible to everyone, even those who have had little success with other forms of meditation. For many others it has proven an enriching addition to their existing practice—one they can engage in anywhere, anytime.

Lindy Gifford is a member of the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Damariscotta. She is an artist and graphic designer and will be ordained as an interfaith chaplain this June by the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine. Like so many people, she has doodled all her life and remembers teachers telling her not to doodle in class. It has become her mission to help dispel some of the misconceptions about doodling and help make its calming, centering benefits available to as many people as possible. As Director of Religious Education at MUUF, Lindy developed a doodling journal for the youth to use in services. A year ago she published an adult version, the Doodle-ography Journal, and started using the journal with groups in Unitarian Universalist congregations and Quaker Meetings. Recently she has been leading adult workshops with elders at the Lincoln Home, US veterans at Camp Kieve, and inmates at Two Bridges Jail.

At the workshop, Lindy will introduce the concept of doodling as a spiritual practice and answer questions. The majority of the time will be spent with the practice itself and sharing thoughts and reactions. Pens and sample pages from the journal will be provided for use during the workshop. Doodle-ography Journals will also be for sale for \$16, for those who choose. If you would like to buy or look at a copy before the workshop, they are available at Maine Coast Book Shop, Damariscotta. FMI: www.doodle-ography.com.

Winthrop Center Friends Church, Readfield, ME: Travel Minute for Diane Dicranian

Dear Friends,

Diane Dicranian, a faithful member of Winthrop Center Friends Church, has a leading to travel among Friends to share the work of Friends New Underground Railroad.

The Friends New Underground Railroad was created by Olympia Friends Meeting, Olympia, Washington, in response to the Ugandan government's continuing targeting of lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender (LGBT) people and their allies. The FNUR is devoted to aiding Ugandans and their allies who are fleeing their homeland for their lives and safety. The purpose of this initiative is to financially support Ugandans helping to save Ugandans.

Diane has been and is a faithful supporter of the FNUR. She brought her concern to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting in September 2014, where Friends minuted support and encouragement for Diane to carry her message to VQM Friends (Minute September 9, 2014). At our November meeting VQM approved a minute for the Friends New Underground Railroad (Minute, November 5, 2014), and at our February meeting, VQM approved a Minute of Concern to NEYM on LGBT Ugandans (Minute, February 7, 2014).

Diane has the support of Winthrop Center Friends, which minuted their support of the Friends New Underground Railroad at our January 18, 2015, meeting for business. We endorse her calling with deep appreciation and take it under our care. We commend Diane to your care and hospitality.

Approved and minuted at our meeting for business held 22 February 2015.

Signed: Eileen Cummings, Co-Clerk
Ann Dodd-Colling, Co-Clerk

From Andy Burt and Maine Council of Churches:

The Maine Students for Climate Justice (MSCJ) have planned the "Generation Climate Rising: You Can't Veto ME" event for Saturday, April 11 (tentatively from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.). Over 1,000 students will be assembling in Augusta to stand up for their future and insist that Maine government do the same. Notoriously hostile to solar energy, wind turbines, and all manner of climate friendly laws, Governor Paul LePage has vetoed more legislation than any other Maine governor ever. Maine Students for Climate Justice (MSCJ) is getting ready to push back: wanting to change history, it is determined to make history.

Dick Thomas would like to invite a group from our church to attend the demonstration (speeches by Maine Youth and a short march through Augusta). Let's swell the numbers of attendees with family and older community members as well as youth, and change the political climate in Augusta! Politicians respond to numbers of voters, and we can show them that resistance to efforts to reduce climate change is no longer accepted in Maine.

Please contact Andy Burt for further details (annedburt145@gmail.com or 380-5387).



EDITOR SOUGHT

If you like to do layout and proofread/copy-edit others' writing, you may be the perfect candidate to serve Midcoast Friends as the new newsletter editor. With Internet access, you can serve the Meeting from your own home! Please contact Diane Kirkman at 236-9078 or diane_kirkman@hotmail.com with your questions about what is involved.



PIPELINE PILGRIMAGE

NEYM's Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group is a group of Friends focused on the Quaker response to Climate issues. They are planning something very exciting--a 12 day pilgrimage, April 1 through 12, through Massachusetts and New Hampshire, following the route of a proposed fracked-gas pipeline. All are invited to join. Spread the word! You can learn more or sign-up for part of the walk via the website: <http://pipelinepilgrimage.org/>.

Here's what, Jay O'Hara, one of the leaders of the pilgrimage, says about it:

This isn't going to be a protest or a march. Here are some quick points about why it's going to be awesome:

- 1) No chants, no signs. This isn't a protest; it's a pilgrimage, which means it's about our personal transformation and grief in the face of climate change, not trying to make a stink about why some people are wrong or evil.
- 2) Lots of worship and singing and fellowship. While we aren't going to "keep a day," it's interesting that this is being timed around Easter and Passover. We're going to dig into what that means, probably have some Bible study, and daily worship.
- 3) Super flexible. Come for as long as you can, a day or all 12, we'd love to have you whenever. The weekends will be lower-mileage, the weekdays a bit more "pedal to the metal."
- 4) It's going to be really Quaker, and other faith communities (some UUs, Congregationalists, and Jewish folks) are getting really excited about this, because they're all stuck in the secular-activist-plastered-with-faith-value-words rut too, and are excited to break out of it.

ADVICES

Stewardship—Friends are advised to consider our possessions as God's gifts, entrusted to us for responsible use. Let us free our time and our abilities to be able to follow the leadings of the Spirit. Let us cherish the beauty and variety of the world. Friends are urged to speak out boldly against the destruction prepared for the future generations. Let us guard against waste and resist our extravagant consumption, which contributes to inequities and impoverishment of life in our own and other societies. Let us show a loving consideration for all God's creatures. Let kindness know no limits.

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