

9th Month

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

September 2008



[Jesus] went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.

-- Luke 8:1

We can move in the direction of justice, but if our personal relationships don't become more human, we haven't moved in the direction of the reign of God and, in the long run, we will discover that our point of arrival is just another form of tyranny.

--Arturo Paoli

August

Friday	August 22	5:30 p.m.	Meetinghouse Grounds Work Hour followed by potluck picnic
Sunday	August 31		*Meeting for Worship at Morse Mountain. (There will also be the usual 10 a.m. Meeting for Worship at the meetinghouse.)

September

Friday	Sept. 5	5:30 p.m.	Meetinghouse Grounds Work Hour followed by potluck picnic
Fri.-Sun.	Sept. 5-7		*VWM Fall Gathering at China Camp
Sunday	September 7	Rise of Meeting	Potluck
Monday	September 8		*Book Order Deadline for Quakerism 101
Sunday	September 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	September 28	11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	*Quakerism 101

*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.

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. Thanks!

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

Highlights

Meeting for Business, Seventh Month 20, 2008

The Clerk reviewed a minute from Fifth Month, which set up an ad-hoc committee to study funding for special causes. Ideas for fundraising should be communicated to Karen Cadbuy, Linda Cote-Small, or Carmen Lavertu.

The Finance Committee recommendations for "in-kind contributions" were reviewed as published in the current newsletter. The meeting agreed to continue without changes.

Treasurer's Report --Paul Diamond reported a good response to the pledge request letter.

Ministry & Counsel--The Loraine Beckerman Schmidt Memorial Minute has been approved and will be forwarded to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting [*Ed. note: and appears in this newsletter*]. The committee recommends that we not have a State of the Meeting Report for this past year, 2007. After discussion, the meeting agreed. It was decided to combine the years 2007 and 2008 in the State of Society report for 2008. Quarterly Meeting and NEYM will be notified of this decision. The committee continues to ponder the reading of queries during Meeting for Worship with the view of supplementing the F&P list.

Peace & Social Concerns--The committee will meet on July 27, 2008. They continue seeking a way to help the Haitian people.

Religious Education--There is no regularly scheduled program for the summer, but Suzy Hallett and Nancy Booth volunteered to help if needed. The greeter will let them know if children come.

Sunday August 31, Labor Day Weekend--Susan St. John has invited us to Small Point at Morse Mountain for a walk on the beach, meeting for worship, and a potluck lunch. [*Ed. note; see page 3, this newsletter, for details.*]

The next Meeting for Business will be on September 21, 2008. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. The entire pending minutes of the July meeting may be found on the Meeting's website at <www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org>and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

Quakerism Study Group Begins September 28th at 11:30 am

Thanks to you who have shown interest in the fall "Quakerism 101" study group sponsored by Ministry and Counsel. It looks as if we'll have a good-sized group, including attenders and some long-time members.

Most of those surveyed prefer to meet after regular Meeting for Worship. So we will come together for the first study group on Sunday, September 28, promptly at 11:30 and end promptly at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a bag lunch.

The basic text will be *Silence and Witness*, by Michael L. Birkel (160 pp.; \$16.00 from Friends General Conference, FGC). Willow Rowntree will place a group book order. Please let her know by September 8 if you wish to have her order for you, or you may place your own order with FGC online. If you wish to sign up for the group order, we ask that you contribute what you can toward the cost of the book. Ministry & Counsel will make up the difference. We want to make it possible for everyone to participate. We ask that you purchase the book and read the first chapter before our meeting. *Friends for 350 Years* by Howard Brinton would be a useful supplementary text but is not required.

We joyfully anticipate this opportunity to deepen and enrich our experience of Quakerism as we study together.

For details, please contact Willow Rowntree: 549-3030 or <willowrowntree@sbcglobal.net>.

QUERIES: Social Responsibility

Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all? Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings? Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake?

LABOR DAY SUNDAY (August 31)--MEETING FOR WORSHIP AT SMALL POINT

We are invited again this year by Susan St. John to come to Small Point, Morse Mountain, in Phippsburg, on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend (August 31) for a walk on the beach, worship, and a potluck lunch. (We also remember our beloved Friend Connie on this special day).

