

# Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



## MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714 Damariscotta,  
ME 04543

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### June

Sunday	June 3	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch—followed by Work Group
Sunday	June 10	Rise of Meeting	Simplicity Discussion Group— Jim Merkel, guest
Sunday	June 17	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	June 24	Rise of Meeting	<i>Faith &amp; Practice</i> Study Session

### July

Sunday	July 1	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch—followed by Work Group
Sun.-Sat.	July 1-7		*FGC Gathering, Rhode Island
Sunday	July 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](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com) a request. Thanks!

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

## DRAFT MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—May 20, 2012

Co-clerk David Cadbury opened the session with a few moments of silence. Minutes from the previous Meeting for Business were approved

The **annual statistical report**, prepared by Diane Kirkman, was distributed. Friends agreed to review the report and send any corrections to David Cadbury during the following week. When corrections are completed, the report will go to NEYM.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Finance Committee:** Bill Spock reported that the Finance Committee feels that it is premature to have further discussions about **endowment** at this time. The Committee will focus on this issue later this summer. Martin Imm presented a summary of **this year's income and expenses** to date and projected a possible small shortfall. He reviewed a **projected budget for fiscal year 2013**, which also included a possible \$2,500 shortfall. Several opportunities for **adding income and reducing costs** for 2013 were identified. Options which would potentially affect the budget have been summarized by the Finance Committee and are attached as an addendum to these minutes. Pat Spock, Deb Haviland, and David Cadbury agreed to meet to **review the membership** list and make recommendations to the Finance Committee about NEYM membership fees.

**Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee:** Lawn mowing services have been contracted for the summer. A separate cost of \$400 for **refurbishing the planting bed** in front of the meetinghouse will be accomplished with a generous contribution from Guy Marsden. Friends thanked Guy for his generous contribution. Guy spoke about having acquired an electric car. He will, at his expense, install a plug for charging the car's battery on a porch post with a sign **saying "Electric Vehicle Charging Station."** He hopes this will become part of the Meeting's environmental message. The meeting approved Guy's proposal.

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee:** After the formation of the Peace Center was undertaken by the Meeting, the Peace Center absorbed certain functions of **the Peace & Social Concerns Committee**. Largely because of the overlap of interests and programs the Peace and Social Concerns Committee was then laid down. Carmen Levertu and Gretchen Hull expressed concern that without this committee the Meeting had lost its ability to effectively express its concerns to the wider community. Gretchen and Carmen asked the meeting to re-institute Peace and Social Concerns to augment the work of the Peace Center. Gretchen volunteered to clerk the Committee and Carmen agreed to assist. Friends approved this proposal.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Suzy Hallett reported that she had received **a request from the United Unitarian Church** in Damariscotta for Midcoast Monthly Meeting to consider building a room onto the meetinghouse for the Unitarians to use under a long-term lease arrangement for their place of worship. It was decided that an ad-hoc committee will meet to explore the benefits of the proposal for the Meeting and report on its discussions at the next Business Meeting.

**CLOSING:** With no further business coming before the Meeting, the session was adjourned with moments of silence. The next business meeting will be on July 17 at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

--Respectfully submitted, David Cadbury, Co-clerk; Karen Cadbury, Recording Clerk, Pro Tem

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, June 17, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. These minutes are available at [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org) and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

### QUERIES

**Meeting for Worship**—Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship and prayerful search for the way of Truth? Are all members encouraged to use their talents in the service of the meeting? Do you undertake your proper share of the work and financial support of the meeting?

