



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

Political energy is always flowing either towards fear or towards hope, towards belief that the world is fundamentally scary and protection can be achieved through domination, or towards belief that others are really like ourselves and that we can build a world based on caring for each other.

—Rabbi Michael Lerner (TIKKUN Peace Community)

June

Sunday	June 8	8:30 a.m. following worship	Reading Group: NEYM Faith and Practice New Members Welcome
Monday	June 9	5:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
Tuesday	June 10	4:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
Sunday	June 15	2:00	* Erica Welter memorial service
Thursday	June 19	6 - 8 p.m.	Maine AFSC committee meeting
Friday	June 20	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper Monthly Meeting for Business
Saturday	June 21	asap	Deadline for July-August <i>Newsletter</i>
Sunday	June 22	8:30 a.m.	Reading Group: NEYM Faith and Practice
Sat.-Sat.	6/28 to 7/5		Friends General Conference, Johnstown, PA

~Weekly, ongoing~

Tuesdays		7 p.m.	"Peacemakers" meetings
----------	--	--------	------------------------

~Advance Notice~

Saturday	July 12	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Silent Retreat
Sat.-Thurs.	August 2 - 7		New England Yearly Meeting Sessions
Sunday	August 31		Picnic at Small Point (St. Johns')

*** 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**, 5th month of 2003

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

Treasurer's Report

Bill Spock reported that we are down just over \$1,000.00 in the General Fund, but this is not seen as a problem as long as the pattern doesn't persist. The proposed pledge letter and form for the new fiscal year were reviewed. On the form, recipients are asked to indicate committees on which they may have an interest in serving. The letter and form were approved after some discussion as was the budget for 2003/04.

Ministry & Counsel

Pete Haviland reported for the committee. Guy Marsden was recommended for membership, and the Meeting approved. June 8th was set for an after-meeting reception to welcome new members.

The committee has discussed ways to reach out more to visitors and guests. A name tag system has been employed successfully in a number of Meetings, and the committee proposed that we experiment with such a system for six months and re-evaluate after that time. The Meeting approved the concept while leaving the details to the committee.

The committee discussed the custody and archiving of official Meeting records. Because we don't have an

on-site administrative office, records typically are kept by committee clerks. It was noted that we need a reference list for certain records, so that they can be readily located when needed. The clerks of all committees are urged to give the clerk a list of records kept in their homes.

Peace & Social Concerns

Ernie Foust and Carmen Lavertu have agreed to collaborate on a "white paper," sorting out and distilling our feelings and opinions about the on-going occupation of Iraq. When completed and approved, it will be sent to our representatives and area newspapers.

A brief update was provided on a host of issues that the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is tracking. Many Friends have conflicting feelings about the casinos-in-Maine issue, on one hand wishing to respect the sovereignty of the Indian population and on the other hand supporting Friends' belief that gambling is not a constructive activity and should not be encouraged.

It was mentioned that a Maine peace license plate initiative needs 2,000 orders with \$20 deposits. If not enough deposits are received, the collected money will go to the Maine Peace Project.

Landscaping

The spring clean-up day on May 4th was sparsely attended. Five committee members and seven others accomplished a variety of tasks, but more weeding, mulching, and other chores still need to be done. A new system of assigning specific responsibility for garden beds is being implemented.

Meetinghouse & Maintenance

Our highway directional sign on Route 1 is deteriorating, and a new one will be ordered. The new sign for the entrance driveway is almost ready. A new sign reminding people that pets must not come into the meetinghouse has been posted.

Annual Corporation Meeting

Meeting for Business was temporarily suspended in order to hold the annual meeting of the corporation, which was completed before returning to other business.

* * * * *

Next Monthly Meeting: Friday, June 20th, at 7 p.m. at the meetinghouse. A potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m. All welcome.



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

Query #5

Outreach

Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your Meeting? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in spreading the Christian message? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone?

Summer Reading

The following books have recently been added to the Meeting library. Do look these over and find one you expect to love—and then read it with the thought of writing a review for the Newsletter. Then write it!

