

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
Damariscotta, Maine
NEWSLETTER

To suggest that war can prevent war is a base play on words and a despicable form of war-mongering. The objective of any who sincerely believe in peace clearly must be to exhaust every honorable recourse in the efforts to save the peace. The world has had ample evidence that war begets only conditions that beget further war.

—Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace Laureate 1950, cited by Jimmy Carter, Nobel Peace Laureate 2002

May

Friday	May 2	7 p.m.	Meeting for Sufferings
Sunday	May 4	11:30 a.m.	Workday, raindate 5/5
Saturday	May 10	10 a.m. - 3 p.m. day-long	FCMPP, Waterville Maine AFSC P&C: workshop on draft counseling and counter recruitment, Augusta
Sunday	May 11	8:30 a.m.	Reading Group: NEYM Faith and Practice
Monday	May 12	5 p.m.	Ministry and Counsel Committee
Tuesday	May 13	4:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
Friday	May 16	6:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper Monthly Meeting to conduct business - Corporation Meeting
Monday	May 19	asap	Deadline for June <i>Newsletter</i>
Sunday	May 25	8:30 a.m. Rise of Meeting 1:30 pm.	Reading Group: NEYM Faith and Practice * Plant Sale and potluck lunch Dialogue on Peace with the Baha'is of Midcoast Maine
~Weekly, ongoing~			
Tuesdays		7 pm.	"Peacemakers" meetings
~Advance Notice~			
Sat.-Sat.	6/28 to 7/5		Friends General Conference, Johnstown, PA
Sat.-Thurs.	August 2-7		New England Yearly Meeting Sessions

* 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 Road, Damariscotta, 10:00 a.m.
Meetinghouse phone: 207-563-3757. Directions: Take US Route 1 to Damariscotta and turn onto Belvedere Road (left if coming from the south, right if coming from the north. The Miles Home Health Care building is on the corner.) The meetinghouse is the second building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Back Issues of the Newsletter and Meeting Information, are available at: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

Friendly Reminders: Moving or changing your E-mail address? Don't forget to notify the newsletter of your changes. Electronic subscriptions via E-mail are environmentally friendly and cost the Meeting nothing. To receive your newsletter via the Web, E-mail a request to Nancy Terrell Hall at moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com

The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 4th month of 2003

based on draft minutes by Barbara Foust

Finance Committee

Bill Spock presented the proposed budget and carefully explained each item. The Meeting's income has decreased, so the new budget will be tighter than this year's. A draft pledge letter, which for the first time includes a signup for volunteer help, was discussed. It is hoped that giving people the opportunity to indicate areas of interest will make the Nominating Committee's job easier as well as get people thinking about ways they can become active in the Meeting.

In an effort to stem the proliferation of different categories in the budget, the \$400 earmarked for the First Day School was moved into the "Meetinghouse and Grounds" category, with the understanding that it is still available specifically for a major First Day School expense.

It may be found that the Worthy Needs Committee, which is usually appointed in 5th month, might better be appointed at year's end by the Nominating Committee so its recommendations can be available as the budget is planned. For the sake of continuity, a two-year appointment with overlaps was suggested.

It was noted that the Budget Committee should be consulted if a committee anticipates expenditures in excess of its budget. The Budget Committee needs notification before the overspending occurs, so appropriate adjustments can be made and funds found to cover the overage. Any Reserved Funds spent must first be approved by the Monthly Meeting.

The proposed budget report is available from Treasurer Paul Diamond, and the budget is subject to approval at the 5th month Meeting for Business.

Ministry & Counsel

The State of Society Report was read by Ernie Foust. Suggestions for several changes were agreed, and the revised report will be submitted by the clerk to Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

Two new members, Gretchen Hull and Nancy Nyberg, were joyously welcomed. In the process of applying for membership, Nancy discovered that she is of the 12th generation of Quakers in her family.

Query #4

The Meeting Community

Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine life?

Friends were reminded of the necessity of keeping pets out of the meetinghouse due to allergies of some members and attenders. A sign with appropriate wording will be posted at the door.

Peace & Social Concerns

The AFSC has specified and is planning to ship hygiene kits to Iraq. Large ziploc bags containing a list of needed supplies were distributed. Friends were asked to return the completed kits by 4/27, so they may be included in the upcoming AFSC shipment.