## Quaker Missions Project—Postage Stamps

By Carmen Lavertu

Earl Walker, the Friend now leading the project, has given us some guidelines about the value of the stamps we submit:

- ☀ It is better to send first-class stamps on the original envelope and not tear them off as we had been doing. Old letters dated during WWII and before are prized.
- ☀ Postcards are valuable, with both domestic and foreign postmarks, as well as unused ones.
- ☀ Collections of stamps in albums, unfinished as well as complete may be sent.
- ☀ Mint sheets are traded at full value.
- ☀ Apart from stamps, these other items may be submitted:

Baseball cards

Box-top coupons for education, such as those from Pillsbury products and Progresso soups

Vintage greeting cards for all occasions, especially those from the '20s, '30s, and '40s



Sizable collections may be sent directly to Earl Walker, 449 Alamosa Drive, Claremont, CA 91711 (phone 909-638-6764)—or pass any amount to me for periodic submissions.

For history on the Quaker Missions Project, visit [http://www.mattapoissetquakers.org/Stamp\\_Ministry.html](http://www.mattapoissetquakers.org/Stamp_Ministry.html).

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“Peacefully, in the streets, we can support the Afghan and Iraq Vets whose discarded medals scream that war and military alliances are not the answer; that we need jobs, justice and a caring society if there is to be a 21st century American dream and greater peace in the world.”

--Dr. Joseph Gerson, in an excerpt from his May 10, 2012, blog posting, “Don't Believe the NATO Hype: Alternatives Exist to War, Economic Crises,” about the then-pending NATO Summit in Chicago ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-gerson/nato-summit-chicago\\_b\\_1506654.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-gerson/nato-summit-chicago_b_1506654.html)). The essay details ten reasons the “Counter Summit” was protesting the NATO meeting.

Dr. Gerson is Co-Convener of the Network for a NATO-Free Future and Director of Programs for the American Friends Service Committee in New England.

--Thanks to Carmen Lavertu for bringing this information to our attention.

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### ***Goodbye, dear Friend.***

*It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Alice Lacy, May 20, 2012. John and John Eben were with her when she died. Pastoral Care adds, “John and John Eben were at Meeting on the morning before Alice died. With John's tender message about Alice resting peacefully and his daily presence with her, Friends sensed Alice's presence in the Light of the Meeting.”*

## Highlights from Meeting of NEYM Permanent Board

May 12, 2012, Dover Friends Meeting, Dover, NH  
(from Minutes by Edward Baker, Clerk, Permanent Board)

More than 30 were in attendance.

Yearly Meeting Secretary Jonathan Vogel-Borne reported on the FWCC triennial meeting in Kenya—including the "Call for Peace and Ecojustice," the Mid-Year gathering in Wellesley, Massachusetts,—over 100 in attendance, and update on planning for Sessions in August.

The sale of Friends Home has closed, and after payment of costs and fees, net funds have been deposited until the Yearly Meeting has discerned how to utilize the sale proceeds (*being called "the Polly Thayer Starr legacy gift"*). Finance Committee recommended doing nothing with the money for a full year to allow seasoning from the entire Yearly Meeting. We did not unite behind this or any other proposal but appointed an ad-hoc committee to deal with all proposals for dealing with the funds. In August, this committee will present its recommendation to Permanent Board, and after further discernment, we will make a recommendation to Sessions.

Nat Shed, Friends Camp, reported that he is very pleased with his staff hires and camper registrations and outlined potential capital improvements at the camp. He said the camp financial situation is good, but if the camp were to suffer from low enrollments two consecutive summers, they would likely not have the reserves to cover such a contingency.

Bruce Neumann reported for the Yearly Meeting Secretary search committee that they currently have six apparently well-qualified applicants and that they expect a few more applications before the closing date.

The reported that there is a "deficit, which is normal this time of year," although it is about \$4,000 more than last year's at this time. The draft budget for the next fiscal year, although balanced, contains a "Funding Challenge" included in the income section. In our discussion we affirmed this approach to presenting a budget to Sessions.

Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee presented a minute they intend to bring to Sessions, recommending that changes be made to the Yearly Meeting Volunteer and Committee Structure and requesting an ad-hoc committee be appointed to initiate this work.

We united with several travel minutes and heard comments written on travel minutes that have been returned for Friends traveling in the ministry. We approved recommendations from Puente de Amigos Committee that we authorize the travel of six Young Adult Friends to Cuba to participate in a Cuban Young Adult Friends gathering.

