

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

*This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals.
 Despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks, stand up for the stupid
 and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants,
 argue not concerning God, have patience and
 indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to
 nothing known or unknown.*

—Walt Whitman



July

Sunday	July 4		Food Pantry Day, please bring items for the basket in the meetinghouse
Monday	July 5	11 a.m.	Memorial service for Bronson Clark
Wednesday	July 7	5 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
Friday	July 16	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Potluck Supper Monthly Meeting for Business

August

Sunday	August 1		Food Pantry Day following worship* Landscape Workday
Thursday	August 5	4 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
Sat. - Thurs.	August 7-12		* NEYM Annual Sessions, Bryant College, Smithfield, RI
Monday	August 16	asap	Deadline for September newsletter

~ Advance Notice ~

Sunday	September 5	10:00	* Outdoor Meeting for Worship at Morse Mountain, Phippsburg, for info call Carmen or Claire
Fri.-Sun.	September 10-12		* Vassalboro Quarterly Mtg. Fall Gathering, Friends Camp, South China
Sunday	October 3	following worship	Landscape Workday
Saturday	October 16	TBA	* "No Draft for Me," AFSC workshop, Bangor

* 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

The Entirely Unofficial MONTHLY MEETING NOTES, 6th month of 2004

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson, Recording Clerk

Carmen Lavertu clerked the meeting for Ernie Foust, who was unable to attend. Ten people were present. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved with minor corrections.

Ministry & Counsel

Clerk Jean Crawford reported for the committee. The emergency contact forms are available on the credenza in the meetinghouse. Completed forms should be given to Jean for proper archiving.

Jean asked to conduct an informal poll about the reactions of members to the name-tag policy. A discussion ensued exploring how people feel about them, ways to store them, and the style of name tags people prefer. The committee will consider the opinions expressed and bring their recommendations back to Meeting.

Peace & Social Concerns

Nancy Booth reported for the committee. The Earth Care Team suggests doing away with the use of Styrofoam cups at receptions and other gatherings and that, instead, members and attenders be encouraged to bring their own mugs and that the committee would contribute a rack for storing these. The concern will be forwarded to the Meetinghouse Committee for their consideration.

2004 NEYM Sessions

"And who is my neighbor?" is the theme of the 2004 New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, to be held Saturday, August 7, through Thursday, August 12, at Bryant College, Smithfield, Rhode Island. Partake of a full schedule of workshops, meetings, thought-provoking and fun events for the whole family. Enjoy meeting with Quakers from around New England. Get out of Maine in August, and enjoy being a tourist yourself! Complete details in *The New England Friend* (copies on the meetinghouse credenza) or at www.neym.org.

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?

The Maine AFSC committee on Militarism in Schools will be having a training session on Saturday, October 16th, for students. Those who know young people in need of support should let them know about the Meeting as a source of support and should also advise Gretchen Hull of the needs.

Meetinghouse

Use of the meetinghouse by other groups was discussed, and it was noted there is not clarity on the amount that is charged for such use. Only a small number of organizations currently use the meetinghouse on a regular basis. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee.

Other Business

Carolyn Miller expressed interest in forming an ad hoc committee to consider the feasibility of building a First Day School addition to the meetinghouse.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Friday, July 16, at 7 p.m., following a potluck supper at 6 p.m. All welcome. NOTE: There will be no Monthly Meeting for Business in August.

Ministry & Counsel Report

The committee is discussing whether to continue having name tags (if we do, we would look for a tidy way to store them). If anyone has an opinion about name tags, please contact a Ministry & Counsel member.

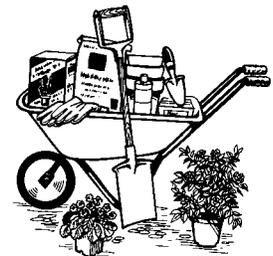
Emergency information contact forms are available on the credenza in the meetinghouse. Help yourself to a blank form. After you fill it out, please give it to Jean Crawford. We keep them on file in case there is an emergency and we need to contact someone about you.

Final Choices forms are available for download at the Web site. Click on the Committees button on the home page and then follow the links or go to: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/pdf-files/finalcho.htm.

Summer Landscape Workday

Sunday, August 1st

Please plan to stay after worship and help to weed the garden beds.



Friends Camp— Host Families Needed

From www.friendscamp.org

The services of Sojourn International will not be available this year. They provided overnight accommodations for our campers who participated in one or more sessions.

