

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
James Matlack, 236-0903

Recording Clerk:
Bruce Rockwood, 350-2256

Newsletter—July-August 2015
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Center:
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July

Thursday	July 2	6:30 p.m.	*Bob Eaton speaks on Banning and Clearing Land Mines
Sunday	July 5	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	July 6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	July 19	Rise of Meeting 1:30-3:30 p.m.	Meeting for Business *ASFC Gen. Sec. Shan Cretin speaks on Quaker Values in Action
Monday	July 20	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

August

Sat.-Thurs.	Aug. 1-6		*NEYM Sessions, Castleton, VT
Sunday	August 2	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Tuesday	August 4	6:30 p.m.	*Wendy Batson Humanitarian Crises Talk
Monday	August 3	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Monday	August 17	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

September

Sunday	Sept. 6	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	Sept. 7	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	Sept. 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Sept. 21	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

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 10 a.m. at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta
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 lighten our workload. To receive the newsletter by e-mail, kindly send Diane Kirkman at diane_kirkman@hotmail.com a request. Thanks!

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:
www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—June 21, 2015

1. Clerk James Matlack called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and began with a few minutes of silent prayer. There were 18 in attendance. The agenda was reviewed and approved after adding one item under “other business.” The minutes of the May meeting were reviewed and approved as written in the Newsletter.
2. **Committee Reports.**
 - A. **Finance.** Bruce Rockwood reported the Finance Committee met Thursday, June 18, from 1:30 to 3:35 p.m., here at the meetinghouse. Bruce was elected Clerk of the Finance Committee, and they had a good discussion and will meet again in a few weeks after Tom Hagan, Assistant Treasurer, gets the final figures from Martin Imm to close out the books on the last fiscal year. We will report on that at the July Meeting for Business. We will get new software (QuickBooks) for Tom and contract for the outside audit. David Cadbury, as Treasurer, reported that the bank accounts had been transferred to him with David and Clerk Jim Matlack authorized to sign checks. The pledge letter was approved as written by Bill Spock in May and will go out shortly.
 - B. **Ministry & Counsel.** Suzy Hallett reported that the draft State of the Society Report for New England Yearly Meeting covering the calendar year 2014 is nearly ready and will be distributed shortly by email to the Meeting for review and approval at the July Meeting for Business. Ministry & Council will meet Tuesday afternoon.
 - C. **Midcoast Outreach & Peace Center (MOPC).** Karen Cadbury reported on the progress of the grant applications being made and hopes to have a result in the fall. She indicated they are on track with their budget. Discussions to connect MOPC programs with the AFSC are underway, and Brewster Grace is helping in that process. Sue Rockwood reported on the upcoming speakers being sponsored by MOPC, including Bob Eaton and Martin Barber speaking on Thursday, July 2, at 6:30 p.m. here at the meetinghouse on the impact of war on people, and the problem of land mines; and Wendy Batson speaking on survivor assistance, looking at Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30 p.m. here. Other speakers are being planned both from Maine and nationally, and Brewster Grace is applying to the Maine Humanities Council for a grant to help fund this program. Sue Rockwood mentioned the positive feedback on the meetinghouse and parking from students at the Coastal Senior College classes, which have been held here recently, and indicated more classes are planned for the fall. For children's programming, Sue reported that they plan gentle programming in the summer and stepping up in the fall with announcing what the Sunday children's programming will be in the Lincoln County News weekly calendar in hopes of attracting more participation.
 - D. **Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy.** Jim Matlack is Clerk of the FCMPP. He explained its history, how it was temporarily laid down, and is now active and continuing its focus on two major issues: criminal justice and prison reform; and the rights and needs of the native peoples of Maine, the Wabanaki. FCMPP is currently most active in working with tribal concerns. He cited the *Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980*, a state statute later ratified by Congress. Jim explained the Act was intended to provide a context for respect of the treaty and customary rights of the native peoples. He noted the State of Maine has misinterpreted that act and in a bi-partisan way failed to give due respect to the tribes, leading most recently to the walk-out of tribal legislative representatives from the State legislature in Augusta a few weeks ago. He circulated a letter he wrote that was edited and printed in the *Maine Sunday Telegram* last week and a the fuller version printed in the *Free Press* discussing these concerns, a copy of which will be kept in our archives. Jim explained the creation of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2012 and how it was modeled on the South African Truth & Reconciliation Commission, addressing the taking of native children and placing them in foster families to lose their cultural identities and often to be abused as well. The final report was just published, and the archives including oral statements will soon be available at Bowdoin College and online. Jim also explained the dispute mechanism set up by the tribes and the State to implement the 1980 statute: MITSC, <http://www.mitsc.org/index.php> and how it has been largely ignored by the Governor and may be falling into disuse. For further information on these issues, see: <http://www.mainewabanakitrc.org/> , <http://mainewabanakireach.org/tag/truth-and-reconciliation/> , <http://usm.maine.edu/muskie/cutler/maine-wabanaki-state-truth-and-reconciliation-commission> , and <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/5/1/wabanaki-truth-and-reconciliation-commission.html>.

