

6th Month

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

June 2007



Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things or of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

--Philippians 4:8 (KJV)

Finally, dear Friends, let us follow steadfastly after all that is pure and lovely and of good report. Let us be prayerful, be watchful, be humble. Let not failure discourage us. Let our whole conduct and conversation be worthy of disciples of Christ.

--Faith & Practice of NEYM, 1985, p. 210

**June**

Sunday	June 3	9-10 a.m.	*Summer Meetings for Worship Resume, Rockport
Monday	June 4	7-9 p.m.	*Book Discussion Group: <i>The Great Turning</i>
Saturday	June 9		*New England Yearly Meeting Committee Day hosted by Midcoast Meeting at Great Salt Bay School
Sunday	June 10	Rise of Meeting	P&SC Committee Meeting--All Welcome
Sunday	June 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	June 24	Rise of Meeting	*Workhour

**August**

Sunday	August 5	Rise of Meeting	*Workhour
Sunday	August 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business

\*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.

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**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](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com). Thanks!

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For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website: [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org).

## Highlights--Monthly Meeting for Business

Fifth Month 20, 2007

The meeting approved the **2007/2008 budget** as presented by Treasurer Paul Diamond. It includes increases in contributions to New England Yearly Meeting, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation, all of which had not had increases for some time. The line for "Worthy Needs" will be kept open beyond the end of the fiscal year in hopes the Worthy Needs Committee will report recommendations for charitable giving for this year. Friends also approved purchase of up-to-date software for managing our finances.

A small **meeting for worship at the home of Lee Coolidge** is being planned. Anyone interested in participating please contact Deb Haviland.

Concerns have been raised about the **announcement period** following meeting for worship. There are questions about the transition out of silence and the length of announcements.

The meeting agreed with Peace & Social Concerns Committee's decision to put aside the idea of a Steering Committee for the **Peace Center** in favor of P&SC, itself, acting as overseers of peace projects that already exist and new ones as they emerge. The date of the next P&SC meeting is to be announced. (*Ed. Note: See P&SC info elsewhere in this newsletter--and that meeting is June 10 at rise of meeting.*)

**New England Yearly Meeting Committee Day** will take place this year in Damariscotta on Saturday, June 9. (*Ed. Note: See notice elsewhere in this newsletter.*) We are responsible for hosting and facilitating the event. Carmen Lavertu volunteered to convene the general committee and Deb Haviland volunteered to organize hospitality and refreshments. Anyone able to help is urged to contact Carmen and/or Deb.

There is to be a **new book discussion group**. The first book is to be David Korten's *The Great Turning*. Watch for more information in the Newsletter. (*Ed. Note: See notice elsewhere in this newsletter.*)

The **next monthly meeting for business** will be Sunday, June 17, at the rise of meeting for worship.

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## NEWS NOTES

**Henry Beerits** was in the hospital for some days with pneumonia and is now back at Cove's Edge in Room 204. He would welcome cards and notes. His wife Janet is well and has family support during this difficult time. Henry sent us the following note:

*April 21, 2007*

*To Midcoast Monthly Meeting--*

*The condition of my health is such that I will not be attending Meeting for Worship. I want to let you know that I consider you my spiritual family. This means a great deal to me, and I think of you often.*

*--Henry Beerits*

**Cynthia Thomas**, a regular attender, is looking for rental housing for herself and her husband, Charles, in the Damariscotta/Newcastle peninsula area. They currently live in Newcastle and will have to move soon. If you have any ideas or suggestions, her e-mail is [ccthomas@zwi.net](mailto:ccthomas@zwi.net).

**Nancy Booth**, fully recovered from her fall this winter, left in early May with a friend for a hiking trip in the West. What a wonderful way to celebrate her 85th birthday! She'll be back the end of May.