If you are interested in being a host family, there are a number of campers who would like to stay for two or more sessions. We need camper families who live in Maine to offer hospitality to these campers for between-session overnights. Host families will wash camper's clothes and provide meals and transportation to and from camp for the overnight. You may charge for your services or volunteer your services. While the camp will help make the contact for host families, we cannot take the responsibility for a camper's stay.

Participating families will need to work out details. Please call camp director Nat Shed at 207-445-2361 for more information.



Meeting for Worship and Picnic in Phippsburg

Again this year, Susan (St. John) Rheault has invited us to come to Small Point, Morse Mountain in Phippsburg, on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend for an outdoor Meeting for Worship. This year, the date is September 5. We will gather at the meetinghouse at 9 o'clock and form car pools, arriving at Morse Mountain around 9:45. Car travel beyond the parking lot at Morse Mountain is strictly limited. Susan will be there with passes to organize "shuttles."

Directions for F/friends coming from locations south of Bath: Route 209-S toward Phippsburg and Popham Beach (about 12 miles); at point where the road turns 90 degrees for Popham Beach, continue straight ahead—this is Route 216—exactly one mile to the Morse Mountain parking lot.

Food: potluck with beverages provided. Details TBA, or call Claire Darrow (371-2447) or Carmen Lavertu (354-9556) for more information.

Looking Ahead: Fall Gathering

The next Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting newsletter will invite you to save September 11-12, 2004, to worship and be together at Fall Gathering, held at Friends Camp in South China, Maine. Our keynote speaker will be Judy Brown, a Quaker from College Park, Maryland, and a consultant with Servant Leadership Workshops (with Parker Palmer) and with Courage to Teach. Friends throughout our history have led the way for change in the treatment of minorities, women, prisoners, "enemies," the poor, and each other. What is unique about Quakers?

Carol Korty of Cambridge Meeting and long-time instructor in theater will lead our children in play writing and performing. (Don't miss the big performance after dinner on Saturday night!) Also, polish up your dancing shoes and/or instrument for contra dance after performance. And don't miss Dick Kelly leading us in fun on Friday night and a performance of Acadia's First Day School "Way Out Chorus."

Due to camp policies it's very important to preregister before September 7th for the Fall Gathering. Brochures with complete information will be available at the meetinghouse by late July or early August.

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.

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

Visit

www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

No Draft for ME workshop

by Gretchen Hull

As the pressure on military enlistment grows, so do the numbers of recruiters in our schools, along with the techniques they use to influence our youth. With glamorous glossy brochures, free fun-filled military video games to hand out, and their own quotas to fill, recruiters in full uniform advertise an unrealistic view of what it means to sign up to “serve” the country. Students are simply not equipped to determine how much of the sales pitch is accurate, inaccurate, misleading, or actually untrue. Promises of money make a military option attractive to students who are led to expect large sums for college. In fact, only a very small percentage of the students will ever receive the money they anticipate when they enlist.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is working with dedication, imagination, and a limited budget to counter military recruitment in our schools. Here in Maine, a committee has been meeting monthly over two years with the goal to provide students and parents the means for making informed decisions regarding military service.

In general, schools do not give equal time to non-military recruiters, and guidance offices do not necessarily display the printed counter-recruitment materials that AFSC can provide. However, by working with

guidance counselors, social-studies teachers, and concerned students, we are finding ways to provide alternative information and material on conscientious objection. We have held two “Adopt-a-School” workshops to help Friends meetings, local groups, and concerned parents to open their local schools to giving students a more balanced view of the choices available.

On Saturday, October 16, we will be holding a third workshop with a new focus. We will be directing our efforts toward engaging students themselves in organizing discussions, committees, and programs within their schools. A similar AFSC-sponsored program for student-led counter-recruitment is presently underway in Vermont.

The October 16 workshop, to be held in Bangor, is called “No Draft for Me.” At this workshop we would like to have student and adult representation from each of the Monthly Meetings as well as students from as many high schools as possible. If you know of students who could attend the workshop, would like to receive additional information on the military in the schools, or would like to contribute to the efforts of this committee and the workshop, please contact a member of the committee—Gretchen Hull (peacebridges@peacebridges.org), Nancy Booth, Ernie Foust, or Carmen Lavertu.

Midcoast Meeting of Friends
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