A threshing session will be held 5th month 2 (Friday, May 2) at 7 p.m. for those in despair over the war. This is for the nourishment of the Meeting family. The pain, sorrow, anger, and disappointment needs to be addressed, and hopefully lightened. Please come if you need this opportunity or your special healing presence can assist. We will hold this under the title of a Meeting for Sufferings.

Ernie Foust spoke of LB212, An Act to Establish Instant Runoff in Voting. On first hearing, it seems complex, but proponents maintain it can correct several serious defects in the present electoral system. Ed Snyder, clerk of FCMPP, believes Maine has a good chance of adopting this system. Interested Friends are encouraged to support this legislation and contact their state senators and representatives urging them to support this bill.

Steve Gorry expects to have the new outdoor meeting sign installed early in 5th month.

There is an AFSC flyer on the credenza in the meetinghouse about a program on May 10 in Augusta to teach volunteers who wish to adopt a high school to talk about peace.

Other Business

Four people, all from Meeting, attended the last silent retreat on 4/12. The next one will be in June, the date to be announced.

Representatives from Bridges for Peace met on 4/17 to clarify their mission and the direction of continued actions, to think creatively about expanding peace work, and to think how best to respond to counter-demonstrators who are increasingly belligerent.

It is hoped some people will consider attending New England Yearly Meeting in Massachusetts this August.

The Meeting plant sale and potluck lunch will happen on 5/25 at the rise of Meeting. Now is the time to think of dividing and potting plants that you can spare.

* * * * *

Next Monthly Meeting: Friday, April 18th, at 7 p.m. at the meetinghouse. A potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m. All welcome.

CONA Lecture: Renewable Energy For a Sustainable World with Peter Arnold of Chewonki Foundation

How will the needs of a growing world cope with our dwindling fossil fuel resources? What are some renewable sources of critical energy that will enable us to make this important transition? Peter Arnold MSW, Renewable Energies Pathways Coordinator for the Chewonki Foundation, will discuss these and other critical questions in his talk, "Biodiesel: A Renewable Liquid Fuel," on Wednesday, May 7th, 7 p.m., at Midcoast meetinghouse in Damariscotta.

Arnold's work focuses on preparing for the transition from fossil fuel use, a process which has caused global warming and other deleterious effects, to renewable energy use. He has assisted the Chewonki Foundation of Wiscasset in the development of educational materials and hands-on learning opportunities for the Chewonki educational staff and schools and community groups utilizing their services.

Peter Arnold (a Midcoast Meeting attendee) is a former Peace Corps worker who served in Chile. He has diverse experience, focused on such issues as seaweed utilization research, homesteading, building passive solar houses, and individual, family, and organizational change-oriented psychotherapy.

The talk is free and sponsored by CONA (Citizens Offering New Alternatives), a Lincoln County-based citizens' organization dedicated to education and advocacy on important issues affecting our society.

The Meeting has recently decided to try using heating oil which is partially composed of biodiesel fuel. ED



No Pets Allowed

Some people suffer from the danger of serious allergic reaction when in close proximity with animals. Please help increase awareness of the need to keep the air in the meetinghouse as free of allergens as possible. If you see a pet in the meetinghouse, please usher it out promptly and remind its human family that no pets are allowed in any part of the meetinghouse.

Friends Camp 50th Anniversary Celebration and Reunion June 21, 2003

at the camp in
South China, Maine
Check the Web site for details
www.friendscamp.org

or write Susan Morris, Director, Friends Camp,
PO Box 84, East Vassalboro, ME 04935

Plants, Potluck & Baha'is

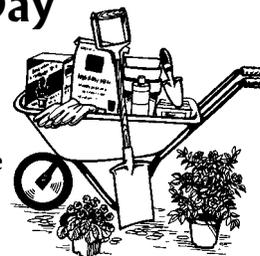
May 25, at the rise of Meeting

Bring your extra plants to share with others. Funds raised will help to maintain the meetinghouse grounds.

Following the plant sale and potluck, the meeting with the Midcoast Baha'i Community, which was postponed due to bad weather, will be held, starting at 1:30 p.m. Refer to the March '03 issue of the *Newsletter* for details on that meeting.

Spring Work Day May 4

Come to Meeting dressed for outdoor work, bring a bag lunch and your favorite gardening tools.
Rain date is May 5th.



War, Peace, and the Future

by Bill Spock

Recently I finished reading a book directly pertinent to the current world situation. The first half discusses the growth of the nation-state and the wars in Western civilization. The second half covers the peace arrangements that followed those wars and the options open to the world in the future. This note is intended to encourage others to investigate its messages.