Gifts

Rufus M Jones. **The Church's Debt to Heretics** (From Anonymous)

Sylvia Shaw Judson. **The Quiet Eye: A Way of Looking at Pictures** (Two copies from Alice Lacy)

Jon Kabat-Zinn. **Wherever You Go, There You Are: Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life** (From the Nybergs)

Mary Oliver. **New and Selected Poems**

Scott Savage. **A Plain Life—Walking My Belief** (From Barbara Foust. See review in the May Newsletter, p. 5)

Purchases

Margaret Hope Bacon. **Year of Grace —a Novel**

Wendell Berry. **In The Presence of Fear: Three Essays for a Changed World**

Pema Chodron. **When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times**

Annie Dillard. **For the Time Being**

George Fox. **The Power of the Lord Is Over All—The Pastoral Letters of George Fox**

Robert K. Greenleaf. **The Power of Servant Leadership**

Thich Nhat Hanh. **Essential Writings by Thich Nhat Hanh**

Marjorie Hope. **Voices of Hope in the Struggle to Save the Planet**

Barbara Kingsolver. **Small Wonder: Essays**

Plant Sale

by Pat Spock

Midcoast Meeting held a plant sale on Sunday, May 25, and it was deemed a success by all who participated. Experienced gardeners love to share their plants, and neophytes like to have advice from the person who has actually grown them.

The plant donors tidied up their gardens and the buyers took home something new. Purchasers benefited from advice freely given by the growers, and everyone felt it was an event worth repeating.



Olive Pierce photo

Community Bridges Its Differences

Gretchen Noyes-Hull, Bridges for Peace, and Gail Gifford, Wells Hussey American Legion Post

A town divided is putting away its differences to organize a photographic exhibit that focuses on that division. When "On the Bridge—A Community Speaks" opens on June 1st in Damariscotta, it will be jointly sponsored by the Wells-Hussey Post 42 of the American Legion and by "Bridges for Peace," a grass-roots organization that grew from opposition to the war in Iraq. In black-and-white photographs of the weekly protests on the Damariscotta River Bridge, Olive Pierce captures the emotions deeply felt within this small community by both supporters and opponents of the war.

The two groups will co-host an opening reception of the exhibit at the Damariscotta American Legion Post from 2 to 4 on Sunday, June 1, to which the public is cordially invited. According to the exhibit organizers, the groups may not agree on the decision of the government to go to war in Iraq, but the exhibit encourages the search for common ground and dialog. The photographs will be displayed at the American Legion Post in Damariscotta on May 31 and June 1 and then at the Skidompha Public Library in Damariscotta for the month of June. The exhibit project is funded in part by the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Humanities Council.

gardens, but we made plans to go the next day.

When I arrived at the Peace Center I had a chance to speak with the director about the center's work. It is the only Peace Center in South Africa, though not the only one on the continent. Trying to counteract extreme violence, unemployment, poverty and the underlying disease which results from the AIDS pandemic and TB, the Peace Center has an enormous job to do. (Many older people are raising their grandchildren after the parents have died. A very full cemetery lies nearby, with many new graves.) One of the Peace Center's most successful programs is mediation training, which helps people to solve some of their problems themselves. Their successes give them pride and hope, which are often in short supply.

As we drove to the township in Georgina's car, she told me more about the area and her work there. In addition to mediation training, which is a totally voluntary program, she has been instrumental in helping people organize community gardens. In the township, the houses are so small and so close together that there is no space for gardens near people's homes, so the community gardens have offered a solution. Individual plots are in great demand and are given out only to the unemployed, who are in most need of something to do and a way to find satisfaction in what they can do. We stopped at a chain-link fence, through which I saw the first green things I had seen in the whole area. As we walked in, we were hailed by several round, middle-aged women, dressed in long skirts, with scarves around their heads. I was introduced all around, and they led me through the garden and proudly identified each growing thing. Their crops included cauliflower, cabbages, onions, eggplant, some tomatoes, and lots of Swiss chard. There was not a weed in sight. The soil was black and rich,

full of the compost they had made themselves. The women were so glad to show it off to me, and I shared their joy in it. I deeply regretted having left my camera behind, but I was afraid of looking like just another tourist.

