

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



**W**hen you proclaim peace by your words,  
 you must carry an even greater peace in  
 your hearts. Let no one be provoked to  
 anger by you, or be scandalized, but let your  
 gentleness encourage all to peace, good will and  
 mutual love.

—Francis of Assisi

**September**

Wednesday	September 1	5:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
Thursday	September 2	4:00 p.m.	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
Sunday	September 5		Food Pantry Day, please bring items for the basket in the meetinghouse
Sunday	September 5	10:00	* Outdoor Meeting for Worship at Morse Mountain, Phippsburg, for info call Carmen or Claire. <i>(There will be a concurrent Meeting for Worship at the meetinghouse)</i>
Fri.-Sun.	September 10-12		* Vassalboro Quarterly Mtg. Fall Gathering, Friends Camp, South China
Friday	September 17	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper Monthly Meeting for Business
Saturday	September 18	asap	Call for October newsletter items
~ Advance Notice ~			
Sunday	October 3	following worship	Landscape Workday
Saturday	October 16	TBA	* "No Draft for Me," AFSC workshop, Bangor Friends Committe for Maine Public Policy meeting, Waterville, ask Ernie Foust for details
Friday	November 5		Special concern meeting for Eggemoggin & Orono mtgs.
Saturday	November 6		Quarterly Meeting at Midcoast
Saturday	December 4		Friends Committe for Maine Public Policy meeting, Waterville, ask Ernie Foust for details

\* 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, 7th month of 2004

based on draft minutes by Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk Pro Tem

Co-clerk Earnest Foust opened the meeting with a quotation and moments of silence. Seven Friends were present. Minutes of the June meeting were read and accepted with minor changes.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

## Ministry and Counsel

The Ministry and Counsel report was read by Jean Crawford. The committee's request that the use of nametags be laid down for a 6-month trial period was approved.

Its request that a broad process be established by which we will prepare for the future, including plans for any significant financial gifts, was also approved. This process will be based on the visioning project begun in 2003 but not carried forward at that time. The idea of building an addition to house our First Day School will be included along with various other possibilities.

Initial plans are being made for Vassalboro Quarter's meeting here Saturday, November 6th. A steering committee of three or four Friends will be formed soon. Volunteers are welcome. We would like to be able to announce a preliminary program for the event at Fall Gathering, September 10-12.

Midcoast Meeting will also host the Quarter's Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting on Friday, November 5th, the evening preceding Quarterly Meeting. This group takes care of its own food and meeting but will need overnight accommodations.

## Fall Gathering, Sept 10-12

### Friends Camp in South China, Maine

Preregistration is required before September 7th. Brochures with complete information will be available at the meetinghouse.

**Don't miss it!**

Query #6

## Personal Conduct

Do you live with simplicity, moderation, and integrity? Are you punctual in keeping promises, careful in speech, just and compassionate, in all your dealings with others? Do you take care that your spiritual growth is not sacrificed to busyness but instead integrates your life's activities? Are your recreations consistent with Quaker values; do they refresh your spirit and renew your body and mind?

## Peace & Social Concerns

The Peace & Social Concerns committee reported that the Friends Committee for Maine Public Policy has authorized a new up-to-date edition of the Wabanaki text.

## Maintenance Committee

The Maintenance Committee reported that the north-bound Route One sign has been taken down for repainting. A suggestion was made that the Maintenance Committee look into the idea of bulk shopping for supplies. The clerks will contact Andy Burt about this. On a related matter, Sylvia Tavares has offered to buy environmentally friendly cleaning supplies.

## Other Business

Co-clerk Ernie reported that the Maine branch of the American Friends Service Committee is looking into the best possible long-term use of Rufus Jones' birthplace in South China.

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The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Friday, September 17, at 7 p.m., following a potluck supper at 6 p.m. All welcome.

Visit

[www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)

## 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.

There will be a concurrent Meeting for Worship at the meetinghouse for Friends who may not be able or do not want to attend the Phippsburg gathering.

## Being Peace Workshop

By Linda Coté-Small

*"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."*

—Gandhi

What is the peace we, as individuals, wish to see in the world? How do we bring this peace into our lives? In a day-long class, to be held at Avena Institute in West Rockport on Sept 11, we will ponder the question "What is being peace?" Through peace teachings, writing, being still, sharing, and creating, participants will explore what "being peace" means to them as individuals and define steps that can be taken in their lives to be the peace they wish to see in the world. This is special way to honor our hopes for the world on this 3rd anniversary of the September 11 tragedy.

