

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
Suzy Hallett, 563-6084 &
David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:
Jim Matlack, 236-0903

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Midcoast Outreach & Peace
Center:
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May

Saturday	May 3		Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting Blue Hill [<i>see April newsletter</i>]
Sunday	May 4	Rise of Meeting 1:30-3 p.m.	Potluck Lunch *Peace Center Open House
Wed.	May 7	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change
Saturday	May 17		Friends and the Internet Providence, RI [<i>see April newsletter</i>]
Sunday	May 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Wed.	May 21	9:30-11:30 a.m.	The Challenge of Change

June

Sunday	June 1	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	June 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

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

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—April 20, 2014

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Clerk David Cadbury welcomed fourteen Friends. The Minutes for the March Meeting for Business were reviewed. An amendment was made in the third paragraph as follows: “Deb reported that she has maintained a book with Memorial Minutes for members who have died and another book with copies of Marriage Certificates for weddings conducted under the care of Midcoast Meeting.” The Minutes were then approved.

It was agreed that the Clerks will exercise their judgment as to which e-mail messages that are sent to them should be circulated more widely to members of the Meeting. Friends were reminded that Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will be held in Blue Hill on May 3. After business sessions a live performance of The Trial of Anne Hutchinson will be staged.

CLEAN ELECTIONS INITIATIVE In the absence of Carmen Lavertu, Jim Matlack presented an ongoing concern for the excess influence of money on our election processes. (Meeting members made this issue a top priority in our response to FCNL in February.) A draft text of a minute proposed for Acadia Friends Meeting was presented for possible approval and joint submission to the upcoming Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting for approval and wider circulation. Lengthy discussion followed. Some Friends felt that the factual context for the proposed text was not fully clarified. There was hesitation in urging the collection of signatures to enable a public referendum vote on public funding for the Maine state elections. Others felt that the Meeting was already on record in support of the core concerns expressed in the draft minute as well as the need for adequate funding for the Clean Elections Law in Maine. Gathering signatures is an essential task in getting such a funding issue on the ballot. While some felt that the matter should be laid over to the May meeting for business, others noted the tight schedule involved in putting the matter before Quarterly Meeting and for getting sufficient signatures to put the issue on the November ballot.

Two amendments were made to the draft text. The final version is given below:

We believe that the electoral process is too greatly influenced by contributions from big donors and vested interests to point that our democracy is becoming a plutocracy. Recent Supreme Court decisions have made limitations on the excess influence of money more difficult.

---We support severe limits on campaign contributions at all levels.

---We support the ability of the electorate to know the names of contributors.

---We support a citizen initiative to increase the possibility of clean elections in Maine.

---We urge all individuals to help gather signatures for this effort in the coming months.

In this form the draft Minute was approved.

The clerk note that a letter of appreciation has been received from the town of Damariscotta acknowledging the meeting’s annual payment in lieu of taxes. FINANCE Bill Spock presented and discussed the Minutes of the most recent meeting of the Finance Committee. He expected that the target of \$12,000 in contributions for the current fiscal year would be met. Bill noted the complex relationship emerging between the Meeting budget and that of the new Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC). While the Meeting is providing some initial support for the launch of MOPC, the hope of adding new members holds the promise of added revenues to the Meeting. Martin Imm then presented a detailed budget sheet for the current year (10 month totals) with provisional entries for next year’s budget. Explanation and discussion of various features in the budget sheet followed. It was agreed that this year’s solicitation letter to members will suggest a 5% increase in individual contributions. The budget will be considered for approval at the May Meeting for Business.

[Continued on next page.]

[MINUTES—continued from page 2.]

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL Sue Rockwood said that Linda Murray has given up her membership. Her role in tending the garden is unresolved. It was noted that the Meeting Archives include custody of up-to-date records on membership, marriages, and deaths. Diane Kirkman is the Meeting Recorder who also keeps statistical counts on current membership.

OUTREACH Karen Cadbury presented and reviewed a two-year budget for the Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center (MOPC). Roughly 60% of the necessary funds have been raised. Some figures were given as best estimates. This detailed budget was provided for the information of Friends but not for approval. MOPC will operate with a Steering Committee and a Program Committee. Sue Rockwood has already begun her role a part-time Coordinator of MOPC. Sue reminded Friends that on May 4th after regular meeting for worship there will be a widely-publicized Inaugural Event for MOPC at the Meeting House—an Ice-Cream/Fruit Social with activities for children. All are invited from the meeting and from the community.

