



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

It requires great self-denial and resignation of ourselves to God to attain that state wherein we can freely cease from fighting when wrongfully invaded, if by our fighting there were a probability of overcoming the invaders. Whoever rightly attains to it does in some degree feel that spirit in which our Redeemer gave his life for us, and through divine goodness many of our predecessors and many now living have learned this lesson.

—John Woolman

June

Sunday	June 2		Food Pantry Day
Sunday	June 9	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Tuesday	June 11	4:00 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns
Wednesday	June 12	4:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel committee meeting
Fri.–Mon.	June 14–17		Young Friends Summer Seminar, Wm Penn House, Washington, D.C.
Friday	June 21	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potluck supper Meeting for Business
Saturday	June 22	asap	Deadline for July-August newsletter
Sunday	June 23	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Sat-Sat	June 29–July 6		Friends General Conference, Normal, Illinois

~ Advance Notice ~

Sat.–Thurs.	8/3–8/8/02	New England Yearly Meeting, Norton, MA
Fri.–Sun.	9/6–9/8	Fall Gathering, Vassalboro Quarterly Mtg., South China, ME

* 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 first building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Moving or changing your email address? Don't forget to notify the newsletter of your changes. Thanks!

Electronic subscriptions via E-mail are environmentally friendly and cost the Meeting nothing.

To receive your newsletter via E-mail, send an E-mail request to Nancy Terrell Hall at <moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com>. (By sending your request via E-mail, you will be giving Nancy your correct E-mail address so she can implement your electronic subscription quickly and correctly on the first try.)

Back Issues of the Newsletter along with other Meeting Information are available at:

www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite/q-pages.htm

The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 5th month of 2002

based on draft minutes by Jean Crawford

Clerk Carmen Lavertu opened the meeting with two readings and moments of silence. Eleven people were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved without change.

Finance Committee

The Meeting approved the 2002-2003 budget presented by Bill Spock. It includes a new allocation of \$600, requested by the Landscape Committee for spring cleanup. The turnout of Friends for spring cleanup has been insufficient the last two years. As a result it was decided that we will continue to have a spring workday but hire assistance with heavy work such as moving and spreading bark mulch.

The clerk, having reviewed the list of Friends organizations to which we have sent contributions over the years, asked if anyone was familiar with the Friends World Committee. Charlotte Ritter responded favorably about the work of that organization, and the list of Friends organizations remained unchanged. Barbara Foust reported for the past year's Worthy Needs Committee that its remaining \$200 is being donated to the Mine Action Program of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

Ministry and Counsel

Charlotte Ritter reported. The process of being in touch with all members and attenders is ongoing. This includes long-time attenders who may wish to become members. Plans are underway for a new round of Friendly Eights suppers, summer picnics, and greeters.

Thank You, Spring Gardeners!

Many thanks to the people who came and helped with the recent spring workday. It is one of the many meaningful ways to support the Meeting. We are grateful to those who chose to participate:

Nancy Booth, Jean Crawford, Ernie Foust, Louisa Gray, David and Nancy Nyberg, Rob Pedrick, and Pat and Bill Spock.

Query #6

Personal Conduct

Do you live with simplicity, moderation, and integrity? Are you punctual in keeping promises, careful in speech, just and compassionate, in all your dealings with others? Do you take care that your spiritual growth is not sacrificed to busyness but instead integrates your life's activities? Are your recreations consistent with Quaker values; do they refresh your spirit and renew your body and mind?

Peace and Social Concerns

Carmen Lavertu reported the committee's unspent funds will be donated to the building fund of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Landscape Committee

Pat Spock reported the committee recommends designation of an area between the memorial circle and the property line for burial of ashes in biodegradable containers. There will be no markers, a record of interments being kept in the meetinghouse.

Meetinghouse Committee

Susan Phelps reported the first business chosen to provide ceiling fans in the worship room did not work out but they will keep trying.

Library Committee

Barbara Foust announced that Quarterly Meeting has donated to our library 50 Pendle Hill pamphlets. Charlotte Ritter discussed a new printing of "Wabanakis of Maine and the Maritimes."

New Business

Claire Darrow spoke of the \$20,000 damage sustained by the Friends School in Ramallah during the recent hostilities. The Meeting expressed interest in sending a contribution to help with repairs. Plans for a fundraising event for that purpose were discussed. Claire offered to look into ways of getting acquainted with our new neighbors who are building a church next door.

Monthly Meeting was suspended in order to hold an annual meeting of the corporation. Later it was reopened for the purpose of hearing correspondence the clerk has received.

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The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Friday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. following a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. ALL WELCOME.

Summer Meetings at Children's Chapel

Outdoor Meetings for Worship have resumed and will continue weekly throughout the summer at Children's Chapel in Rockport. Complete information including directions can be found at the Web site: www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite/q-pages.htm, or by calling Diane Kirkman at 236-9078.

Summer Picnics Anyone?

Meeting is looking for dates and hosts for summer picnics. They are traditionally held on summer Sundays following Meeting for Worship. If you'd like to host one, contact Carmen Lavertu (354-9556, <lavertu@prexar.com>).

Mother's Day Walk for Peace

by Sally Cartwright

I'd like to express my warm respect for all who joined the Mother's Day walk for peace in Bath. They were concerned about US militarism and escalating violence in the Middle East and Central Asia. I am reminded of Gandhi's famous salt walk to the sea. It, too, was a nonviolent, grassroots protest.

In 1930, Gandhi decided to protest the hated British salt laws because they symbolized imperial rule, and in a tropical climate, salt is important to everyone. These laws forced the Indian people to buy only British salt and to pay an exorbitant sales tax. Gandhi started from Amedabad with 78 followers. They walked 240 miles to the sea in slightly more than three weeks, stopping along the way to camp and talk with villagers. By the time they reached the coast, thousands had joined them. Although the British jailed Gandhi and many protesters throughout India, ultimately, one

hundred thousand prisoners were freed, including Gandhi, and the salt laws were rescinded.