Avena Institute is a non-profit educational center offering programs that promote complementary health approaches emphasizing medicinal herbs and food, organic and biodynamic gardening, and a deeper understanding of the natural world. The class hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and there is a charge of \$50 for non-members and \$45 for members. Linda Coté-Small will be the instructor for this class. Call 594-2403 or check the Web site at [www.avenainstitute.org](http://www.avenainstitute.org) for more information.



## The Peace Tax Fund Lives On

By Earnest Foust

It is nearly thirty years since the effort began to extend the right of conscientious objection to war (granted to those who refuse to kill and brutalize their fellow human beings) to tax payers who refuse to fund warfare. The movement that began as the Peace Tax Fund is now called The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund.

Increasingly, helpless civilians are the victims in modern war, and proponents of the measure believe that people of conscience should not have to buy the bombers and bombs and the other instruments of destruction. Opponents of the bill believe taxpayers should not be free to choose where their tax dollars go because people object to a number of budget items. In fact, this bill does not allow individuals to specify where their money goes, beyond the designation of a fund that will be used exclusively for non-military purposes.

Another argument sometimes put forward is that government should not allow spending for special interests. The anti-abortion issue comes to mind. Here is an excerpt from the Q&A section of [www.peacetaxfund.org](http://www.peacetaxfund.org) that speaks to this issue:

Wouldn't the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill set a precedent for taxpayers with scruples about paying for federally funded abortions?

The pro-life movement is not waiting for the Peace

*continued on p. 5*

## Building Bridges on September 11, 2004

By Gretchen Hull

Bridges for Peace will be holding simultaneous candlelight vigils from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, in memory of those who lost their lives that day three years ago and to support peaceful alternatives to deadly conflict as the response to terrorism. We ask your participation to make this peace vigil the largest, geographically speaking, ever held! You can help us bring together people from everywhere by inviting them to stand for peace with us in their own towns and countries at that (local) time.

Since October 2002, Bridges for Peace has been holding simultaneous vigils each Sunday afternoon from 12 to 1 on bridges throughout Maine and several other states. Many of us in Maine have been meeting on our various bridges in our own communities each Sunday, but a town park is a fine "bridge" as well, if it brings people together. Please contact others to stand with you on Saturday evening, September 11, in your town or in their own communities, where ever in the world that it might be. Ask them to contact us by email at [peacebridges@peacebridges.org](mailto:peacebridges@peacebridges.org) to add their bridge to our network that day! War is not the answer. For more information email [peacebridges@peacebridges.org](mailto:peacebridges@peacebridges.org) or call 207-563-5416 or 207-644-1014.

P&SC

## October 6 Presence for Peace: How We Live Peace in Our Lives

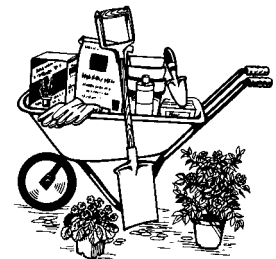
By Holly Baldwin

Peace & Social Concerns will be presenting an evening event on Wednesday, October 6, that will show how regular folks like us can make our lives "lives of peace." Ways may include speaking our truthful convictions to those who disagree, activism on local and international levels, doing kind deeds, and cultivating peace within ourselves. The committee plans to publicize this event in the wider community as part of an effort to communicate Friends' commitment to the Peace Testimony. Stay tuned for more details!

### Fall Landscape Workday

Sunday, October 3rd

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



## Report to Monthly Meeting for Business, July 16, 2004

We want to thank everyone who helped support Bronson Clark's family at the time of his memorial service here July 5th. This includes help to Hattie during the planning process. It was a beautiful service with over 100 present: many family members of all ages and many others who knew Bronson during his outstanding career.

The memorial minutes for Bronson and others have received much appreciation. Thanks to all who participated in the wonderful process of getting to and expressing the essence of each life.

The committee has continued to ponder the question of nametags. We believe that extending welcome to newcomers can be accomplished in a number of ways, including nametags. To be meaningful, the manner of extending welcome needs to suit the Friend who is offering it. We value our diversity and do not conform

### The Advices

Let us bring the whole of our daily lives under the ordering of the Spirit. Let our faith free us from crippling fears so that we may live adventurously. In relations with others, let us exercise imagination, understanding, and sympathy. Let us live and work in the plainness and simplicity of true followers of Christ.

In viewing the evils arising from the use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks and from the abuse of drugs, Friends are advised to consider whether they should refrain from using them, from offering them to others, and from having any share in their manufacture or sale. We should not let the claims of good fellowship or the fear of seeming peculiar influence our decision.

