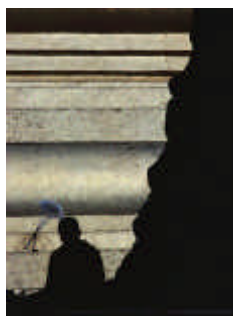


7-8th Month

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

July-August 2007



Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

--1 Samuel 3:9 (NKJV)

Prayer means not always talking to Him, but waiting before Him till the dust settles and the stream runs clear.

-- Frederick Brotherton ( F. B.) Meyer

**July**

Thursday	July 5	6:30 p.m.	Dorothy Selebwa, Kakemega (Kenya) Project helping AIDS orphans, Camden Public Library
Sunday	July 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	July 22	Rise of Meeting	*Ernie Foust's Experiences in WWII

**August**

Sat.-Thurs.	August 4-9		NEYM Sessions, Bryant University, Smithfield, RI
Sunday	August 5	Rise of Meeting	Workhour
Sunday	August 19	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business

**Upcoming**

Sat.-Sun.	Sept. 8-9		Vassalboro QM Retreat, Friends Camp, South China, ME
Sunday	Sept. 9	Rise of Meeting	Workhour
Fri.-Sat.	Oct. 5-6		*Listening to the Spirit Worship, Cobscook Mtg.
Sunday	Oct. 14	Rise of Meeting	Workhour

\*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**  
Sixth Month 17, 2007

With great pleasure the meeting accepted **Jim Matlack's transfer of membership** from Bethesda (MD) Monthly Meeting.

Contributions to local organizations ("Worthy Needs") have been set for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. For 2006-2007 \$600 will go to Coastal Housing Improvement Program, and \$200 will go to People to People. For 2007-2008 \$400 will go to Community Housing Improvement Program, \$200 will go to Healthy Kids, and \$200 will go to People To People. Thanks to the committee: Todd Garth, Nancy Booth and Linda Cote-Small.

We are missing **Gerard Geary** so far this summer. **Lee Coolidge** expects to move soon from the hospital to a nursing facility. **Henry Beerits** will be staying at Cove's Edge and short visits are welcome. **Brewster Grace** is recuperating at home following recent surgery.

We will co-sponsor with Midcoast UU Church in October the screening of the film *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*. This difficult and worthwhile film is distributed by NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture).

Watch for the date: the meeting will have a gathering this summer to hear **Ernie Foust's story of his experiences during World War II**. We will be asked to bring a picnic lunch to Nancy Booth's home following meeting for worship to hear Ernie's sharing.

Details of a visit from **Dorothy Selebwa of the Friends AIDS Orphans Care Center in Kakemega, Kenya**, were announced.

We are encouraged to save Columbus Day Weekend for a workshop on "**Listening to the Spirit**" with Deborah Fisch. The host will be Cobscook Monthly Meeting. Overnight hospitality is available.

On **July 1 there will be a peace witness in Kennebunkport**. President Putin will be visiting President Bush's summer compound at that time.

**The next meeting for business will be July 15.**



**NEWS NOTES**

v *George Sparks now has an apartment not far from his daughter Susan. There are activities in his new location that keep him busy. His new address is: 7830 Pine Forest Rd., Pensacola, FL 32526.*

v *Nancy and Chuck Boothby are visiting in Iceland, where their son lives. Nancy says Iceland is a vast, miraculous place. There is a picture of a magnificent waterfall on her card.*

v *The Meeting, care of the Pastoral Care Committee, has received lovely thank-you notes from Diane Kirkman and Nancy Boothby. Their fathers, John Onken and Leon Appel, respectively, died this spring and a sympathy note and book of poetry was sent to each of them from the Meeting. The notes are posted on the bulletin board.*

v *Lee Coolidge is now at Fieldcrest Manor in Waldoboro for a few weeks. When she is stronger, she hopes to move to an assisted living home in the area.*

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**QUERIES: Spiritual Life**

Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way? Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?

## ERNIE FOUST'S EXPERIENCES IN WORLD WAR II

Most of us have heard about Ernie Foust's experience as a young soldier during WWII, but few have heard the compelling and touching story in one sitting (as did participants of the Senior College class on War and Peace some weeks ago). P&SC decided to have a summer gathering for Friends where we could give Ernie our full attention. This is an important story, and Ernie's way of telling it and sharing his reflections is very special.