We then went over to what looked like the body of a big truck without wheels and went through a door, to the inside. There sat more women on well-worn wooden benches, and I was introduced all around again. They were so glad to see me and greeted me with big hugs. I've seldom felt such a warm and joyous welcome.

Georgina told them I was from America, and we managed to talk a little about that, a little about the garden, and a lot about mediation. All of them were trained mediators, and the "container," as they called the space we were in, was where they met with people requesting mediation. At times, quite a long line of people stands outside, awaiting their turn. Word has gotten out that mediation helps, and people feel comfortable asking their peers for assistance. The women expressed their wish for a second container so people wouldn't have to wait so long to be heard.

After a bit, and good wishes all around and more hugs, we made our way to another community garden, this one on the grounds of a Presbyterian church. We walked past 2 young women sitting with 9 or 10 toddlers, who looked at us shyly. In another container we met a few more women, including a Canadian woman who had come to see the area and simply stayed because she saw a need and felt she could help. She was in charge of this particular garden.

Here they had taken the project a step further and were raising their own seedlings, rather than spending money to buy them. They had styrofoam "boards"

continued on next page



Peacemaking News

Friends of Peace Pilgrim, a non-profit, non-sectarian, all-volunteer organization, originally organized to disseminate the ideas and writings of Peace Pilgrim, has begun publishing their inspiring quarterly newsletter on line in pdf format (the same format used by Midcoast Meeting's electronic version of the Newsletter). To get the current issue, go to www.peacepilgrim.org/newsletter/pdf/nl36.pdf It is also possible to request email notification of new issues as they are available. All their publications (electronic and conventional) are offered free of charge.

Our Peace Testimony is not a call to run away, but a call to faithfulness. It is a testimony and we need to testify—not to the poor and downtrodden, but to our own neighbors and friends. We need to say uncomfortable things to people we know and live with love. Uncomfortable for them to hear maybe, but certainly uncomfortable for us to say.

Pacifism is easy if there are no enemies. It's like turning the other cheek when no one is threatening to hit you. The Quaker message is to love your enemies, not to pretend they do not exist. Fox called on Friends to "wrestle with the power of darkness." This means we have to escape the reality of evil and with love to resist it.

—Paul Buckley, in the *Friends Journal*, December 2001).

with coin-sized depressions about 2 inches deep which they filled with compost and one seed. Each seed is precious and they were able to make their small supply go much further this way.

Again I was given a complete tour of the garden, and I felt as though I was being introduced to each plant. The plots are nowhere big enough to supply a family for a year, but the satisfaction in the few fresh vegetables they lovingly raise is priceless.

As we left, we again passed the little children, 7 of whom were now sitting in a dry wading pool, no more than 3 feet across. I waved and said good-bye, and they now smiled and waved and said good-bye back to us, over and over.

As we drove through the township, we passed an open-air market which offered secondhand shoes, battered cooking pots, used clothing, laundry baskets, and lots of other recycled items. Passing houses, we saw some which had clapboards painted aqua or purple, with perhaps a red tin roof. But most were unpainted. Laundry lines and refuse piles were the most common sights, with a dog here and there. A few youths gathered at corners. I felt a great deal of energy everywhere, with lots of calling back and forth. Everyone knew each other, and in spite of all the problems, this was their community, their home. I wished for betterment of their living conditions, but not at the expense of losing their sense of community again.

On the way back, Georgina told me a bit about herself. I missed some words, as the African accent can be very broad sometimes, but I didn't want to interrupt her story. She was born crippled and underwent many surgeries, which necessitated being parted from her family. Finally, at age 16, she had a last surgery and left her limp behind. She went to university in the UK, studying social work. I think she got to South Africa by answering a want ad, but I am a bit fuzzy here. She was a Quaker in England and took that with her. She has been with the Peace Center for 8 years. For a while she took time off to teach a short course on poverty at the University of Cape Town. Her work was well received, as she insisted on taking her students around, showing them what poverty really looks like. The university wanted her to continue and offered her an assistant and a BMW as enticements. But she was appalled and said her work was with the people themselves. That's where she felt she could do the most good.