We will meet at the meetinghouse at 8:45 a.m. to car pool. This will allow time for a beach walk before meeting for worship, around 11 a.m. If it's not convenient to come to the meetinghouse, you may go directly to Morse Mountain. Some Friends will want to leave their cars at the Morse Mountain parking lot and walk to the oceanfront. It is a rugged, half-hour walk. Those who need to drive to the house are welcome to do so and carry in the food.

Directions: 12 miles on Route 209S from Bath. This road makes a 90-degree turn for Popham Beach. Continuing straight at this bend is Route 216. Look for Morse Mountain parking lot on the left, 1 mile ahead. Friends planning to go should let Deb Haviland (354-8714 or <haviland@midcoast.com>) or Carmen Lavertu (354-9556 or <clavertu@gmail.com>) know to form car pools, either at the meetinghouse or at Morse Mountain.



Solar Panels!

The solar panels were installed on Wednesday, August 13. Naoto Inoue from Solar Market delivered the panels and donated his time for the installation. I assisted him through the whole process that began as I prepared the interior wiring starting at 9:30 a.m. We were finished by 3:30 p.m. For those of you "from away," I have put a small detail picture on the Environmental Concerns page and an image of the meetinghouse with the new solar panels visible on the home page of our web site (<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org>).

This was a personal first for me, as I had not installed a solar electric system before. I have known Naoto since 2001, when he designed the solar building-heating system for my workshop and sold me most of the components. I installed that system myself, and later the solar heating system for hot water in our home. Naoto is a delight to work with and has the same focused energy as I do, so we were able to work very efficiently.

The inverter is a red box that we have mounted inside the community room closet against the front wall of the building. It has a display on it that will keep us informed of its performance. The solar system will generate a surplus in the summer and less than we need in the heating season with a net result that we should be generating 70-80% of the building's electrical power on an annual basis. Hopefully we will be generating power very soon. It will be a thrill to see the meter spin backwards!

--Guy Marsden

ADVICES: Social Responsibility: Friends are called, as followers of Christ, to help establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Let us strengthen a sense of kinship with everyone. Let that sense of kinship inspire us in our efforts to build a social order free of violence and oppression, in which no person's development is thwarted by poverty and the lack of health care, education, or freedom. Friends are advised to minister to those in need but also to seek to know the facts and the causes of social and economic ills and to work for the removal of those ills. Let us cherish every human being and encourage efforts to overcome all forms of prejudice.

DIRECTORY CORRECTION: Please note that the phone number in the Directory for Gerard Geary in Bayside, NY is incorrect. Please change it to 718-225-7988.

PASTORAL VISITOR TRAINING PROGRAM AT MILES HEALTH CARE

An opportunity to train for pastoral visiting is being offered by Miles Health Care this September and October. If this ministry speaks to you, please get in touch with Tracy Verney, Pastoral Visitor Education Coordinator, at 586-5263. Applications are due August 29, and more information is on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse. If you'd like to know more about what is involved in being a pastoral visitor, talk with either Deb Haviland or Diane Kirkman, who are both pastoral visitors in the PenBay Health Care System.

LORAIN BECKERMAN SCHMIDT--A MEMORIAL MINUTE

December 22, 1907-December 2006

Loraine Beckerman was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 22, 1907, and grew up in East Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from Wellesley College in 1929, having studied languages, and moved on to a business course at Columbia University in New York City. She met Eberhard Schmidt on a vacation in New Jersey in 1932, and they were married six months later. They lived near Columbia, and Loraine got a job at an insurance company. In 1932, in the depths of the Depression, they both lost their jobs, but being lucky and able, they found new ones, Loraine working for a dentist for \$50 a month, and Eb painting for a Federal Works Progress Administration project. He began his artist's career when one of his paintings was selected for a national exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C.

They had a son, Fritz, and moved to New Jersey, where Loraine began working in a Presbyterian minister's office and then taught third grade and did some tutoring. She also volunteered for the League of Women Voters, and the techniques she learned there were helpful later on in working for the peace objectives of Friends. When Fritz was 12 or 13, he visited the Friends meeting in Ridgewood, New Jersey, and liked what he learned about Friends' beliefs. Loraine and Eb decided to follow his example and see what Friends were all about. Soon they were attending and became members.

