

Fifth Month

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

May 2010



Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

--Galatians 6:2

May

Saturday	May 1	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Whiting [See April newsletter.]
Sunday	May 2	Rise of Meeting 12 noon	Potluck/Work Hour Quakerism Study Group
Thursday	May 6	3:00 p.m.	Suzy Hallet's home
Tuesday	May 11	7:00 p.m.	*"Israel, Palestine and Gaza after the 2009 Invasion"
Sunday	May 16	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Business

June

Sunday	June 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck
Saturday	June 19	10:00 a.m.	FCMPP Meeting, Alford Center
Sunday	June 20	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Business

Upcoming

Sun.-Sat.	July 4-10	FGC Gathering [See March newsletter.]
Sunday	August 29	Meeting for Worship at Small Point with Susan St. John

*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 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 a request to Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com. Thanks!

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org.

Highlights--Monthly Meeting for Business--April 18, 2010

Friends approved a minute regarding signatories for the **Meeting's safe deposit box**.

The **Finance Committee** was featured for this month's in-depth discussion. Friends approved the committee's recommendation that audits be conducted by someone in the Meeting or in Vassalboro Quarter. Clerk Bill Spock, with assistance from Treasurer Paul Diamond, led Friends through a series of handouts, detailing how, for the first time in 10 years, the Meeting's expenses will outpace its income, in 2010-11. Friends are asked to ponder what should be done about this issue and contact Bill Spock with suggestions. A suggestion that we look into possibilities for increasing rental income was referred to Meetinghouse & Grounds. The budget for the coming year is to be finalized at the May meeting for business.

Ministry & Counsel's recommendation that the Meeting approve **transfer of membership for Mallory and George Waldman** from Birmingham Monthly Meeting was joyfully approved.

Friends encouraged Clerk Brewster Grace of the **Peace Center** Steering Committee to invite Nancy Irving, General Secretary of Friends World Committee on Consultation, to come speak. They approved sponsoring the Tom Sturdevant Scholarship to help veterans attend the 50th anniversary celebration of Maine Veterans for Peace.

For **Pastoral Care**, Clerk Carmen Lavertu distributed new Emergency File forms, asking Friends to update their information.

The **next meeting for business will take place Sunday, May 16**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the April 2010 session are available at the Meeting website www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

ADVICES--The Meeting Community

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.