And so we parted, having spent several good hours together. She thanked me again for coming and caring. We will keep in touch. As I left, my head was spinning with new sights, sounds, and information to be sorted out. I am very grateful for the gift she gave me of her time and energy. She told me, "Now you are an ambassador," and I said, "I know that."

Indian Sovereignty and Gambling

Friends have a long record of supporting the right of Indians to self-determination and sovereignty. FCMPP has consistently supported the right of Maine Indians to make decisions affecting their own welfare. This view is based in part on our understanding of the sad history of injustices committed against Indians by the white community, and because of respect and empathy we feel for the difficult problems facing Indian leaders today. We are also acutely aware of the high unemployment rate among Maine Indians and the need to develop an economic base that supports the values of the Indian history and culture.

Currently some tribal leaders are considering purchasing land in southern Maine, where they would build a large casino, which would generate jobs and income for Maine tribes, the state government, and other citizens of Maine.

Friends have a long tradition of opposing gambling on moral grounds, in part because it concentrates the mind on disproportionate gain and sudden wealth and diminishes spiritual strength. Gambling can cause serious harm in families where someone is addicted. It is especially harmful to the poor and has a record of creating a host of community problems including increased crime. Friends have also been concerned about the use of the lottery as a way to raise state revenues.

These two important Friends' values—support for Indian sovereignty and opposition to gambling—are in direct conflict and serve as a serious dilemma among Friends. In response to this dilemma, we are committed to envisioning and supporting alternative economic opportunities for Indians that would provide jobs and ultimately enhance their cultural and community life.

We continue to search for light on this difficult question, and we ask Friends Meetings in Maine to consider this issue and report their recommendations to us.

APPROVED May 4, 2002, at the FCMPP meeting in Waterville for circulation to Friends Meetings in Maine.

- Edward F. Snyder, Clerk, (Acadia Friends Meeting)
- Earnest Foust, Vice Clerk (Midcoast Monthly Mtg.)
- Libby Darlington and Rita Kimber, Co-Clerks
Legislative Committee (Farmington Monthly Mtg.)
- Leslie Manning, Treasurer (Durham Monthly Mtg.)
- Avery Harrington, Recording Secretary (Vassalboro Monthly Meeting)

Even though we have published either this or an earlier draft of this minute previously, as the issue is still very much with us, it seems appropriate to republish it at this time. ED

Remembering Erica Welter

Erica Mather Welter, 105, of Damariscotta, Maine, died peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, May 24, 2003, at her home on the Bristol Road, Damariscotta.

Born May 15, 1898 in Higher Broughton, England, she was the second of four children. She remembered Queen Victoria's funeral and the first flight at Kitty Hawk before coming to America at the age of eight. She graduated from the Glenwood, New Jersey, schools and later attended Sargeant School of Physical Education and Teacher's College, Columbia University, majoring in Health Education and Physical Therapy.

Erica worked as a civilian physical therapist with World War I soldiers. She taught in New York City public schools for many years. In World War II she was a registered physical therapist and a lieutenant in the Woman's Army Corps.

In 1934, a teacher friend introduced Erica to Maine to help out with the Welter children in South Bristol. In 1946 she bought her cottage in South Bristol and in 1955 her house on the Bristol Road where she lived for the rest of her life. Erica married Amthor Welter in 1961.

The rebuilding and restoration of the historic Thompson Ice House in South Bristol became a 40-year project and passion, culminating in the formation of the Thompson Ice House Preservation Corporation

and the opening of the museum in August 1990. There are close to a thousand supporters of the museum in many states as well as Great Britain. Many of these attend the annual cutting of the ice each winter. Erica

herself attended the cutting this year, at the age of 104, declaring it the "best day of her life."

Erica attended Midcoast Friends Meeting for more than 30 years and wrote lively letters to various papers expressing her concerns for peace, justice and the environment. For many years she was actively involved in the Association for University Women, the Garden Club, and the Woman's Club of Damariscotta.

Widely traveled, Erica delighted many school groups and local organizations with slide shows of her travels and her work with the ice house.

