

6th Month

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

June 2008



Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me."
 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son
 of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have
 inscribed you on the palms of My hands."

--Isaiah 49: 14-16 (NKJV)

It is an overwhelming experience to fall into the hands of the living God
 Then is the soul swept into a Loving Center of ineffable sweetness, where calm
 and unspeakable peace and ravishing joy steal over one.

--from *A Testament of Devotion* by Thomas R. Kelly

June

Sunday	June 1	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch * <i>"Workshop on Outreach,"</i> following potluck
Sunday	June 8	8:30 a.m. Rise of Meeting	*Book Group *Work Hour
Sunday	June 15	9-10 a.m. Rise of Meeting	*Memorial for Trudy Brown, Megunticook Worship Group, Rockport Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	June 22	8:30 a.m. Rise of Meeting	*Book Group Second Hour Talk: "Quaker Values & Social Conflicts in the American Experience"

July

Sunday	July 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	July 20	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.

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

Meeting for Business, Fifth Month 18, 2008

Finance Committee--The Meeting considered the final draft budget for 2008-09. Committee budgets will be cut as well as the budget for contributing to "worthy needs." An ad hoc committee comprised of Karen Cadbury, Carmen Lavertu, and Linda Cote-Small was formed to consider alternatives for funding worthy needs.

Ministry & Counsel--Friends **approved** with pleasure the committee's recommendation that Thomas Steele-Maley's application for membership be accepted. There was discussion regarding how the Meeting will respond to the request from NEYM (New England Yearly Meeting) for input regarding same-sex marriages under the care of a meeting. Ministry & Counsel will consider today's remarks. They will review last fall's minute approved by NEYM, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting's discussion of same, a 1996 minute by our Meeting on the topic, and steps toward healing that have already been taken.

Peace & Social Concerns--Beginning in June, the book discussion group will reconvene. It will meet on the second and fourth Sundays, 8:30 a.m., each month.

Religious Education--There is a need for volunteers to teach during the summer weeks when the regular program is not in session.

Hospitality--Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments after worship.

Peace Center--The recently completed Mission Statement was distributed.

Meetinghouse & Grounds--The committee asks for volunteers for a sub-committee on artwork in the meetinghouse.

The next monthly meeting for business will be Sunday, June 15. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the May meeting may be found on the Meeting's website at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.



Workshop on Outreach

June 1, following the regularly scheduled potluck lunch. This workshop, offered by Ministry & Counsel, is intended to help the Meeting understand some basic reasons people come to Friends meeting and how we might be effective in attracting people to our meeting. The workshop will use worship sharing as the means to explore this topic.

AN INVITATION FROM ALICE LACY--Friends are invited to paint or meditate with Alice at her (and John's) beautiful ocean-side home in New Harbor. Alice's studio looks out on the Atlantic Ocean. "You can see all the way to Spain, if you look past Monhegan." Whether you are a painter or not, it is a great pleasure to be with Alice in her top-floor studio. She will guide anyone who hasn't painted recently, or ever. If you would rather not paint, you can sit on the patio and meditate--or plan to do both. Call ahead (677-3594) to make sure Alice and John will be home and to get directions.

News from Megunticook Worship Group

We resume our summer worship schedule on June 1 and will continue to meet for unprogrammed meeting for worship from 9 to 10 a.m. every Sunday through September at the Children's Chapel in Rockport. All are welcome, but please remember that this is an open-air venue (you need to dress for the weather), which has no restroom facilities and is not handicap-accessible. For further details or directions, please contact Diane Kirkman at either 236-9078 or diane_kirkman@hotmail.com.

The worship group's meeting for worship on Sunday, June 15, will be a **MEMORIAL FOR TRUDY BROWN**. For many years, Trudy and her husband, Jim, maintained the group. Members of the family will be in attendance on the 15th, and all are welcome to join us to remember Trudy.

