

9th Month

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

September 2010



Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

-- Psalm 29:2 [NKJV]

Blessed are you, Oh Lord most high/Who creates such beauty for the eye/That it fills the heart and lifts the soul/And makes our broken lives whole.

-- Robin Horvath, Megunticook Worship Group

August

Thursday	August 26	4 p.m.	Peace Center Steering Committee
Sunday	August 29		*Meeting for Worship at Small Point with Susan St. John (10 a.m. meeting for worship still held in Damariscotta)

September

Sunday	September 5	Rise of Meeting	Potluck/Work hour
Thursday	September 9	3:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel, Suzy Hallett's home
Saturday	September 11	9:00 a.m-7:45 p.m.	*Fall Gathering--A Single-Day Event, Friends Camp, China
Sunday	September 19	Rise of Meeting	Monthly Meeting for Business
Saturday	September 25	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	*CPR for the Soul FCMPP Meeting, Alford Center, Waterville
Sunday	September 26	11:30 a.m.	*Quakerism Study Group

October

Sunday	October 3	Rise of Meeting	Worship Sharing/Health of the Meeting/Potluck (no work hour)
Wednesday	October 20	6:30-8:00 p.m.	*Peace Center Program, presentation by Geoff Tansey
Sunday	October 24	11:30 a.m.	*Quakerism Study Group
Wednesday	October 27	6:30-8:00 p.m.	*Peace Center Program: <i>A Sea Change</i>

*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--Monthly Meeting for Business--July 18, 2010

Clerk Deborah Haviland opened the meeting with a devotional reading followed by a period of silent worship. Seventeen Friends were gathered. Several expressions of gratitude were voiced.

The Minutes of Business Meeting on June 20 were approved.

Arrangements are being made to move the piano out of the meetinghouse.

Guy Marsden followed up a visit by the fire marshall to make needed changes to prepare the building for use in the fall by **Coastal Kids Pre-School**. Special appreciation was expressed for Guy's work.

The **"featured committee" was Ministry & Counsel**. Suzi Hallett reported for the committee. A fresh re-statement of the charge for the committee listing its responsibilities and functions was approved.

Willow and Rowan Rowntree were welcomed into membership.

A one-page statement "**Welcome to Midcoast Friends Meeting**" has been prepared to be handed to visitors and first-time attenders at meeting for worship. After discussion, it was agreed that copies of the draft statement would be printed up for use over the summer and dated July 2010. The committee will reflect on possible changes to the text at its next meeting.

Willow Rowntree will coordinate an effort to have a **childcare volunteer** on hand each Sunday through the summer.

A Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel group wishes to visit Midcoast Meeting. It was agreed that they should pick a date for such a visitation in the fall. Carmen Lavertu will be in touch with them.

Memorial Minutes were read and approved for Henry Beerits and Sally Wood. A few additions will be made to Henry Beerits's by Deborah Haviland.

The next issue of the **Newsletter** will be issued by September 1.

Paul Diamond reported for the **Finance Committee** that the budget total of roughly \$15,750 had been more than covered due to reductions in expenditure and increased revenues. The transfer of a balance of \$2,568 to the Reserve Fund was approved. Overall financial assets of the Meeting now stand at roughly \$117,000. To the regret of all present **Paul indicated that he and Viki will be moving to California later in the year**.

Brewster Grace briefly reviewed upcoming activities under the sponsorship of the **Peace Center**, including a series on "Fishes and Loaves," several Peace Dialogues, and a talk on sustainability by Guy Marsden.

No report was given by Meetinghouse & Grounds, but the perennial concern over the surface of the **driveway** was raised. Several people spoke against possible paving of the driveway. Members of the Meeting should ponder whether any change is warranted in maintenance of the driveway surface.

The Lacey family is searching for a suitable setting in which John and Alice could live together with needed assistance on hand.