Erica was predeceased by her husband in 1970. She is survived by her sister Christine Mather of Lakewood, New Jersey, her niece Mary Ehbrecht of New Milford Connecticut, and many relatives of her husband whom she considered her own. She is also survived by her dedicated caregiver, William Ladlee.

A memorial service will be held at the meetinghouse on Sunday, June 15 at 2:00. Gifts in Erica's name may be made to the Thompson Ice House Preservation Corporation, PO Box 215, South Bristol, Maine 04568.



CONA Annual Meeting

Stealing the Heart of the Democratic Process

Nancy Alexander, Director of the Washington, DC, Citizens Network on Essential Services will be the featured speaker at CONA's annual meeting, Saturday, June 7th, 1:00 p.m., St Andrew's Church, Glidden St., Newcastle. The topic of her address will be the corporate drive to control the world's health care, education, water supplies, and energy. The speaker has been very active in Quaker circles. From 1984 to 1991, she worked as a legislative advocate for the Friends Committee on National Legislation, lobbying the U.S. Congress on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the role of the U.S. in the United Nations, and U.S. military intervention in the developing world. There will be a potluck lunch at 12:00, Annual Meeting at 11:00. All are welcome.

Visit
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

www.QuakerFinder.org

This new Web directory, a project of Friends General Conference, of Friends meetings and worship groups in the US and Canada will be geographically searchable. Type in a place name and get listings for the half dozen nearest meetings or worship groups. The listings give time and place of worship for established meetings or contact information for smaller groups.

The directory now includes meetings in the fourteen FGC-affiliated yearly meetings and the three independent western yearly meetings. It may be expanded to include meetings in other branches of Friends as well. The home page invites seekers to visit any Friends meeting and explains a little about Friends' worship, practices, and beliefs.



Words of Appreciation

By Ruth Ives

When it was discovered in November that I had an aggressive malignant brain tumor, I felt overwhelmed by the change this would cause in my responsibilities for the entire year at The Carpenter's Boatshop. Here were 15 apprentices and instructors who were relying on me to provide meals and a sense of comfort while they were all in transition as they learned boatbuilding, participated in community service, learned to sail use boats, and developed skills and confidence. While I started all the medical procedures, your own church stepped right in at The Boatshop and participated in every possible way to make this a successful year for all the students, instructors, and guests who are ending their year on June 7.

Over the past 7 months, I was undergoing radiation and chemotherapy, seeing many doctors, needing to rest for a part of the day, or receiving more surgery. Most recently I was a resident at Yale/New Haven, where the week was spent receiving medications through catheters in my brain, hopefully killing all the recurring malignant cells. The goal is that this process will hopefully preclude future development of a tumor.

All of my pursuit of health was made possible by your church's generosity, kindness, and dedication to keeping The Carpenter's Boatshop operating. Not only did you bring in amazingly delicious and helpful meals, but nutritious tea-breaks and soups also appeared at our door for my own enjoyment and peace of mind as well as for all who live here!

My health is also the result of the wonderful prayers that your church services have extended for me, mentioning me in so many Sunday's prayer concerns. I received heartfelt, optimistic, hopeful cards from church friends, and they added enormously to my own faith. All of the good wishes that parishioners have sent have resulted in my confidence and positive commitment to health. I am grateful to you all for continuing the ongoing life of this ministry called The Carpenter's Boatshop and for caring for me as I grow more healthy every day! Thank you for undertaking such an enormous ministry on behalf of others.

With love, respect, and appreciation, Ruth Ives

Maine Healthcare Initiative

Dirigo Health, the governor's health-care reform plan (LD1611 and LD1612) is a comprehensive plan to ensure universal access to health care within four years. It includes measures to control health-care costs and efforts to improve the quality of health-care delivery in the state. Groups in opposition have already mobilized their members. Our local legislators need to hear from us in support of affordable, accessible health care for all. For more information on Dirigo Health, visit www.state.me.us/governor/baldacci/healthpolicy/index.html

Book Review

The Church's Debt to Heretics Rufus M. Jones, 1924

by Barbara K. Foust

So much of this book's information is new to me, I hardly know where to begin.