**Sally Wood** is doing well in Charlottesville and sends regards to everyone.

--Passages--

Our friend **Leon Appel** died May 15. Formerly of New York City and Fire Island, New York; Englewood, New Jersey; and Delray Beach, Florida; Leon spent his last five years at Quarry Hill in Camden, Maine, often joined us at Meeting for Worship, and counted our Meeting very dear. He described himself as "a Jewish humanist Quaker," and his acceptance of others, belief in the power of love and peace, and enthusiasm for life inspired us all. A commercial and fine artist who generously guided others, he was also a horticulturist, a lover of fine foods (especially chocolate!), a jazz enthusiast, and an avid reader who took enormous pleasure in reading aloud, especially to children. He was predeceased by his beloved Zeldy and survived by his daughter **Nancy Appel Boothby** and her husband, Chuck Boothby; his son David Appel and his wife, Sheila Sussman; his son Ezra Appel and his wife, Laura Appel; six grandchildren (Tom, Jennifer, Benjamin, Kelly, Jeffrey, and Rachel); three great-grandchildren (Aliana, Christopher, and Alissa); and countless much-loved family members and friends. A July 27 memorial service for family and friends will be held at 4 p.m. at the NYC Meeting House.



**Diane Kirkman's father, John Onken**, died suddenly on April 24. Diane has been back to Michigan twice since her dad's passing, once for the funeral and a second time for a visit with her mom. Diane is doing well, as are her mom and the rest of their family, and she is grateful to Friends for their notes and kind support.

On Wednesday, May 16th, **Mrs. Lisalotte Thompson, mother of Janice Rickermann (a.k.a. Mrs. Richard Castner)**, died from renal complications after a long decline. Janice will be in New York for the next month or so, and you can send her notes at 25 Lida Ln., Rochester, NY 14616, or e-mail at [janicerickermann@netscape.net](mailto:janicerickermann@netscape.net).

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***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 preparation 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.

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**NEYM COMMITTEE DAY IN DAMARISCOTTA**

Midcoast Meeting is hosting Committee Day for NEYM on Saturday, June 9, at the Great Salt Bay School in Damariscotta. Come visit and find out more about our NEYM committees. These committees gather together four times a year to make decisions and plan programs. Our Meeting will be providing snacks and some food. If you can contribute coffee cake, cookies, juice, or salad, please let Deborah Haviland (354-8714 or [haviland@midcoast.com](mailto:haviland@midcoast.com)) know. Food can be left at the meetinghouse on Friday, June 8, if you won't be there on Saturday. We may also be asked to provide hospitality if it is requested. Please let Deb know if you would be interested in doing this.



**Mark Your Calendars--MEETINGHOUSE WORKHOURS for the Summer**

June 24, August 5, September 9, and October 14. (Claire says that for the last workhour, there were 15 people working, and they did a lot.) See you there!

## Notes from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee Meeting held May 6, 2007

We invite all Friends in the Meeting to come to our monthly meetings to engage in the exciting development of the Peace Center. **The next meeting will be June 10 after the rise of Meeting for Worship.**

After a discussion reviewing the "Peace Center" meetings, we reached a sense that the Midcoast Friends Meeting is already a "Peace Center." The Meetinghouse is viewed as a peace center not only in the Meeting but in the larger community. Some of the ongoing activities include:

- **Peace Bridges.** Gretchen Hull calls the demonstrations on appropriate occasions such as Mother's Day. The mailing list of the Lincoln County Peace and Justice group is still active, Gretchen directs it, and she has the CONA mailing list as well.
- **Earth Team** of New England Yearly Meeting and Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, and the programs of Maine Council of Churches that Andy Burt plans and presents, often in connection with Midcoast UU.
- **AFSC** committee on alternatives to the military meets every month.
- **Non-violent communications** workshop by Linda Cote-Small.
- **QUIT** (Quakers Initiative to End Torture), Carmen Lavertu, workshops and consultation. She is also teaching a class on "War and Peace" for Coastal Senior College and will do so again in the fall with applications to Election 2008.
- **The War experience.** Ernie Foust tells his soldier's story in schools and groups.
- **WTO.** This month, Brewster Grace will present a program in Camden and Rockland on the implications for the environment, labor standards, and health.