THE SHIELD OF ACHILLES (War, Peace, and the Course of History) – 827 pages, plus notes. Philip Bobbitt, 2002 – Knopf. Completed before 9/11/01 but published afterwards, with some added comments as a result of that incident. It almost predicts 9/11 by the nature of its considerations.

The author teaches constitutional law at the University of Texas, where he holds the A.W. Walker Centennial Chair. He was formerly the Anderson Senior Research Fellow and member of the modern history faculty at Nuffield College, Oxford, England, and later the Marsh Christian Fellow in War Studies at King's College, London. He has served in the White House, the Senate, the State Department, and the National Security Council in both Democratic and Republican administrations.

This is really three books. The first is a history of the evolution of the nations of the West, from princely states, to kingly states, to territorial states, to state nations, to nation-states, and now what Bobbitt calls "market states." He traces the epochal wars up through "the long war" (1914 to 1990), and covers the international orders in each era.

The second part of the book reviews the peace treaties that concluded each of those wars, including the Peace of Paris in 1990, and the third part covers the current situation and the options for the world. Bobbitt posits three models for the future, using his terms:

Religion Run Amok

President Bush prays and thinks he's doing God's will, that God is with him. Osama bin Laden thinks he's doing God's will and God is with him. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the Zionists think they are doing God's will and God is with them...

...Mass destruction is mass destruction is mass destruction, and the God of the Jews is the God of the Christians is the God of the Muslims. We are all children of God, and our sibling rivalry is going to kill us all. This madness of "religious righteousness" is wrong.

—Kayta Gajdos and Lawrence Gajdos,
Chadds Ford, PA,
contributed by George Sparks

- Entrepreneurial – more responsibility left to the individual – more like U.S.
- Mercantile – the nation in charge and controlling – more like Japan, Korea.
- Managerial – more socialist, with labor, rather than capital, in focus – some European countries.

Bobbitt then examines the major issues on the horizon—weapons of mass destruction, immigration and human rights (including the globalization of culture), trade and finance, and the environment. From this background, he then considers future possible worlds and problems. Some of these are very thought-provoking, such as unprecedented immigration following a nuclear accident. Three major possible world scenarios then receive treatment in depth.

- The Meadow – nations evolve to entrepreneurial market states; ruthless naturalism.
- The Park – regional alliances are created on a managerial basis; bureaucratic oversight.
- The Garden – sovereignty under a mercantile concept; iron insistence on harmony.

Bobbitt concludes by showing that all three scenarios reveal serious problems for our values, both contradictory and incommensurable. He says, "we are living in one of those relatively rare periods in which the future is unlikely to be very much like the past." Although the book has many digressions with details of interesting but somewhat irrelevant history, it is a fascinating and thought-provoking study of where we have been, where we are, and where we could be headed. It has me concerned about the quality of leadership needed in the U.S. and elsewhere and the importance of global cooperation and communication. W.H. Auden's sad poem at the end complements the *Iliad* quotation at the beginning.



Another Quaker Life

by Barbara K. Foust

Scanning a discount book catalog, I came upon an interesting title—*A Plain Life, Walking My Belief* by Scott Savage. The catalog write-up mentioned that Savage is a Quaker, and it otherwise intrigued me. I ordered the book and have found it a gem. This is a first-person true and recent story, circa 2000. The author details his spiritual search and development during a bitter-cold 100-mile walk through Ohio to Columbus to turn in his driver’s license, an act resulting from spiritual leading. Scott and his wife, Mary Ann, began their marriage with two jobs as public-service diplomats, with long commutes, harried, hurried, and finding modern life unfulfilling. They sought the closeness of nature, more spiritual meaning, and simplicity. Finally turning their lives over to God, they were led first to the Amish, then to liberal Quakers, then, finally, to Wilburite Quakers near Barnesville, Ohio, whose lifestyle is described as “primitive Quakerism revived”—reminiscent of the starting point for Quakerism. Recalling his difficult winter hike, Savage describes the seekings, the processes, and the findings.

He is now living in a wee house with 4 small children, no modern facilities, BUT within a solid, loving, supportive community. They claim the land as a sacred trust, tending it for indefinite sustainability, and they practice home schooling, home birthing, horse-and-buggy transportation (with a wildly neurotic horse). With much hard hands-on work for all, deep faith, and love, they have come to their place of centering and joy.