Let us maintain integrity in work and deed. Holding to the simplicity of truth, let us keep free of oaths. Remember how widespread and diverse are the temptations to grow rich at the expense of others, and how apparently harmless indulgence often leads by degrees to wrong-doing. Let us avoid and discourage every kind of betting and gambling and commercial speculations of a gambling character.

Friends have always held that the sacred nature of a sexual relationship is affirmed only in marriage. In recent times, however, some Friends have found such affirmation in other contexts. Let us be certain, in any case, that we hold up to the Light any sexual relationship we may be considering and reject any relationship that may violate the integrity or spiritual welfare of either of the partners or of others. No relationship can be a right one which makes use of another person through selfish desire.

to norms readily. Nametags can be useful, and we will request them—in a tidy and dignified manner—if need be. However, we do not want them as a crutch or an obstacle to genuine human exchange. Therefore, we request that the Meeting lay down the use of nametags for a 6-month trial period, during which we hope to be welcoming, each in our own way. The committee will revisit the question in December.

We also would like to request that the Meeting establish a broad and thoughtful process by which we will prepare for the future, including any significant financial gifts. We hope this process would include a visioning of what we cherish about our meeting and what we dream of for its future, continuing the process which we began last year but did not carry on. Interest has already been expressed in setting up an ad hoc committee to consider building an addition to house our First Day School. We request that this inquiry be included in the broader approach described above.

On the subject of racism, the committee has decided to enroll in Framingham Monthly Meeting's new clearinghouse for ideas on how to become more aware of racism, including unconscious racism or white privilege.

Our clerk attended Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting's specially called Ministry & Counsel meeting at Eggmoggin Reach Meeting, Sargentville, on July 11. Eggmoggin's attendance is in a deep down cycle, and there has been talk of laying down the meeting, but they want to hang on. Also, Orono Meeting has been experiencing divisiveness and turmoil. This group will meet again on Friday, November 5th, and it will be held here. Quarterly Meeting will be held here the following day, Saturday, November 6th. Approximately 12 visiting Quarterly Ministry & Counsel members would like to stay over Friday night. They could stay in the meetinghouse, at Friends' homes, or a combination. We would appreciate the Meeting's help with this.

### FCNL Seeks Director of Information Services

Increased demand for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)'s legislation information, policy analysis, and action suggestions has made it necessary to create another professional executive position. This person will lead and direct three other professional staff: Manager for Publications, Director for Online Communications, and the Technician for IT Systems. This new position is full time, salaried, and requires five or more years of related experience and a three-year to five-year commitment. The salary range is from \$46,400 to \$69,700, plus benefits package including group health, annual and sick leave, disability insurance, and public transit subsidy. Applications will be considered beginning Sept. 15, 2004, until the position is filled.

To apply, e-mail a business letter and resume to [search@fcnl.org](mailto:search@fcnl.org) or postal mail to 245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795. Additional information about FCNL can be found at [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)

On the Legal Front . . . . .cont'd fr. back cover

I, for one, applaud Priscilla Lippincott Adams and Philadelphia YM for courageously and carefully making their case, and I appreciate the judge's thorough and reasoned consideration of the merits of the case (as opposed to simply issuing a decision as to who wins). And I hope Friends support the ongoing efforts that will seek the benefit of the dignity, publicity, and momentum that the issue has just gained. Here's a link to an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer: [http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/pennsylvania/cities\\_neighborhoods/philadelphia/8987681.htm](http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/states/pennsylvania/cities_neighborhoods/philadelphia/8987681.htm).

Second, this news from the New York State Community of Churches:

On June 23rd, the NYSCC Collegium endorsed NYC Resolution 367, which calls upon Congress to enact and the President to sign H.R. 2037, known as the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act. A notice to member churches follows:

New York State Council of Churches Endorses Resolution in Support of Peace Tax Fund Act.

As people of faith, we are called to bear witness to the dictates of our conscience, to give voice to the prophetic word. With the endorsement of a NYC resolution in support of the Religious Peace Tax Fund Act, the NYSCC has registered its voice in support of individuals, who for religious, moral, ethical or philosophical reasons conscientiously object to the use of their taxes for military purposes.

On May 19, NYC Council member Bill Perkins introduced Resolution 367, which calls upon Congress to enact and the President to sign H.R. 2037, known as the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act. H.R. 2037 would enable those who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war because of their religious, moral or ethical principles, to have their federal taxes placed in a Peace Tax Fund, which could be used for non-military purposes only. The City Council Resolution also calls upon New York's United States Representatives and Senators to monitor and report on military expenditure funded by the taxes of NYC residents. Most Americans are unaware that current allocations for military expenditures, when combined with "supplemental" appropriations for the War in Iraq, account for almost half of all federal dollars spent.