[continued on pg. 3]

On a related matter, Guy Marsden reported the request from the Four Winds Development Corporation to roll over their \$10,000 loan to this tribal fund. Bruce Rockwood indicated that the Finance Committee was aware of this request and would ask that their report be sent to us so that the Finance Committee can review it at its next meeting and report back to the July Meeting for Business. The committee had discussed rolling over the loan last year, and this is probably what we will recommend.

E. Meetinghouse & Grounds.

Steve Gory reported that, weather permitting, we hope to have a weed and brush clean-up around the meetinghouse after the rise of worship next Sunday. Feel free to bring a bag lunch and wear appropriate clothes and bring gloves if you can help out. We also need to discuss mowing patterns with the person hired to mow the grounds. Plans to repaint the interior of the meetinghouse remain under review. The Meeting thanked Guy Marsden and David Cadbury for helping to install the new toilet, replacing the last of the two older toilets at a lesser expense than the first one replaced by the plumber.

F. Hospitality and G. Library. Rachel McGinness: No report from either.

3. Other Business/Special Concerns.

A. Sue Rockwood reported that Carmen Lavertu, Rachel McGinness, and she had solicited ideas for recognizing the 20th anniversary of this building this year. Their recommendation is to plan a picnic and barbecue in September or October and work with Building & Grounds, Hospitality, and MOPC to investigate and obtain or build a Peace Pole to install outside the meetinghouse, like those many schools have. She saw one at the one-room schoolhouse on Monhegan Island last weekend, and they reflect Quaker values and would be a nice way to mark the occasion. The Peace Pole can be 4, 6 or 8 sided, and has the phrase “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in many different languages. See: <http://www.peacepoleproject.org/>; <http://www.peacepoles.com/>; and http://www.worldpeace.org/activities_peacepoleproject.html. It was agreed that this should not be very expensive, that we can probably built it ourselves, and the sense of the Meeting was that we should proceed with this endeavor.

B. Karen Cadbury mentioned that we had started last fall and winter with “Friendly 8s” group dinners, that they had been successful but somewhat trailed off over the winter, and that she hoped we would restart sign-ups to get the program going again in the fall. Bruce Rockwood suggested we also consider ideas for a book discussion group starting in the fall, as was the practice some years ago.

C. In regards to attempts of Quakers to positively influence public policy, Tom Hagan recommended the unfortunate results of a Princeton report indicating how little impact average voters have on public policy formation. The full report is behind a pay-wall, but here is a news item about it: <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-echochambers-27074746> See also:

4.



5. **Closing Worship.** Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 1:05 p.m. The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, July 19, 2015 (no August Meeting for Business). All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at <http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/newsletter.htm> and on the meetinghouse bulletin board.

Respectfully submitted,

—Jim Matlack, Clerk; Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk

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 preparations 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)

SUMMER SPEAKERS SERIES: RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES



Bob Eaton will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 2. His talk is entitled "Banning and Clearing Land Mines: Managing a Humanitarian Crisis." Speaker Bob Eaton has more than 25 years' experience planning and managing rehabilitation programs for war-devastated countries. He was the founder and Executive Director of the Survey Action Center (SAC), an international group of leading United Nations and non-governmental organizations working to

eliminate landmines and cluster munitions. He played a significant role in the development and acceptance of the Landmine Ban Treaty.

Wendy Batson—humanitarian, author, past Executive Director of Handicap International, the U.S. affiliate of an international NGO specializing in helping men, women and children injured or disabled by armed conflict, diseases like polio or HIV/AIDs, natural disaster or poverty in more than 45 countries around the world—will present on Tuesday, August 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the meetinghouse. Look for more details about her presentation closer to the date.