By comparison, only some 300 persons joined the Bath demonstration, and the event, including presentations by well-chosen speakers, lasted only one afternoon. Yet Gandhi would have hailed this Mother's Day walk for peace with acclaim. He often said, in effect: we can start only from where we are and do our best. If we hold to *ahimsa* (nonviolence) and *satyagraha* (action for truth), our intent will prevail.

Note: As a member of the AFSC, Sally not only lived and worked in village India for two years, but also talked with Gandhi.

The Advices

Let us bring the whole of our daily lives under the ordering of the Spirit. Let our faith free us from crippling fears so that we may live adventurously. In relations with others, let us exercise imagination, understanding, and sympathy. Let us live and work in the plainness and simplicity of true followers of Christ.

In viewing the evils arising from the use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks and from the abuse of drugs, Friends are advised to consider whether they should refrain from using them, from offering them to others, and from having any share in their manufacture or sale. We should not let the claims of good fellowship or the fear of seeming peculiar influence our decision.

Let us maintain integrity in work and deed. Holding to the simplicity of truth, let us keep free of oaths. Remember how widespread and diverse are the temptations to grow rich at the expense of others, and how apparently harmless indulgence often leads by degrees to wrong-doing. Let us avoid and discourage every kind of betting and gambling and commercial speculations of a gambling character.

Friends have always held that the sacred nature of a sexual relationship is affirmed only in marriage. In recent times, however, some Friends have found such affirmation in other contexts. Let us be certain, in any case, that we hold up to the Light any sexual relationship we may be considering and reject any relationship that may violate the integrity or spiritual welfare of either of the partners or of others. No relationship can be a right one which makes use of another person through selfish desire.

African Friends in Maine

by Carmen Lavertu

A highlight of the All-Maine Gathering was the presence of two Quaker women from Kenya. Dorothy Selebwa is clerk of the United Society of Friends Women (USFW) and Leunita Mugofwa is a pastor; both are from Kakamega Yearly Meeting. They have visited many Meetings in New England and came to our gathering with Molly Duplesea from Orono Monthly Meeting. They came to tell us of the work they are doing in response to the AIDS epidemic in Kenya. The USFW women are providing food and clothing for the many orphans and widows. They need financial assistance to put up shelters for those who have no home. Besides the basic needs, they aim to assist with education and health care.

Molly has provided the following information for Friends who may be led to assist in their work:

The New England USFW has decided to use their Spring Appeal to help on this project. Donations can be sent to Clarabel Marstallar, Treas. of NE USFW, 1399 US Route 1, Freeport, ME 04032. Checks should be made out to United Society of Friends Women with a memo that says "Kakamega YM project." Clarabel will forward all checks to Kenya.

Dorinda Burns Taylor, who has been staying in Chouteau's barn this past winter and attended Midcoast Meeting with Chouteau, will soon be returning to Washington, D.C.

She invites Midcoast Friends to
A Celebration of Women and Friends

Sunday, June 2, 12:30

At Chouteau's Barn, Woolwich

A light brunch will be provided. Bring your most favorite poem or tidbit of advice to share.

RSVP 422-9231

All-Maine Quaker Gathering

By Pete Haviland

On May 11 a number of Midcoast Friends traveled to South China for the all-Maine Quaker gathering, held at Fellowship Church, previously site of the Friends Meeting at which Rufus Jones worshipped.

Joint Ministry & Counsel session

The large meeting room was pretty full, perhaps 70-80 people, from both Quarterly Meetings of Maine. Also present were several Friends from the Canadian border region (members of Canada Yearly Meeting). Midcoast Meeting was represented by Carmen Lavertu, Charlotte Ritter, Louisa Gray, and Pete and Deb Haviland.

There were reports from each represented Meeting. We reported on our usual number (35-40) of worshippers, our aging membership with few children, and the two weddings that were held in our meetinghouse this year. We said that Ministry & Counsel is focussing on positive care for members and attenders. We also mentioned various Meeting activities: our meeting with Rep. Tom Allen, the letter we recently wrote to the president, which arose from the dialogue; The "Still Here" series of discussions; and the "Soup and a Movie" evening, shared with community members. We also noted the continuing concerns of several mem-

bers for the sovereignty and welfare of Maine's Wabanaki people. The new edition of the Wabanaki book by AFSC was available for purchase.

After a Meeting for Worship, we had a sumptuous lunch of soups, breads, salads, and a great variety of desserts, followed by an intergenerational activity with about 15 to 20 children. Most of the children were from the Durham Quarter's families.

About half of the group watched the Rufus Jones video and heard remarks from Dick Kelly and Paul Cates, who had roles in the video as well.

Joint Meeting for Business

This session, which filled the meeting room to capacity, included reports from the Friends Committee for Maine Public Policy, the AFSC, the Maine Council of Churches, Beacon Hill Friends House in Boston, and other matters of joint concern.

This was followed by separate Meetings for Business for each Quarter, at which both groups agreed to set up a joint committee to plan another such event for next year, as well as conducting more prosaic business such as a report from the Nominating Committee and a financial report.

Midcoast Meeting of Friends
PO Box 714, 77 Belvedere Road
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Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends • Clerk: Carmen Lavertu, 354-9556 • Recording Clerk: Rob Patterson, 236-9551 • Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283 • The Newsletter • June 2002 • Volume 14 • Number 5 (This year the January and February issues were combined)
The Newsletter is published every month except August. The copy deadline is the day following Monthly Meeting for Business.
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