Torture Awareness Month

by Carmen Lavertu

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) has declared June 2008 "Torture Awareness Month" and launched a "Banners Across America" project for the month. The "Torture Is Wrong" banner has been displayed at the meetinghouse for nearly a year now. We believe our government continues to permit CIA and military interrogators to use torture. The Peace & Social Concerns Committee will provide the Meeting with current information about what's happening in Congress, in the Supreme Court, and the Military Commission hearings at Guantanamo.

Do you know there are 50 detainees who will not be brought up before the military court but are not being repatriated because the U.S. government believes they would be tortured in their countries (such as China, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria)? Did you read or hear that a former detainee recently testified in a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight? Do you know about the 35 activists to be tried for their protest before the Supreme Court on January 18 (6th anniversary of the arrival in Guantanamo of the first "detainees" from Afghanistan)? Have you heard any promises to end torture by any of the candidates for President or Congress? For the first two questions, go to the web site for the Center for Constitutional Rights (<http://ccrjustice.org/>), for the third question, read "Guantanamo's Day in Court," http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/05/26/guantanamos_day_in_court/), an essay by James Carroll in the May 26 edition of the *Boston Globe*. The fourth question is for each of us to find out!

(NRCAT) has also provided the following prayer for use in June by faith communities across the nation as part of their effort to bring an end to torture:

Dear God of Many Names, at the heart of our longing, there is a cry for compassion. In the midst of war, as we work and pray for peace, all the world's people must nourish a kernel of compassion from which a true and lasting peace may grow.

Mighty God, as you have stood with the saints, sages, and prophets of the world's great traditions, as you have stood with our ancestors who have cried, "Peace, Peace," when there was no peace, we pray to feel your strength and presence. We honor your name when we courageously speak out against those actions that harm the soul of our nation, none more than the torture of body, mind, and spirit of one human being at the hands of another.

We hold in our hearts those who have been tortured. Their suffering will not be forgotten or silenced so long as we give voice to their plight.

We hold in our hearts those who have engaged in torture and pray they will take up the powerful path of redemption. May they cease and desist and turn away from this path that corrupts their souls.

And for those who would sully our nation's name out of fear, our hopeful prayers envision a new day, when leaders will find strength in the power of compassion and peace.

By our prayers and actions, may we attain forgiveness for what we have allowed to occur in our name. May we be worthy to do good deeds in your eyes.

And let us say, Amen.

For more information about NRCAT, visit the web site <www.TortureisaMoralIssue.org>.

THE BOOK GROUP RETURNS! The early morning reading group will begin meeting again in June, on the second and fourth Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (June 8 and 22). The book selection is *Human Smoke: The Beginnings of World War II, the End of Civilization* by Nicholson Baker (reviewed in the May newsletter). The author details the efforts of American and British pacifists to prevent war and to alleviate the suffering of the victims of war. A rich source for contemplation of pacifism, it will provide many questions for meaningful discussion. (The book is available at a discount through Carmen Lavertu.)

ADVICES--Stewardship: Friends are advised to consider our possessions as God's gifts, entrusted to us for responsible use. Let us free our time and our abilities to be able to follow the leadings of the Spirit. Let us cherish the beauty and variety of the world. Friends are urged to speak out boldly against the destruction of the world's resources and the difficulties that destruction prepares for the future generations. Let us guard against waste and resist our extravagant consumption, which contributes to inequities and impoverishment of life in our own and other societies. Let us show a loving consideration for all God's creatures. Let kindness know no limits.



FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION--Peace & Social Concerns Committee urges Friends to keep "militarism" in the conversation in this elections season. Consider the following from the FCNL Elections 2008 flyer:

Time to Invest in Peace

A huge portion, about 95 percent, of what the U.S. spends to engage with the rest of the world is allocated to the military budget. A tiny amount, about five percent, is devoted to diplomacy, development, and supporting international institutions that can help to solve problems before they turn into deadly conflict. To ask candidates: Will you support the U.S. paying its full share of United Nations dues and commit to increasing funding for the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development?