There will be **NO MEETING FOR BUSINESS in August**. The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 19, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

The entire pending minutes of the meeting are available at the Meeting Web site www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

Deborah Haviland – Clerk
Jim Matlack—Recording Clerk

VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

FALL GATHERING

A Single-Day Event--A Day of Fellowship at Friends Camp, China, Maine
Saturday, September 11th, 2010

9:00: Gathering, Registration & Morning Snack (registration to continue through lunch hour)

9:30: Worship Sharing led by Holly Weidner

10:15-10:45: Sharing through Song & Music! (*bring your guitar, fiddle, tambourine, whatever!*)

11:00: Meeting for Worship *separate Teens' Meeting for Worship*

12:00-1:00: Lunch

1:15-2:20: Let's Do Something Together! (*Your Choice of Activity*)

A. A Walk in the Woods, *with Irma Simon*

B. Journal Writing, *with Molly Duplisea-Palmer*

C. A Workshop on "Restorative Justice," *with Sara Donovan & Lisa Ericson*

D. A Workshop on "Consensus & Contentiousness: Has the Internet Changed Consensus?" *with Ida Wistar*

E. Friends Camp Maintenance Project, *with Nat Shed*

F. Volleyball & Badminton

2:30-4:00: Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

4:15-5:15: Sharing our Resources: A Display of Projects, Ideas, Activities, Organization Participation from our Meetings & their members. (*For a table: luise@netzero.net or 594-9060.*)

5:30-6:20: Supper (*followed by Clean-up!*)

6:45-7:45 A Musical Farewell Gathering

Registrar: Sara Donovan 877-0865 or scamenga@hotmail.com.

Quakerism Study Group

Our next gathering of the Quakerism Study Group will be on Sunday, September 26, from 11:30 until 12:30 or 1 p.m. at the latest and will focus on the Simplicity Testimony. We will be reading *Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity* by Catherine Whitmire. Please read chapter 3 on Relationship. We plan to meet on the fourth Sunday of October also. We are encouraging the use of the following study questions when reading the study group material:

1. What is the author's main point in this passage?
2. What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage?
3. Is this passage true to my experience?
4. What are the implications of this passage for my life?
5. What problems do I have with this passage?

When we gather, we will be sharing about the passages that have the most significance to each one of us. We hope you will join us.

FIRST-DAY SCHOOL

First Day School will resume programing September 5. We encourage children of visitors and members to join us and know that there will be welcome place for their children during meeting. Midcoast youth are an intergenerational group which enjoys indoor activities and spends much time exploring our beautiful surroundings.



WELCOME TO COASTAL KIDS PRESCHOOL

The Coastal Kids Pre-School will be renting two rooms in the meetinghouse from September through December 2010. They will be in the space Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. The meeting/worship room will not be used by the school and is still available for our use. We will have the social room for our use from Friday afternoon through Sunday. We welcome the pre-school and wish them well!

ADVICES—Home and Family

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.

Peace Center Fall Programs

Midcoast Friends Meeting Peace Center will host a series of presentations and films in the meetinghouse this fall that is focused on a fair and sustainable local, national and international food system. The programs will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Wed. Oct. 20: The series begins with an evening presentation by English Friend Geoff Tansey, Joseph Rowntree Visionary for a Just and Peaceful World and BBC Food and Farming award winner. His latest book, *The Future Control of Food: A Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, Biodiversity and Food Security*, has been hailed as a must-read for every food and agriculture policymaker. He has worked on the impact of changing global rules on patents, food, biodiversity, health and development, including consulting with the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva.

Weds. Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17: The Maine Council of Churches' study on the changing ocean and fisheries management and sustainability in Maine, "Fishes and Loaves," will feature films, speakers, optional readings, personal reflection and discussion. The study will conclude with a community supper featuring local seafood and farm produce at a time and place TBD. Each weekly program can stand alone.

Oct. 27: Film *A Sea Change* (part one) with opportunities for sharing and discussion on personal relationship to the ocean.

Nov. 3: Film *A Sea Change* (part two) in-depth and compelling look at ocean acidification and its potential impacts on ocean life and our future as told by a concerned grandfather who visits scientists, energy visionaries and others to discover the problems and solutions.

Nov. 10: Film *Fishing Voices* focuses on the stories of Down East fishermen who talk about the changes they've witnessed in fishing practices and what they are doing to assure a sustainable fishery for the future. Local fisherman speakers (TBA)

Nov. 17: Film *A Leap of Faith* tells the story of Rockland's First Universalist Church, which has formed a life-changing relationship with a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm family and became Maine's first Community-Supported Fishery (CSF) with the Port Clyde Fishermen's Co-op. Speaker (TBA).