Many other ideas for program development were offered, especially by Alice, for dialogue (conversation) groups.

The committee notes that organizational leadership in the form of a single person is lacking at this time. Therefore, we decided and strongly put forth to the Meeting for support the following:

*The Peace & Social Concerns Committee recommends that a steering committee for a Peace Center not be established at this time. Instead, the committee recommends that it act as a whole to oversee a Peace Center built on concerns brought to it by members of Midcoast Meeting and in collaboration with other peace and justice groups in the Midcoast region. Midcoast Meeting would serve as an umbrella under which these concerns would form the content of the Peace Center's activities.*

We feel that we have the seeds for an active Peace Center and leadership as needed will emerge. We need to affirm that a Quaker Meeting IS A PEACE CENTER and we should regard ourselves as a peace center in our community. For this reason, we feel a sign at the roadside is appropriate. We commit ourselves to a bottom-up approach and open ourselves to opportunities that our country and the world may provide to which we can respond in the manner of Friends.

To prepare ourselves, we restate that we must look at militarism because we understand that as long as there is an army it will be used.

The regular meetings of the committee will begin immediately to schedule regular programs in the Meetinghouse. Some of the leads that will be followed include Conversations with Ernie, "China Blue" (sweatshops), Pakistan awareness, Maine Veterans for Peace presentation, Tax resistance workshop, AFSC recruiting program, and so on.

**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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### **Summer Meetings for Worship in Rockport Resume June 3**

Sunday mornings June through September, rain or shine, the Megunticook Worship Group has Meeting for Worship from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Children's Chapel in Rockport, Maine. All are welcome, but please remember to dress for the weather, as the chapel is an open-air structure, and please note that there are no restroom facilities on site.

For directions or additional details, please leave a message for Diane Kirkman at either 236-9078 or <[diane\\_kirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com)>.

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### **Book Study Group: *The Great Turning***

Midcoast Friends Meeting and the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship together are facilitating a discussion group on the new book by critically acclaimed author and economist David Korten, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*. The public is invited to attend.

The book study will begin on Monday, June 4, from 7-9 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. The book has been ordered and is available at Maine Coast Book Shop in Damariscotta.

Korten is known internationally through his writing and lectures as a leading critic of corporate globalization and a visionary proponent of a planetary system of local living economies based on organizing principles of healthy eco-systems and properly regulated market economies. His bestseller *When Corporations Rule the World* is the textbook for many progressive economists today.

In *The Great Turning*, Korten makes the case for why the Empire Model--a dominator model under which we have lived for 5,000 years--is not sustainable. He describes the components of the "perfect economic storm" that is accelerating the decline of the Empire Model: peak oil, climate change, and the U.S. economic meltdown due to trade deficits and extraordinarily high U.S. debt.

For more information, please contact Andy Burt at 882-6848, [adburt@gwi.net](mailto:adburt@gwi.net).

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### **YOU Can Help Midcoast Meeting Save \$\$!**

It costs Midcoast Friends Meeting well over \$50 every month to print and mail "hard" copies of the Newsletter. If you have the ability to receive the Newsletter by e-mail, won't you help us cut our costs by changing from a mail to an e-mail subscription? If you choose to receive the Newsletter by e-mail, you will not get an attachment; our wizardly webmeister, Guy Marsden, will simply send you an e-mail containing a link. Clicking on that link enables you to view the web-posted Newsletter, which you can print from there if you wish. Please contact Diane Kirkman <[diane\\_kirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com)> if you'd like to make this money-saving change or if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Prayer leads you to see new paths and to hear new melodies in the air. Prayer is the breath of your life which gives you freedom to go and stay where you wish and to find the many signs which point out the way to a new land. Praying is not simply some necessary compartment in the daily schedule of a Christian or a source of support in time of need, nor is it restricted to Sunday morning or as a frame to surround mealtimes. Praying is living.

--Henri J.M. Nouwen from *With Open Hands*