**Quaker Values in Action:
A Report from Shan
Cretin, General Secretary
of the American Friends
Service Committee
Sunday, July 19
1:30 to 3:00 p.m.,
@ the Meetinghouse**

Mailbox Needed

Steve Gorry asks, "If you have a large oversized mailbox hanging out in your extra-things pile, please consider donating it to the Meeting. We are looking for such a container to facilitate Peace Center, non-mail, traffic of materials and belongings needing a weather-safe public box. Please contact Sue Rockwood if you can help with this."

NEW RESOURCES ON MIDCOAST FRIENDS' WEBSITE

You can now read Minutes from Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy (FCMPP) and Pope Francis's June 2015 encyclical letter on the environment, *Laudato Si*, at the concerns link on Midcoast Friends' web page:
<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/concerns.htm>. (And there is more information there: on Friends and money, other environmental projects, and the Quaker Missions Stamp Project.)

In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair.

—Howard Thurman, 20th -century African American Baptist preacher, author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil-rights leader

Friends, the following will be presented for approval at the July Meeting for Worship for Business:

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT 2015
Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Our spiritual community has been deeply enriched by a growing number of attenders, a broadening and deepening pastoral care, lively outreach and programs on peace, and a revival of our first day school. The growth of these commitments and opportunities has inspired us to be more active in our caring for our spiritual needs and quests, to peace and social and environment justice, to our children and our community. Our committees are working effectively. We feel more complete and strengthened as a Quaker community prepared to meet the personal and collective challenges coming with growth and change. And underpinning all of this is our sound financial situation.

Our Pastoral Care Committee came to share a conviction that pastoral care includes more than caring for those who are ill, hospitalized, suffering loss, or in need of transportation. As important as these services are, pastoral care also involves ongoing awareness of and response to the spiritual needs of one another. Pastoral care calls us to attend to the practice of deep listening. In so doing, our community can strengthen. We came to our conviction, first through deeply listening as we have cared for the sick and/or elderly and bereaved. In our more recent seasoning process, we experienced among ourselves the fruits of deeply listening. We felt the presence of Spirit among us and experienced easing, comfort, support, trust, intimacy – all of which lay not only a foundation for individual spiritual well-being, but also for strengthening our Meeting community.

Ministry and Counsel's work during 2014 included anticipating adjustments for growth and change, refreshing Meeting literature and inspirational posters, worship sharing about spoken ministry, experimenting with ways of handling introductions and announcements at the rise of meeting when children have a first day program, and convening a clearness committee for a marriage under the care of the Meeting. We've noted the loss of member Earnest Foust and the completion and transmittal of Peter Haviland's Memorial Minute.

The Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center divides its responsibilities between community outreach and learning and sharing experiences and concerns of Friends. Overseen by steering and program committees, it has hired a part time coordinator, submitted requests for external funding and installed internet service on the property. Its programs and activities enshrine Quaker values and leadings, focusing on work for peace and social and environmental justice, service to the elderly and families with children. A successful Senior College course on architecture drew around 50 participants. Other offerings have included a successful series on Video and Vittles and Challenges of Change. A long-running Non-Violent communication series continues and "Elder Walk" sessions are under consideration. And we are now planning a series of public events on international humanitarian crises. This outreach has brought the Meeting not only new activities; it has also increased attendance at Meeting for Worship. A few families with children have begun to attend once a month when we offer children's first day programming.

The Finance Committee has overseen a successful financial year in 2013-14, and looks forward to next year with optimism. The surplus reserve is sound the Meetinghouse is relative new, paid for, and in good condition, and there are not current critical financial issues. The New England Yearly Meeting Pooled Funds has performed well for our long term deposits. But there are some longer term concerns. The membership is not growing, but aging, with many of the members retired, with fixed incomes that erode with inflation. No recent bequests have been received to increase our surplus funds against future unknowns. We do use a portion of our surplus earnings to support our operations. On the other hand, annual contributions increased this year for the first time. We have begun to focus on a planned giving campaign as a means of encouraging larger contributions that can help insure the Meetings financial future.