Our next scheduled meeting is 4 August at Bryant University; however, we set 14 July as a tentative date for a called meeting should the Yearly Meeting Secretary Search Committee be prepared to make a recommendation at that time.

### **ADVICES**

**Meeting for Business**—In meetings for business, and in all duties connected with them, seek again the leadings of the Light; let our utterances be brief and without repetition. Let us keep from obstinacy and from harshness of tone or manner and admit the possibility of being in error. In all the affairs of the meeting community, let us proceed in a peaceable spirit, with forbearance and warm affection for each other.



You are invited to attend the [2012 FGC Gathering](#), July 1-7, at the University of Rhode Island. The Gathering Committee, comprising NEYM Friends and others, has been working all year to plan an exciting week for you including:

- 57 week-long workshops
- evening plenary programs
- vibrant youth programs
- many worship opportunities
- approximately 1,500 Friends from all over the United States and Canada

Registration opened April 4, and early registrants maximize their workshop choice and access to financial aid. The Fire and the Hammer returns! In response to enthusiastic requests from New Englanders, the final evening of the Gathering will feature with The Fire and the Hammer, a choral performance about the spiritual quest of George Fox. John Shelton will return to serve as conductor. Singers from last summer's NEYM performance will be joined by other Gathering attendees.

Volunteer to welcome Friends. Whether or not you can attend the Gathering, please consider volunteering on Sunday. Volunteers are needed to act as greeters, direct traffic, help with luggage, and generally be a welcoming presence. Volunteers will be welcome to join us for dinner and opening worship Sunday evening. We will also need help with the local information table To express interest or find out more, contact the Gathering co-clerks, Nancy and David Haines of Wellesley Meeting, at [haines2012@gmail.com](mailto:haines2012@gmail.com).

Find out more! Explore the Gathering website [www.FGCgathering.org](http://www.FGCgathering.org) to find out more—and to sign up for monthly email news.

We warmly invite you to come, take your place in the choir that is the wider world of North American Friends.

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### **Ideas for Countering Racism--June 2012**

From the Framingham Friends Meeting Working Group on Racism

Annual Gospel Night at the Pops, Saturday, June 9, Boston.

National Race Amity Day, Sunday, June 10, 1-5 p.m., Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston.

Family summer activity (or anytime): Host a Family Film Night around a racial justice or cultural sensitivity theme such as *Mad*, *Hot Ballroom*, *Edge of America*, *Long Walk Home*, *End Game*, and *Paperclips*. Invite another family especially a Quaker family if you are in a small Meeting. Or maybe arrange a showing at a summer Sunday meeting. (Thanks to the RE Bulletin Board for this idea.)

Now in paperback, *Lifting the White Veil: A Look at White American Culture*, by Jeff Hitchcock of Plainfield (NJ) Meeting.

At the FGC Gathering at the University of Rhode Island (July 1-7): Gathering attendees will find a number of field trips to places with significant Quaker history, as well as a display of Quaker history in the area on the campus. Also a book talk emphasizing the role of Friends in R.I. and the Yearly Meeting's ambivalence about ending enslavement as revealed in the research of the authors of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*. Late registration is still possible: go to <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering>.

For details on any of these events and activities: <http://www.neympeace.org/mm-qtr-activities/post/1836876>.

This has not been a solitary faith. From the beginning, the Quaker faith has flourished in a group, in a society, in a beloved fellowship. While God may be found in one's inmost life, one is always conscious of being part of a larger group of persons who are likewise joyously following the inward way and seeking to be obedient to the light of Christ within. They seek to be obedient not only in the quiet gathering for worship together, or in their meeting for settling practical affairs, but also as they are led as a group to be concerned for those about them, particularly those suffering injustices or inequities. While Friends had great respect for the individual person, the real unit in the Society of Friends has always been the Meeting.

—from *Faith & Practice* of New England Yearly Meeting, 1985, p. 53

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