--Carmen Lavertu

Monthly Meeting approves a budget for 2008-09

by Paul Diamond, Treasurer

On May 18, Monthly Meeting approved a budget of \$15,600 for the coming fiscal year, which begins on June 1. This represents a reduction of \$1,750 both in projected income and budgeted expense, from the budget approved a year ago. Although income fell short of target in 2007-08, the targets set a year ago may have been a little optimistic, since actual income for the year about to end is expected to be very close to the amount actually received in 2006-07. This is a welcome development, indicating that the decline in contributions that the Meeting has been experiencing for several years may be coming to an end.

On the spending side, we expect to almost break even against income in 2007-08, although at levels considerably lower than were budgeted for the year. As a result, the budget approved by Monthly Meeting for 2008-09 shows some reductions, most particularly in the area of committee expenditures, where several committees have left sizeable portions of their allocations unspent. Each committee (with the exception of First Day School, which has its own source of funding from outside the regular budget) will have at least as much to spend as it actually spent in 2007-08, and in several cases will have more. Contributions to Quaker bodies, like New England Yearly Meeting, will remain unchanged, but there will be a reduction in allocations made by the Meeting as a whole to community activities in the Damariscotta area. (In discussing this, Monthly Meeting gave serious consideration to instituting weekly collections, where Friends could make personal donations, through the Meeting, to local charities.) The largest part of the budget remains the operating expenses required to run the meetinghouse, and these are under inflationary pressure. Hopefully the planned installation of solar panels, as well as other conservation measures, will help to offset the rise in energy prices, but the Meeting, as will we all individually, will need to keep a very close eye on rising costs in the coming year and beyond.

The Finance Committee will be circulating pledge letters in the coming weeks, and it is hoped that Friends will be generous in their responses, so as to help foster the vitality of our precious resource.

(See figures page 5, please.)

	<u>Budget</u> <u>for 2007-08</u>	<u>Expected</u> <u>thru May</u>	<u>Expected</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>for 2008-09</u>
INCOME				
Contributions	17000	15250	-1750	15250
Rent	350	350	0	350
Total Income	17350	15600	-1750	15600
REGULAR OUTFLOWS				
COMMITTEES				
Hospitality	175	150	25	75
Library	150	125	25	125
Archives	75	25	50	50
First Day School	100	0	100	0
Ministry and Counsel	500	250	250	250
Pastoral Care	200	150	50	200
Newsletter	700	200	500	500
Peace and Social Concerns	250	225	25	250
Conference Fund	250	0	250	150
Total Committees	2,400	1125	1,275	1600
COMMUNITY				
CHIP	400	400	0	400
Other	400	400	0	0
Town of Damariscotta (in lieu of taxes)	400	400	0	400
Total Community	1,200	1200	-	800
FRIENDS CONTRIBUTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY				
New England Yearly Meeting	4,000	4,000	-	4000
Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting	700	700	0	700
American Friends Service Committee	600	600	0	600
Friends Committee on National Legislation	300	300	0	300
Friends Camp	50	50	0	50
Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy	100	100	0	100
Total Contributions	5,750	5,750	-	5750
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Administration and Finance	450	600	-150	550
Insurance	1000	950	50	1000
Cleaning	1,000	1200	-200	1200
Mowing	1600	600	1000	650
Snowplowing	1000	1350	-350	1000
Landscaping	500	450	50	400
Maintenance and Miscellaneous	300	275	25	250
Housekeeping Supplies	0	0	0	150
Utilities	2150	2200	-50	2250
Total Operating Expenses	8,000	7,625	375	7450
TOTAL REGULAR OUTFLOWS				
	17,350	15,700	1,650	15,600
Surplus				
	-	-100	-100	-

QUERIES: Stewardship--Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

It's not too early to be thinking about . . .

**War: God
Help Us!**

**New England Yearly Meeting
2008 Annual Sessions**

Bryant University, Smithfield, RI--Sat., Aug. 2--Thurs., Aug. 7, 2008

More details at the meetinghouse (soon) & at the NEYM web site (www.neym.org) (now).

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