You may admire them but not wish to join them. In any case, it is a fascinating read, has much to teach us, and it is good to know they are there. This book will soon be added to the Meeting library.

FGC Telephone Service

Support Friends General Conference with a new long-distance phone service. This is an opportunity to both contribute money to FGC each month at no cost to you and also save a significant amount for yourself. By switching your long distance phone service to Enhanced Communications Group, you will also be contributing to FGC—5% of your long distance phone bill will be contributed to FGC. In addition, this phone service offers very competitive rates that could save you 20-50% off your current long-distance rates. For information, log on to www.fgcquaker.org/phone or call Ken Miller at 888-704-9998.



LD 212: An Act to Establish Instant Runoff Voting

by Ernie Foust

Passage and adoption of instant runoff voting legislation will bring many benefits to our democracy. The ballot permits the voter a first choice, second choice, and so on, depending on the number of candidates. When the ballots are counted, if no candidate has a sufficient number of first-place votes to win, the candidate’s second-place votes are added to the first-place votes. Thus the voter has indicated his highest priority candidate, but his second choice candidate, whom he feels is a good choice but not perfect, may win the election.

Under this system, the winner of an election has garnered the majority of the votes. Instant runoff voting is the cheapest way to achieve this end. With modern computers it is also fast.

Benefits: Elected officials have a more secure mandate. More people are likely to vote because they can vote “for” a candidate rather than “against.” Voters can vote their conviction without feeling guilty about “throwing away a vote” by voting for a candidate who apparently has little chance of winning a majority. Greater voter participation should result as public confidence in the process is restored. Fewer negative campaigns are anticipated, because candidates will be hoping to catch some of the second-choice votes.

At the hearing I attended, the only opposition came from municipal workers who would be responsible for developing the ballots and overseeing the counting. One can sympathize with their reluctance to change and hesitancy about the complications, but the process has been successfully adopted in various jurisdictions.

The Advices

Let us live in love as members of a Christian community. Let us be ready to give and receive help, to rejoice together in the blessings of life and to sympathize with each other in its trials.

Let us maintain unity: let us avoid tale-bearing and detraction, acknowledge differences and seek to settle conflicts promptly in a manner free from resentment and all forms of inward violence; let us visit one another, making sure that those who are alone are drawn into the wider family of Friends. Thus, we may know one another as fellow workers in the things that endure.

Visit

www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

This Is Why

by Jean Goldfine, Belfast Meeting

contributed by Kit Pfeiffer, this piece originally appeared in the Belfast Area Friends Meeting newsletter, March 2003, and is reprinted with permission from the author.

A few years ago when I was in England, I went to Lyndhurst in Hampshire and visited the Church of Michael and all Archangels, where Alice Liddell Hargreaves is buried. Alice was the little girl whose family was friends with Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson). He wrote *Alice in Wonderland* for Alice and her sisters.

It was a rainy day, and we spent some time inside the beautiful church, admiring the carved angels on the sides of the nave. Each angel has an instrument...a viol, a harp, or a trumpet, and they lean over the aisles with their wings spread. Alice is buried outside in a square plot planted with roses. The sun came out for a few minutes, so we looked at her grave and wandered around the churchyard.

Of course, it started to rain again, so we went back inside and looked around the church again, especially at the plaques on the walls, dedicated to the memory of the many young men who died in the wars, partic-

ularly World War I, which wiped out the whole male population of many villages.

"Look," I said, "this is such a sad story." A brass plaque told about a young man from the town, who died in Flanders at the age of 19. Next to it was another plaque for his brother, who had died about 6 months later in the same area, age 20. We stood in front of the plaques and thought about what this family had suffered...the waiting for news, the first death, prayers for the other son, the bad news again.

Almost in tears, I read their names aloud—Rex and Alan Hargreaves. They were Alice's sons. Now the tears did come. I will remember the church in Lyndhurst, the carved angels, and the tragedy of Alice's family. And today I say to myself, "We are Quakers. We have the Peace Testimony. In Alice's time, Quakers were saying that the war was wrong, and we KNOW that it is wrong today. This is why."

Midcoast Meeting of Friends
PO Box 714, 77 Belvedere Road
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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Mailing list: e-mail changes to Nancy @ moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com or USPS mail to Nancy @ 216 Waldoboro Rd., Bremen, ME 04551