Jim Matlack reported that plastic sliders have been installed on all the benches in the worship room.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

David Cadbury, Clerk James Matlack, Recording Clerk

The next Business Meeting will be May 15. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

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)

UPDATES TO MIDCOAST FRIENDS' DIRECTORY

Deb Haviland's zip is missing. It is 04841
The Diamonds' zip is 94928
Bill and Pat Spock's contact info is 8 Franklin Lane, Topsham, ME
04086. Home phone 373-0898, Pat's email is
patriciaspock@gmail.com.

Please let Pat Spock know of any other corrections or updates.

PEACE CENTER OPEN HOUSE—MAY 4

The Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center will host an open house to launch the new Center May 4, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the meetinghouse. The opening includes an Ice Cream Social with tours, games for children, Maine-made ice cream and fruit desserts. The Center, a project of Midcoast Monthly Meeting, will be open throughout the year on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The outreach program features workshops, dinners and events for families, as well as lectures and programs on peace and environmental issues, films, art exhibitions, discussion groups, special topic lectures for seniors and gardening activities. The facilities include indoor spaces for community classes and projects, a peace library, outdoor play equipment for young children and Wi-Fi services.

Susan Rockwood, the Center's new Outreach Coordinator, has extensive experience creating programs for kindergarten-through eighth grade students and with administering programs for adults. For more than 15 years, she was a classroom and media information teacher at the Greenwood Friends School in Pennsylvania. In this capacity, she designed hands-on, experiential learning activities, and programs in science and technology. Rockwood worked as the director of a law firm library and as a supervisor for undergraduate college students in the field of education. She also helped to develop architectural and space plans for three libraries and a computer laboratory in Pennsylvania. She holds a B.A. in English and a Masters in Education from Bloomsburg University.

James Matlack, the new head of the Center's Program Committee, will help with the development of the Center's programs. Matlack, who is a lifelong Quaker, taught at colleges and universities for 15 years. He also served for more than 20 years as the director of the Washington, D.C. office of the American Friends Service Committee, an international organization that offers projects on peace and justice issues at sites around the world. Matlack has wide experience working on both foreign and domestic issues.

As the Outreach Coordinator, Rockwood assists with developing and oversees the implementation of the programs and coordinates activities with other organizations in the region. In addition, this summer she will be conducting Internet classes, workshops on blogging and a course on how to be "media savvy." This spring and summer, programs for children will include nature walks, afternoon game times, movies and water play events. "We are also planning family barbeques and dinners," said Rockwood, who notes that the Center will supply the games and food.

The Center was established to serve people who are interested in learning about and participating in activities that emphasize values, concerns about peace and ways to build strong communities. "This is a place where individuals and families can come for meaningful discussions, caring activities and for fun," says Rockwood. "The Center is here for people who want to find the light in themselves and walk gently on this Earth."

The Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center's spring Ice Cream Social is open and free to the public. Please contact Sue Rockwood at 350-2256 or email midcoastcenter@gmail.com, with questions or for additional information.

[from Village Soup Online, April 24, 2014]



NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS QUAKERS

NEYM Annual Sessions

Saturday, August 2 through Thursday, August 7, 2014

(Registration opens in early June)

For the first time in our 354 years, New England Yearly Meeting of Friends will gather for our Annual Sessions in Vermont! We hope you'll join us on the beautiful campus of Castleton State College in Castleton, VT. This year's theme is "You Are My Witness." To learn more about what promises to be a wonderful week and to register, visit <http://neym.org/sessions>.

New England Friend

The New England Friend is the newsletter of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers). In addition to print issues in the fall and late spring, NEYM sends out online issues several times a year. If you're not getting *The New England Friend*, you're not getting all the latest news about NEYM.

Contents from the April issue:

Click links to jump down the page to the relevant section.

1. [From the Editor](#)
2. [Reflections on Our Connection to FUM](#)
3. [Sessions 2014: Important Information](#)
4. [News from Cuban Quakers](#)
5. [Other NEYM News](#)

For the latest issue and more information, visit: <https://neym.org/ne-friend/april-2014>.

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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