The Schmidts vacationed for many years on Monhegan Island off the coast of Maine, where Eb loved painting the rocky coast. At some point, they purchased a year-around house in Edgecomb. Friends in Ridgewood had told them of Stuart and Chouteau Chapin, who lived in Woolwich, and soon these four became very good friends. They all attended nearby Friends meetings, and in 1968 they, with some others, decided to organize a new Friends group in the Damariscotta area. For a time, they gathered in each other's homes. Eb and Loraine and the Chapins were listed in the first public notice of a Friends worship group in Damariscotta, which began, "There are now enough Friends in the vicinity of Damariscotta to form a regular worship group." They sought a public building in which to hold their meetings, and the Skidompha Library met their needs.

At New England Yearly Meeting in 1969, as a delegate from the new worship group, Loraine spoke on behalf of disadvantaged students. In 1970, she was appointed Clerk of Midcoast Monthly Meeting (then in Camden), which had oversight of the Damariscotta worship group. She and Eb transferred their memberships from Ridgewood Meeting, and she helped to establish the "Blood for Peace" program of the Red Cross at Miles Memorial Hospital.

In 1971, Loraine urged that each local church send delegates to help local people, especially families in great need, and that was the beginning of "People to People" in Damariscotta, where clothing and household goods were gathered and made available for anyone who had need of them. She also continued working in anti-war efforts and helped establish the Maine Memorial Society, a simple, low-expense way to handle funerals and burials or cremations.

Since more people were the Damariscotta worship group than the Camden meeting, by 1972, the Midcoast Monthly Meeting shifted its base to Damariscotta, and that year, Loraine was again Clerk of Midcoast Meeting. From 1973 to 1989, she served on many committees of the Meeting, and her strengths and beliefs helped the Meeting grow. She was also an active participant in "People to People," Maine Memorial Society, the Lincoln County Group Home (started by members of Midcoast Meeting), Literacy Volunteers, and ongoing issues of war and peace.

She was a warm, motherly person, and one might never guess she was such an active member of the community. She was loved by everyone and a good cook to boot! The couple moved to Vermont to be near their son and his family in 1989. Eberhard died in June 1994.

Loraine survived her husband and died in December 2006 in Shelburne, Vermont, at the age of 99. Our Meeting has been enriched by her life, her actions, and her wisdom, and those who knew her miss her still.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON MAINE PUBLIC POLICY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The June 21 meeting began with an extensive report on the current troubled status of relations between Indian tribal leaders and representatives of the state government. In the subsequent discussion, the committee agreed to write a letter to the key participants on behalf of FCMPP, urging them to promptly re-enter a respectful dialogue with one another so as to advance the eight recommendations pending from MITSC and expressing appreciation to the governor for pledging to cover MITSC's funding in the current year. The committee also revisited its March discussion of the Maine State Board of Corrections. In the political process following the governor's proposal to "take over" the country jails, a revised compromise plan emerged for unifying the corrections facilities across the state. A committee representative will check on the current status and legislative prospects for the new Maine State Board of Corrections and report to the September meeting of FCMPP. The committee next meets on September 27, 2008, at the Alford Center, Waterville. *[Ed. note: This is a very short version of Jim Matlack's minutes of the meeting. Please see Jim if you want more details. Thanks!]*

VQM FALL GATHERING--September 5-7, 2008

Feel the Beat: Listen to Our Rhythm;
Play Our Part in Earth's Symphony

This year's Fall Gathering provides us with the opportunity to connect with and to learn from one another's experiences as we seek to live more gently within earth's community. It is a time we gather together in a relaxed setting to share our concerns, catch up with old friends, make new friends, and have fun together. It is a wonderful gathering, so consider joining in for one day or more. For more information, there are brochures on the credenza or speak to Carmen Lavertu (354-9556 or <lavertu@prexar.com>) or Deb Haviland (354-8714 or <haviland@midcoast.com>).

FRIENDLY EIGHTS

It's time to start planning for Friends Eights! If you enjoy getting together with Friends in a small group, consider signing up. A group of 6-10 gathers on a regular basis (usually monthly) in each other's homes and shares fellowship and food. There will be a sign-up



on the credenza or bulletin board very soon. The number of groups depends on sign-up. We hope to start in late September. Contact Anne Spencer or Deb Haviland for more information. We'll be in touch as time goes on.