We will meet July 22, after Meeting for Worship, at Nancy Booth's home in Newcastle. Come with provisions, as we usually do for summer picnics, and bring a camp chair if you have one. Nancy's home is at the end of a very short drive called High Street. Coming over the bridge from Damariscotta, take the first left after the Newcastle crossroad. From Rte. 215, take a right at the crossroad, then a left. Car pools from the Meetinghouse are encouraged.

**ADVICES:** Take heed, dear Friends, to the prompting of love and truth in your hearts, which are the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It is God's redemptive love that draws us, a love shown forth by Jesus in all his life, on the cross, and in his abiding presence.

Friends are advised to make a quiet place in their daily lives for prayer and communion with God and to be constant in the reading of the Bible and other devotional literature.

Let us cherish the seed of God in ourselves and in others, that we may be open to new revelations of truth. Let us look to our meetings to guide and stimulate our spiritual growth.



## QUIT - Quaker Initiative to End Torture

The main speaker at the second QUIT Conference held at Guilford College June 1 through 3 was Alfred McCoy, author of *The Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation from the Cold War to the War on Terror* (2006). In his book, McCoy traces the development from government-sponsored academic research in coercion and brainwashing to CIA and military intelligence of interrogation techniques used in Vietnam, Central America, and the Philippines and now in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Tony Lagouranis, an interrogator in the Army intelligence corps, was scheduled to complement McCoy's historical study, but he, unfortunately, cancelled. I have since read his book, *Fear Up Harsh*, a terrible eye-opener, in which he describes techniques of abuse, coercion, and torture he witnessed as an interrogator and observer of frontline soldiers in the Iraq war.

The film *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* was shown, followed by responses and discussion. This film will be distributed by NRCAT (National Religious Coalition Against Torture) in October, and our Meeting, together with Midcoast UU, has registered to show it as part of a national effort to break the silence on the issue of torture. *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* is a very

strong film (i.e., for adults) showing the Abu Ghraib photos. The MPs who committed the atrocities are interviewed (the most compelling part of the film, in my view). McCoy, Lagouranis, and many others provide commentary.

A major topic of the conference was the silence--or helplessness--on this issue and the failure over two years to bring an end to torture in our country's wars. We were reminded of polls that show that a majority--perhaps as many as 75%--of U.S. citizens believe that torture may be used to obtain intelligence, a view developed primarily, it is believed, through decades of television police shows and now the very popular program *24*.

The one hundred participants at the conference this year (many returning like me), came away from the conference with an abundance of information, teaching plans for conducting informational programs, and above all, a strong resolve to continue this work. There will be programs, discussion, and information at the New England Yearly Meeting sessions.

—Carmen Lavertu

## LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT WORKSHOP

On Columbus Day weekend, Friday, October 5, and Saturday, October 6, the Cobscook Meeting in Whiting, Maine, invites Midcoast to share with them an exciting workshop. The theme of the weekend is "Listening to the Spirit." During our time there, we will have an opportunity to experience a way into deep spiritual listening as we wait in worship. Friends can prepare by reading *Expectant Listening: Finding God's Thread of Guidance* by Michael Wajda. It is available for \$5 from Pendle Hill, PH pamphlet # 388. This 32-page pamphlet will provide the context for the group working together.

The facilitator will be Deborah Fisch. Deborah began working for Friends General Conference in 1998, currently serves as Associate Secretary for programs and as Coordinator of the Traveling Ministries Program, is currently Clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Cobscook will be happy to provide hospitality and to information about local B&Bs, motels, and campgrounds. For further information contact Elizabeth Sprague at <[Elizabeth.Sprague@mgemaine.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Sprague@mgemaine.com)> (e-mail is preferred) or at 207/255-6857.

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543.  
Clerk: Peter Haviland, 354-8714; Assistant: Carmen Lavertu, 354-9556; Recording Clerks: Jean Crawford, 236-4176, and Claire Darrow, 371-2447; Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283. Newsletter--July-August 2007, Volume 19, Number 7. Published every month but August. Editing/design: Diane Kirkman, 236-9078, [diane\\_kirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com), 18 Atlantic Ave., Apt. 3, Camden, ME 04843. Address changes: Pat Spock, 729-0826, [wspock@gwi.net](mailto:wspock@gwi.net), 10 Curtis St., Brunswick, ME 04011. Web: Guy Marsden, 443-8942, [guy@arttec.net](mailto:guy@arttec.net), 61 Delano Rd., Woolwich, ME 04579.