



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

The Advices

Let your lives benefit from the power of friendship and the solace of solitude. Rejoice in the beauty of those friendships which grow in depth, understanding, and mutual respect.

Friends are advised to seek divine guidance when considering marriage and to enter marriage with a commitment to cherish each other for life. In marriage, treasure the joys of intimacy, share the sorrows of losses, and mediate differences with patience. Be ready to seek the counsel of your own parents or of other experienced persons as it is needed. Consider together the responsibilities of parenthood.

Let us trust in the Light and witness to it in our daily living. We and our families are children of God with a rich accessible record of God's dealings with humanity. In dress, in furnishings, in manners, in diet, and in entertainment, let us choose the simple, the wholesome, and the beautiful. Let us be cooperative and creative in family recreation so that it encourages mutual activity and sharing.

Let us dwell with thankfulness on the blessings and happiness that life has brought us. Friends are advised to try throughout life to discern the appropriate moment to relinquish responsibilities to others. Let us face with courage the approach of old age, both for ourselves and for those dear to us, realizing that even as our outward activity lessens, our seasoned thought and prayer may liberate love and power in others.

Friends are advised to make provision for the settlement of their affairs while in health so that others may not be burdened. Such provision may include maintaining an up-to-date will and discussing with family and doctors our wishes in the event of serious illness or death.

September

Fri. - Sun.	September 5-7	Fall Gathering at Friends Camp, South China, ME
Sunday	September 7	Food Pantry Day
Sunday	September 14 8:30 a.m.	Reading Group
Friday	September 19 6 p.m. 7 p.m.	Potluck supper Monthly Meeting for Business
Sunday	September 28 8:30 a.m.	Reading Group

*** 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

Back Issues of the Newsletter and Meeting Information, are available at: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org

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

Gift to the Library

By Deb Haviland

The Library received a generous gift from George and Rowan Rowntree to purchase a book or books in memory of Connie St. John. George and Rowan had many thoughtful discussions with Connie and thought this would be a wonderful way to honor her. We have just purchased two books to honor Connie:

- *Homage to Gaia, The Life of an Independent Scientist* by James Lovelock. His work led to the founding of the Green Movement, and his famous Gaia theory has changed the way we think about the Earth. A warm personal testament of a man who has led an extraordinary life.
- *Soul of a Citizen, Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time* by Paul Rogat Loeb. An antidote to powerlessness and cynicism. He tells moving stories of ordinary Americans who have found unexpected fulfillment in social involvement. Through their examples and Loeb's own wise and powerful lessons, we are compelled to move from passivity to participation.

New Books in the Library

In addition to the books mentioned above, the Library Committee has just purchased the following books to add to the Meeting's collection:

- *The Nag Hammadi Library*, James M. Robinson, General Editor. This book is timely for the current book group discussion and a needed reference for any individual study of the Gnostic scriptures.
- *Sarah Mapps Douglass, Faithful Attender of Quaker Meeting: View from the Back Bench* by Margaret Hope Bacon. Sarah Mapps Douglass, African-American scholar, educator, and artist has much to say to Friends today, especially those concerned with racism and racial diversity in the Religious Society of Friends. Her life is a wonderful example of one who overcame many difficulties as she continued to live in the Light. The foreword by Vanessa Julye "places the lessons from Sarah Mapps Douglass' life in a vivid and painful contemporary context." Understanding the past may help us create a better future.

Goodbye & Farewell

Paulding and Susan Phelps's house is under contract and they will soon be leaving Maine to live the next phase of their life in Pennsylvania. We will miss them—they have been a vital part of the life and spirit of our Meeting. We are planning a reception of recognition and parting in late September. We hope to have the date in another week. Please plan to attend.

Calling All Midcoast Friends Interested in EarthCare

by Andy Burt

On Saturday, September 13, at Chewonki Environmental Education Center, the Maine Council of Churches' Environmental Justice Program will launch an exciting new effort—the EarthCare Teams Network. Over the past five years the council has focused its outreach and advocacy work on earth stewardship and environmental justice. Now it is bringing together committed congregation-based EarthCare Teams to share and celebrate their success stories (like our own Tree of Life project more than two years ago, which was aimed at raising awareness about ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our homes and vehicles). The event will also provide time for team planning, workshops, and demonstrations led by experts, an inspirational film produced by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the National Council of Churches, and interfaith worship time. Andy Burt is coordinating the program with help from a volunteer from Portland Friends and other Portland-area congregations. Logan Perkins will present one of the workshops.

Guy Marsden is interested in forming an EarthCare Team of Midcoast Friends that will work with Peace and Social Concerns to bring back information and ideas to the Meeting, to help us to reduce our ecological footprint. A group of three to four people would be ideal, to gather information from the many workshops and demonstrations that day and to begin to develop a planning strategy to present to the Meeting. This is a great project for an intergenerational effort. Also, other congregations from the midcoast area are sending teams, so this is an ideal opportunity for us to interact in an interfaith gathering.

The day will begin at 9 a.m. with registration, hot beverages, and muffins and will end by 4 p.m. A schedule is posted on the meetinghouse bulletin board. Cost is \$15 per person and includes a hearty lunch, snacks, and the program and materials. For more information or to register, call or e-mail Andy or Guy by September 5.

Lost & Found

When we had the plant sale, way back in the spring, I left after it was over without two important pieces of equipment: a pair of long-bladed black-handled scissors and a strapping-tape device for closing up packages. Someone may have seen them, or they may have gone home with someone who wonders whose they are. I surely hope that they will make their way back into my hands.

Claire Darrow, 371-2447.

Container Project Update

by Claire Darrow

Direct mail letters

We have had very good response to the mailing, and newspaper publicity is still bringing in some more. Have a look at the pictures of South Africa displayed on the piano (if they haven't fallen off). They show what I saw in the townships, and show the life and living conditions of the people there.

African Dinner

Andy Burt has taken the idea and is running with it. Dottie Albright has offered to be one of the cooks, and we will need more cooks, also kitchen and serving help, perhaps from some of those who helped with the Seeds of Peace dinner. We will send out the call when plans are a bit more firm. We have secured the Second Congregational Church for October 4th, and hope to get it for free. We need people to help with publicity, and a good level of enthusiasm always helps. Another development in conjunction with the dinner is a probable program on Restorative Justice here in Maine, which complements the work of the mediators in their container. We have interested people who may speak, and it promises to be a very rich evening after we have all had a good dinner.

Silent Auction

I have talked with a Friend in Portland Meeting who has done this with good success several times. She says it is a good way to get to know people you would otherwise not interact much with. By August 31st I will have handouts on how it works. If you didn't get a copy, look for one on the credenza. Basically, people look at what they can give, be it an item or a service. When you think creatively about what you might do for someone else, we all have a lot to give each other, whether it is a ride somewhere, a dinner cooked, babysitting, and many, many more things can pop up as you think about it. We do need a person who is willing to coordinate this, and it really is not a big job. Think about taking the plunge.

So Friends, we are well on our way, and I am encouraged and excited about it. For some of us the dinner will be reminiscent of our meetinghouse fundraising way back in '93 and '94, which was a great deal of fun. New people, come join us! It has always been apparent to me that in working together, we come to know each other and bond in a very special way. We need everybody in on this.

With my thanks, Claire

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