First I must explain some of the author's terminology. Jones uses the word "heretics" to refer to those who deviate from the settled views and beliefs of the unyielding majority, and "contributions to the life of the church" may be anything from slow and eventual absorption of the heresy to "awakening it from dullness and lethargy" by "stinging" it to new life and power, bringing it back to sources of inner life and its true mission (or all in between, some messy and violent and cruel). Arianism, Bogomils, Catharism, Donatists, Eutychianism, Friends of God, and on and on through the ABCs are the forces once labeled heretical. The churches have dealt with the tensions of other views starting with the Palestinian Jews and the Hellenistic Jews, the earliest converts to Christianity. "The influence from these two sources was paramount." There seems no angle of debate not deeply explored, not passionately held and presented by some group. Every term—divine being, God, Christ, Logos, Son of God, Father, Holy Spirit, etc.—was interpreted and reinterpreted, each leaving its imprint on what was eventually adopted as orthodoxy or damned as heresy.

It is a long and fascinating history the erudite Rufus Jones presents—a giant tug of war over the shape of Christianity. The Quakers certainly have had their part to play in the ongoing dramas, even at times naming their own heresies. "Slowly the deeper wisdom of the spiritual groups has asserted itself." "In the long run truth, wherever found, proves to be 'of God' and reveals itself as a constructive, not a destructive, force."

The Advices

The power of God is not used to compel us to Truth; therefore, let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, let us seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable.

Friends are advised to witness to the power of Truth and justice and to foster growth of the divine community at home and abroad. While remaining faithful to our Quaker insights, and ready to share them with others, let us seek to understand the contributions made by the people of God everywhere. Whenever possible, let us seek to enter into prayer and work with the wider community of faith.

In the Township 5/5/03

By Claire Darrow

I struggle for words to describe what I've seen today. But let me begin at the beginning...

Our reason for coming to South Africa was that my husband, Rick, had been invited to teach a 5-day intensive course in Cape Town on environmental economics. We took advantage of this wonderful opportunity to book ourselves into a game park next to the Kruger National Park. We would see animals in their native surroundings, without bars, free food, or interference. This we did for four days and enjoyed it thoroughly. Rick, an avid bird watcher, added over 100 birds to his life list, and we took wonderful pictures as mementos of our trip.

We then made our way through Johannesburg to Cape Town, where we planned to enjoy the town and its environs for a few days before Rick's course began. We went down to the Cape of Good Hope, at Africa's southern tip, and saw where the Indian Ocean meets the Atlantic. It felt as though we had journeyed to the ends of the earth. I couldn't help thinking about all the sailing ships that had rounded that cape on their way home and the joy the sailors must have felt to finally be on the last leg of their long journey.

I had been told that there was a Quaker meeting in Cape Town, and I joined them on First Day. I was welcomed warmly. I brought greetings to them from Midcoast, and they sent theirs back to us. After worship they had tea and cookies, and I had a chance to talk with people.

One of them was a woman named Georgina Mbomba, who works at the Quaker Peace Center across from the meetinghouse. She is a mediation trainer, and she does work in the townships, the areas where the Blacks were moved after being "removed" from their former homes in Cape Town when apartheid was instituted. The townships are achingly poor—homes there consist of tiny shacks made from pieces of scrounged wood and tin, minimally heated, and with no water or sanitation. Unemployment hovers around 30%, sometimes higher.

Georgina is a warm, gentle woman, and I felt able to ask her if there was some way I could get to one of the townships and see for myself what it was like, without seeming to be just another tourist. She smiled and said, "Of course, I will take you myself and show you our gardens." I didn't know quite what she meant about

continued on p. 4

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

Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends • Clerk: Carmen Lavertu, 354-9556 • Recording Clerk: Rob Patterson, 236-9551 • Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283 • The Newsletter • June 2003 • Volume 15 • Number 6 • The Newsletter is published every month except August. The copy deadline is the day following Monthly Meeting for Business. Editor/design/production: Nancy Terrell Hall, phone/fax 529-5771, E-mail: moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com
Mailing list: e-mail changes to Nancy @ moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com or USPS mail to Nancy @ 216 Waldoboro Rd., Bremen, ME 04551