New England Yearly Meeting approved two minutes sent up by its Peace & Social Concerns Committee:

To support THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PEACE TAX FUND BILL, which has been proposed in the House of Representatives (H.R. 1921). If the law were passed as proposed, it would "affirm the religious freedom of taxpayers who are conscientiously opposed to participation in war," and would create a fund to administer the tax payments of these taxpayers to be used only for nonmilitary purposes. This bill has not as yet been introduced in the Senate. (Let's ask our Senate candidates to do so!)

The second approved minute is to endorse the campaign to call on the President (Bush and his successor) to issue an executive order banning torture. The Campaign to Ban Torture has been launched by National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), the Center for Victims of Torture, and Evangelicals for Human Rights. The Executive Order would be based on six core principles, as follows: **The "Golden Rule."** We will not authorize or use any methods of interrogation that we would not find acceptable if used against Americans, be they civilians or soldiers. The others are [text omitted]: **One national standard, the rule of law, duty to protect, checks and balances, and clarity and accountability.** The full text can be read at <www.campaigtobantorture.org>.

Friends of Midcoast will be asked to support these two major peace issues, and if this could be approved at the next meeting for business, it would be possible to send them forward to the presidential and congressional candidates in the election period.

--Carmen Lavertu



Nan Stone, 64, died August 1, 2008, as she lived, surrounded by friends, family and a large extended community, whose loving care enabled her to be at her home in Swanville. Nan, who was a member of Belfast Friends Meeting but known to many of us at Midcoast Friends, had a long career as a committed activist, working tirelessly for peace, social-justice issues, and environmental protection, and in later years, helped to initiate several programs in Waldo County, including the county's first volunteer hospice and Maine Lesbian Feminists, as well as writing community-based AIDS legislation, directing the Waldo Knox AIDS Coalition, Alzheimer's Support Group, and Adult Day Care. She delighted in nature, contributed to many conservation groups, and was an intrepid adventurer and traveler. She is survived by her chosen family, Susan Nadeau; her son and daughter-in-law, Rob and Dawn Stone of Hollis, New Hampshire; and her granddaughter, Sage Stone, who brought her much joy. Other survivors include her father, Warren Stone; brother, Randy Stone and wife, Lisa, of Indianola, Iowa; brother, Kelly Stone and wife, Maureen, of Peru, Iowa; brother, Larry Stone and wife, Margaret, of Elkader, Iowa; sister, Peggy Edverson and husband, Roger, of Kentwood, Michigan; and eight nieces and three nephews. Memorial events were recently held at Nan's home. [Excerpted from notice in Village Soup.]

Proposals Relating to the Meetinghouse Grounds

August 9, 2008

The Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee, through a sub-committee, has developed a set of proposals amounting to a work program for the meetinghouse grounds. There has not yet been an opportunity to bring this to Monthly Meeting, since none was held in August. Accordingly, comments and ideas related to the grounds continue to be welcome. But the summer is beginning to ebb. We should not lose more time in getting started.

There is a work hour scheduled for **August 17th** after meeting. Recognizing that there is a lot of work to do but that it may not be practical to try to do too much in the heat of an August mid-day, the committee hopes that interested Friends may also be willing to gather on Fridays, **August 22** and **September 5**, at 5:30p.m. for an hour of work followed by a picnic.

Hopefully, putting in some extra effort now will pave the way for some heavier work later on, for which we are in contact with the authorities at Lincoln County Jail. Work crews from the jail have worked with us in the past and enjoy the opportunity for work in the community.

Shown below is the work program as it currently stands. Asterisks (*) indicate work that could be done by the workers from the jail. Should you have ideas for modifications or extensions, please be in touch with Claire Darrow, Suzy Hallett, Pat Spock, or Paul Diamond.

A. The island forming the circle in front of the Meetinghouse. This island is currently made up of low-maintenance plantings, with a few conspicuous tall weeds. The island looks untidy, since the plantings there are of very different heights. It is proposed to pull the obvious large weeds, but otherwise simply to trim the existing plantings so as to present a consistent profile for the island as a whole. The integrity of the circle could be improved by marking its edges cleanly, either with edging tools or carefully chosen stones (*). These boundaries should be maintained in future by weeding and cutting back on low growth.