In the words of Dwight Eisenhower, former U.S. president and Army general, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed."

The Peace Tax Fund Lives On . . . . .cont'd fr. p. 3

Tax Fund to pave its way. Since the 1980's, it has successfully passed amendments to the federal budget that severely restrict federal funding for abortions. The Peace Tax Fund concept is not a practical route for the pro-life movement, both because it would not change spending priorities and because of the different percentages. Approximately 45% of income tax moneys go towards military spending. In comparison, federal abortion spending is less than one ten-thousandth of the budget.

Another concern of people who question this bill is the belief that every citizen has an obligation to defend the nation. The strength of a nation, however, is not determined by its military might. In many ways the truth lies in quite an opposite direction. A nation bristling with military power, that has as reputation for using that power, is unsettling to its neighbors. Money directed toward benign use at home and abroad eases the causes of war at home and abroad.

There is no reason to think that passage of this bill will spawn a host of special exceptions. Conscientious objection to war has a long history among the colonial governments and in the first Continental Congress. Given the nature of war, it is difficult to think of any activity of a nation that ranks with it in matters of conscience.

Of equal importance, in support of the bill is the fact that the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation has stated that passage of this bill would slightly increase the revenue of the government. Again, quoting from [www.peacetaxfund.org](http://www.peacetaxfund.org): There will certainly be a savings from increased compliance and a decrease in the current expenses to enforce collections from conscientious objectors who are war tax resisters. Also, those who purposely keep their incomes low to avoid contributing to the military would be able to earn to their potential, thus increasing the amount of income available to the government

I have attempted to answer the major objections that have been raised regarding this bill because I feel that lifting this heavy burden of conscience is easily seen as a blessing that can be and should be bestowed.

More information on the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund is available in the meetinghouse and at the fund's very informative Web site: [www.peacetaxfund.org](http://www.peacetaxfund.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](mailto:moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com)

# On the Legal Front: Withholding Taxes/Peace Tax

By Janice Rickermann

*The following concerns the most recent judicial ruling regarding non-payment of federal income taxes by a member of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as a protest against military spending. It may prove to be a major victory in the Peace Tax movement and worthy of passing on.*

From Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, as forwarded to New York Yearly Meeting office on June 24th:

In case you're not getting this sort of news on a daily basis, here's what the federal court in Philadelphia did to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (and to Americans everywhere with scruples about paying for war). *The Legal Intelligencer*, a daily legal newspaper affiliated with the *New York Law Journal* and *National Law Journal*, published the details today [June 24, 2004].

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (YM) had been honoring the scruples of its member and employee, Priscilla Lippincott Adams, by refusing to hand over to the IRS the federal tax that it withheld from her wages. The IRS sued the Yearly Meeting for the escrowed money, plus a 50% penalty for its refusal. The YM based its defense on the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, by which Congress granted a degree of freedom of religious practice to the existing Constitutional freedom of religious belief.

The judge ruled that paying federal taxes that support the military does indeed seriously infringe Quaker religious practices. But he also ruled that taxes are necessary and there is no reasonably feasible way (such as "alternative service" for pacifists' taxes) for the IRS to collect taxes without that serious infringement. Therefore, he held that the YM must hand over the money.

However, the judge went on to rule that the YM need not pay any of the 50% penalty, because it was reasonable for the YM to have raised such a novel and legitimate issue. And that holding not only relieves the YM of the cost of "sticking its neck out" for its principles. It also confers an official federal legitimacy on the seriousness of Quakers' testimonies. It will lend weight to the efforts of FCNL, the Peace Tax Fund Campaign, and others to get Congress to create an "alternative service" type system for Quakers to pay taxes through channels that avoid supporting war.

*continued on page 5*

Midcoast Meeting of Friends  
PO Box 714, 77 Belvedere Road  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends • Co-Clerks: Earnest & Barbara Foust, 582-8615 • Recording Clerk: Rob Patterson, 236-9551 • Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283 • The Newsletter • September 2004 • Volume 16 • Number 8 • The Newsletter is published every month except August. Editor/design/production: Nancy Terrell Hall, phone/fax 529-5771, E-mail: moonlite@incoln.midcoast.com. Address changes to: Pat Spock, 729-0826, wspock@gwi.net, 10 Curtis Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.