FMI please contact Brewster Grace (594-8082) or Andy Burt (882-6848).

Midcoast Friends' Annual Meeting for Worship on Morse Mountain

Susan St. John has invited us again this year to come to Small Point, Morse Mountain, in Phippsburg--this year on Sunday August 29--for a walk on the beach, worship, and potluck lunch. Come after 9 a.m. for a walk, with Meeting for Worship around 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Those who need to drive in to the house are welcome to do so, but for those who would like to walk, that is lovely.

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 pdhavliland@gmail.com) or Carmen Lavertu (354-9556 or lavertu@prexar.com) know to form car pools either at the meetinghouse or at Morse Mountain.

MEMORIAL MINUTE--SALLY WOOD

Sally Wood joined Midcoast Monthly Meeting on October 17, 2003. She and her beloved husband, Jerry, had begun attending meeting for worship soon after their retirement to Maine, and Sally realized she was a convinced Friend. At her clearness committee for membership, she expressed her belief in life in the manner of Friends as expressed in historic Quaker testimonies: simplicity in living, respect for life and sanctity of every person, community as the nurturing source and basis of social justice, non-violent resolution of all conflict, and decision-making through sense of the meeting.

Sally was a committed believer, a clear communicator, a willing worker, and a warm, cheerful person. It was natural to get to know her and to cooperate with her. She and Jerry were with us for only a few years; yet they were a vital part of the meeting and left us with fond, indelible memories.

Sally and Jerry lived in Southport in a former schoolhouse that had been their summer home during their working years. Previously they had lived in the Deerfield, Massachusetts, area. Sally spoke fondly of her two sisters, Betty and Jane, as she did of her three children, Ruth, Thomas, and Stephen, and her many grandchildren.

Here at Midcoast Meeting, we could always count on Sally to volunteer. She served on Ministry & Counsel, where she began the work of revising our Handbook. She organized the children's library, carefully labeling each volume. She visited shut-ins and provided transportation. She took part in Friendly Eights and brought her wonderful ham salad to many meeting functions.

In early 2006 Sally and Jerry moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, to be close to their daughter Ruth and her children. They immediately became involved with Charlottesville Friends Meeting, and this was a significant source of comfort and support during the illnesses that soon followed. Jerry had heart issues and died on November 13, 2006, and Sally died December 13, 2007, after a brave battle with cancer. A memorial service was held in Charlottesville.

During the year of her final illness, Sally's e-mail messages to Friends here at Midcoast were telling in their warmth and cheerfulness. We are grateful for the richness of her time with us.

American Friends Service Committee Appoints New General Secretary

On June 12, 2010, the Board of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) came to unity in appointing Shan Cretin as General Secretary. She will begin in this role this September. While appointing Shan, the Board approved a minute that commended her "gifts of leadership, flexibility, and strategic grasp." "We have confidence that Shan will offer clear leadership and a sense of direction which is accompanied by a collaborative approach that draws on the wisdom of staff, people with whom we partner, and volunteers."

Before this appointment, Shan served as Director of AFSC's Pacific Southwest Region for seven years, responsible for programs in Southern California, Hawaii, Arizona, and New Mexico. Those programs focus on several key social issues, including immigrants' rights, prison reform, food security, peace, and demilitarization.

A member of the Religious Society of Friends, Shan is a former clerk of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

C P R

for the soul

Just as our bodies need to be revived from time to time, so do our souls. The same problems and pressures that create stress and make us vulnerable to somatic disease can cause us to lose touch with the deep spiritual core of ourselves—the sacred center that is our truest self; when this occurs we become susceptible to illness of every sort. "CPR for the Soul" will address a way of living that can reduce stress and foster health of body, mind, and spirit.

This one day retreat will be led by Tom Stella, the co-founder and director of Soul Link, Inc., a non-profit whose mission is to create opportunities for spiritual seekers to meet and to nourish one another's souls. Tom is a visiting associate professor in the Religion Department at Colorado College, a hospice chaplain, spiritual director, retreat facilitator, and the author of two books, *The God Instinct* and *A Faith Worth Believing*. He holds graduate degrees in theology (Univ. of Notre Dame), counseling (Univ. of Michigan), and spirituality (Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley).