B. The bed to the left of the meetinghouse, next to the ramp (the sun garden). This area should be the main place for flowers and for compatible plantings in a well-maintained and attractive spot that we can see and enjoy as we walk up the ramp. There are many attractive plantings there already, and these should be preserved, while extensive but selective weeding should be done of plantings that have overstayed their welcome. This includes the potentilla, which may no longer fit if the area is to become a flower garden, but could perhaps be moved to one of the islands (see D. below). There is also a shrub (believed to be astilbe), which probably ought to come out, as it tries to take over the whole place. A number of peonies now in the shade garden (see C. below) could be split up and brought to this garden. The group hopes that Friends will make suggestions for the types of plantings to be introduced here. The silver birch tree in the bed should also be pruned lightly and shaped a bit more. The group also thinks that the area should be curbed and selectively planted and then protected from invaders with a good layer of mulch.

C. The bed to the right of the meetinghouse (the shade garden). This garden has an indigestible mixture of peonies, lupines, lilacs, lilies, rhubarb, and a few blueberries. Several of these are competing with each other. The proposal is to move the peonies and the blueberries, and to clear and mulch (*) the whole area. Once the area is cleared, its boundaries should be defined (*). Next spring, this bed could be planted with hostas and astilbes and similar low-maintenance shade-friendly plants. We should also prune the maple tree to let some sun in.

D. The island to the left, as you look at the meetinghouse, towards the end of the parking lot. This island contains ferns, a tree, two nondescript bushes, and two blueberry plants. The bushes should be removed (*) in order to redefine the tree. Suckers now attacking the tree should be removed. Low plantings could be placed here in the spring. Alternatively, the potentilla could be moved here from the sun garden, and some of the peonies could find their way here also. The group recommends that the two blueberry bushes, along with those in the shade garden, be moved to a more attractive site (see E. below)

E. Under the big window of the meetinghouse The group recommends moving all of the blueberries to the sunny side of the meetinghouse, under the big window of the meeting room and having a blueberriana there for all to enjoy and to pick when ready. If this is to happen, the area should be free of all grass and have a healthy dose of manure, probably three or four bags, dug in before the blueberries are dug up and transplanted. This would be the first order of business.

[Continued on next page]

F. Other work for the jail workers. (*) The drainage ditch next to the lights in the parking lot and the weeds next to it need to be cleaned out. If time permits, the path in the woods could also be cleared.

G. Other work

There should be an extra one-time mowing done, taking down all the high growth around the meetinghouse except the milkweed, which is the home of butterflies. (Paul Diamond will arrange for this, as was done last year.) There should also be a burning off of the grasses and other growths in the driveway. (Rick Freeman may be able to do this with some help, including a colleague to hold the hosepipe.)

NEWS NOTES



Catharine & Margaret

Catharine and Margaret Hull. Catharine has graduated with honors from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, receiving a bachelor's degree, in nursing science, is now an R.N., and will be working at Brockville General Hospital in Brockville, Ontario. Margaret has

been admitted to McGill University in Montreal, where she begins study in August as a medical student. These young

women worshipped with us when they were younger and are the daughters of Gretchen Noyes Hull (a member of Midcoast) and Jonathan C. Hull. **Jane and Glenn Dwyer** announce the birth on August 5 of their granddaughter Tegan Lee Carlson. Tegan's parents, Jacob Carlson and Amanda Nicely, make their home in Rockland. And the Pastoral Care Committee asks us to please hold in the Light **Peter Arnold's son, Nathan**, on his second tour of duty in Iraq with the National Guard. Pray for his safety and for his family--his wife and two young children, his parents, and others who miss his care and loving presence.

When my financial records for the year finally balanced, I jumped up and danced. It was about 10:30 in the evening, and I was so energized by the joy and freedom of the event that I kept doing small jobs for hours. I was especially aware of the feeling of freedom, for I needed to have that report out of the way to be able to do another job well. I kept thinking, "I'm free, I'm free."

When I finally reflected on what I was doing, I realized that I am always free. No matter how involved, tragic, embarrassing, rushed, or important a matter at hand might be, in the last analysis I am free before God. If I do the best that I can--and even if I don't--God will continue to be God, a God who will never expect more of me than I can do or be.

--from *God in Ordinary Time: Carmelite Reflections on Everyday Life*



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