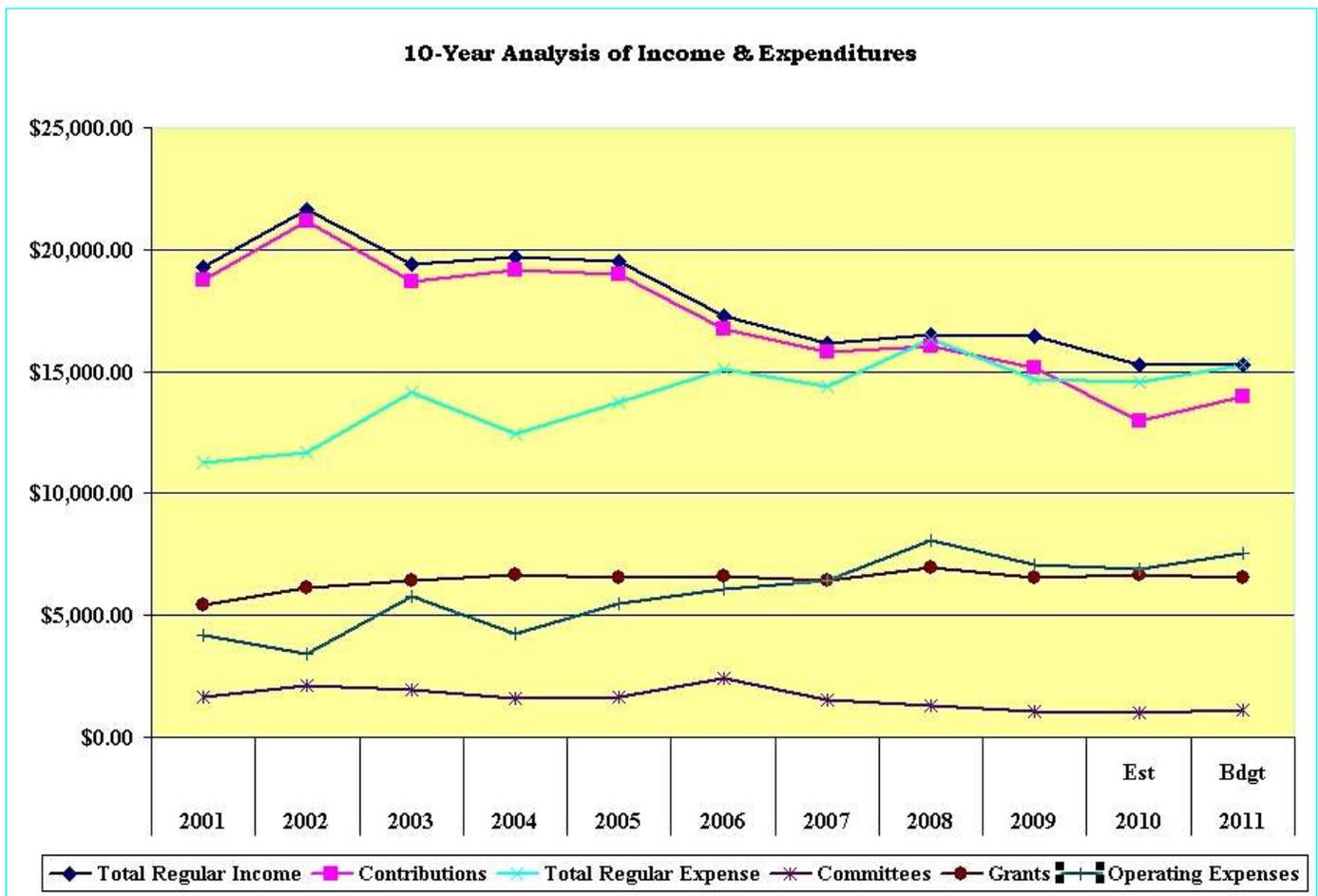
Congratulations Nathan and Annalee

Nathan Rockwood and Annalee Horne will be married on May 15, 2010, at the Langley Hill Friends Meeting in McLean, Virginia, at one o'clock in the afternoon. The Meeting sends congratulations and best wishes and hopes to greet the couple sometime this summer.

It's Budget Time

The Meeting's fiscal year comes to an end at the end of May, and so it is time to think about our budget for next year. A draft was presented to Monthly Meeting in April, but more work needs to be done before it can be approved at the May Monthly Meeting. The bad news is that the Meeting's income has been declining and expenses have been rising, to the point that the draft budget presented to the April Monthly Meeting had a gap between income and expenditure of about \$675. This will need to be closed by finding more income and/or making cuts to proposed expenditures.

The Finance Committee made a report to Monthly Meeting in April, which included the following chart covering the years from 2000-01 up to and including an estimate for 2009-10 and a budget for 2010-11. The chart shows our income and expenditure for normal items, such as annual contributions, committee expenses, grants to others (primarily Quaker entities, like New England Yearly Meeting) and operating expenses. The salient features of this chart are steady declines in contributions (by 25%) and income (by 21%) and steady increases in operating expenses (by 82%).



Those who did not attend the last Monthly Meeting but may be interested in seeing the draft budget for the upcoming year are encouraged to contact the Treasurer, Paul Diamond, at 236-0283 or by e-mail at Pauld625@roadrunner.com. It is also hoped that there will be a good turnout at the May Monthly Meeting, particularly by clerks of committees, to discuss how the meeting can balance its budget.

PEACE

PEACE IS A GIFT THAT GIVES ME A LIFT
DANCE AROUND A RING AND SING
PLAY THE LUTE OR THE FLUTE
PEACE IS THE SEED
FOR WHICH SONG BIRDS FEED



NURTURE,
FOR PEACE IN THE FUTURE

PEACE IN THE PRESENT IS HEAVEN SENT
PEACE IS THE RING TO WHICH WE CLING
DANCE PRANCE BE JOYOUS WITH LUST
PLAY THE LUTE OR THE FLUTE

~A Gift to the Meeting from Alice Lacy~

UPCOMING PEACE CENTER PROGRAM: The Peace Center invites Midcoast Meeting members and our Midcoast community to hear Norman Olsen talk on "Israel, Palestine and Gaza after the 2009 Invasion" on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. (The talk will be preceded by refreshments at 6:30.)

In 26 years as a diplomat, Norman Olsen served 9 years in the U.S. Embassy in Israel, responsible for assistance to Gaza and monitoring Israeli-Palestinian relations. He will give a brief history of the Israel-Palestine conflict, discuss U.S. efforts to promote the peace process, and report on and show slides from his 2009 visit to Gaza.

A native of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, Norman grew up in a commercial fishing family. He worked as a commercial fisherman, and later as a fisheries regulator, until he joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1983. He now lives in Cherryfield. (Learn more about Norman Olsen at www.olsenglobal.com/olsenglobal.com/Words/Words.html.)

QUERIES--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?



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