Our meetinghouse, its lovely grounds and our library are well cared for. Some minor repairs have been made in the building and the meetinghouse interior will be refreshed with a new coat of paint. And our snow plowing brought us through the severe winter. The library will be even more user friendly as its collection has been reorganized in specific categories. As Midcoast Meeting continues to strengthen our spiritual life and fulfill our Quaker testimonies, we reveal our striving to 'answer that of God in everyone' by working as a community, fostering a spirit of toleration and mutual concern for each other. As we fulfill our Meeting's undertakings, our commitment to truth and integrity will continue to grow and flourish.

UPDATED COMMITTEE LIST

Please advise a member of Ministry & Counsel of any changes need.

Officers, Committees, Representatives 2015

OFFICERS

Clerk: Jim Matlack
Recording Clerk: Bruce Rockwood
Treasurer: David Cadbury
Assistant Treasurer: Tom Hagan
Statistical Recorder: Diane Kirkman

REPRESENTATIVES TO:

CHIP: Rachel McGinness
Ecumenical Food Pantry: Wendell Stephenson
Quarterly Meeting: Carmen Lavertu
Maine Counsel of Churches: Andy Burt
NEYM: Finance Committee: Bruce Rockwood,
Volunteers will be asked when representation is
needed at New England Yearly Meeting for NEYM
M&C Committee, Peace and Social Concerns, China
Camp

COMMITTEES

Archives:

Willow Rowntree
Deb Haviland

Communications:

Circulation & Mailing: Sally Tukey
Directory:
E-Mail Chain: Guy Marsden
Mailing Labels: Diane Kirkman
Newsletter: Diane Kirkman
Web Site: Guy Marsden

Finance:

David Cadbury
Karen Cadbury
Tom Hagan
Bruce Rockwood*

Hospitality:

Rachel McGinness*

Library:

Sally Tukey
Rachel McGinness*
Judith Imm
Willow Rowntree

Meetinghouse & Grounds:

Steve Gorry*
Bill Hallett*
Guy Marsden*

Ministry and Counsel:

Karen Cadbury
David Cadbury
George Chappell
Brewster Grace
Suzy Hallett*
Alianne Rockwood
Sue Rockwood

MOPC Program Committee:

Andy Burt
George Chappell
Brewster Grace
Carmen Lavertu
Jim Matlack*
Rachel McGinness
Polly Ulin
Karen Cadbury on occasion

MOPC Steering Committee:

Karen Cadbury*
Brewster Grace
Suzy Hallett
Jim Matlack

Pastoral Care:

George Chappell
Jean Crawford*
Deb Haviland
Judith Imm
Carmen Lavertu
Willow Rowntree*

Clerk or co-clerks indicated by an *
Updated 6/2015



NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING — OF FRIENDS — QUAKERS

Online Registration for NEYM Sessions is now open!

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends' **355th Annual Sessions** will take place in Castleton, VT, August 1-6, 2015. Our theme this year is: Living Into Covenant Community. For more information and to register, visit www.neym.org/sessions.

Themed First Day Programs on First Sundays

During the first Sunday each month we offer a program for children followed by a family style potluck lunch. Come for 10:00 Meeting for Worship. After a brief time, the children are invited to come to the social room for our children's program, and then at 11:00, we all meet and share what we've done. We follow that with a potluck, which we hope you can stay for, too.

During the summer months, we are having a brief program exploring centering and mindfulness with the children. We gather and introduce ourselves, create a group sculpture out of natural materials (centering), and then have a brief mindfulness activity that helps us practice concentrating on and being in the moment. We take a moment to notice our developing awareness skills. The children are enjoying mindfulness activities, like moving a table without spilling any of the water in the bowl on top of it and balancing a peacock feather on their fingertip!

In September, our potluck and family program falls on September 6. We'll be exploring the Asian double-ninth festival which is celebrated that week on September 9, the ninth day of the month. It is a kite festival celebrated in China with kites that bear wishes and prayers.

September 6: Faith & Kite Making, Asian double-ninth festival

We'll have a guided exploration of an unusually shaped kite or flying device, read aloud, soar like kites, and make whirly-birds or pinwheels. During share we'll ask about how we all know the wind is there even when we can't see it, connect with Quaker belief in Inner Light and That of God in everyone, and share that the book is a story from an Asian culture.

I'm looking for a copy of Demi-Demi's *Kites: Magic Wishes that Fly up into the Sky* or a similar book for the read aloud.

—Sue Rockwood

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.