Saturday, September 25th • 10 am - 2 pm

Midcoast Friends Meeting House
77 Belvedere Road, Damariscotta



\$20.00 per person. A box lunch will be included.

Please notify one of the following persons if you are interested in attending, or if you have any questions:

Suzanne Hallett, 563-6084 • Sherry Flint, 677-3123

Wendy Wickenden, 236-3745 • Carol Thompson, 863-4110

It is time for all of us to sit down and take inventory of who we really are. Amazingly, we will discover our hidden talents, we will realize our possibilities, we will no longer laugh at the dreams of those who speak in terms of ultimate potential. We will find that divine breath that lies in the unconscious urging us to pay heed to its lessons. Who knows, that may be history's lesson for our times.

--Rabbi Harry Sky from "Reflections: Resist Self-Centeredness and Connect to the Rest of the World,"
The Portland Press Herald, July 24, 2010 [submitted by Nancy Booth]

(Full text at: http://www.pressherald.com/life/religionandvalues/resist-self-centeredness-and-connect-to-the-rest-of-the-world_2010-07-24.html)

From Minutes of JUNE 19 Meeting of FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON MAINE PUBLIC POLICY

Ten Friends from six local meetings gathered in Waterville on June 19. The morning session was devoted to an extended discussion of Maine Indian issues:

- A. In a March 30 meeting, tribal representatives expressed a deeper concern that dialogue with the state government had broken down, that they were not treated with respect as a sovereign people, and that the deep spiritual context in which Indians engaged with Nature was ignored. It is important that Quakers persist in a "listening witness" with Maine Indians and speak on their behalf in public settings as occasions arise to do so.
- B. "Doctrine of Discovery," the mindset of Europeans who felt entitled to claim the lands they "discovered" in the New World without regard for the rights of native peoples who had lived on those lands for generations. Attempts are now being made to disavow this doctrine as a gesture in recognition of the sovereign traditions of tribal peoples in the modern era.
- C. The campaign to secure endorsement by the U.S. government of the U.N. Proclamation on the Rights of Indigenous peoples. The Obama Administration seems ready to sign this important U.N. document.

In the afternoon, the following two MINUTES were approved:

- A. Friends agreed that public witness on the United Nations Proclamation on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the "Doctrine of Discovery" are important to our continuing concern for social, economic, and environmental justice for Maine Indians.
- B. After full discussion of the U.N. Proclamation, and with clear awareness of the importance of this document in providing guidelines and moral standards for establishing just relationships between tribal peoples and the government in Maine, FCMMPP approves the revised text of the statement prepared by Co-Clerk Diana White that urges the United States government to endorse the U.N. Proclamation.

The Solitary Confinement Bill in the Legislature that FCMPPP worked to support was in the end changed to a mere "Resolve" that mandated a year-long study.

Ed Snyder shared a concern that the Maine Clean Elections process could be nullified due to recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court., especially a case in which the State of Arizona was barred from providing funds to a candidate operating under a similar law, who was opposed by a candidate with unlimited personal funding. Ed urged that Friends and local meetings be alerted to this threat to the basic equity in campaign finance embodied in the Maine Clean Elections law. To follow up the letter outlining FCMP's concerns, which was sent to 14 candidates in the early race for Governor, an attempt will now be made to meet in person with the nominated candidates or their staff.

A MINUTE IN HONOR OF ED SNYDER in tribute to his role in creating FCMPPP, his leadership for two decades, and his personal example was offered and heartily approved.

The NEXT MEETING will be held at the ALFOND CENTER, Waterville, on Saturday, September 25.

Seeking Hospitality for "Alternative to Violence Project" Volunteers

The Alternatives to Violence Project in Maine (AVP-ME) has started running monthly workshops at the Maine State Prison in Thomaston. Some of the volunteer facilitators will need a place to stay to enable them to be closer for the two-day workshops. AVP-ME was wondering if any Friends would be willing to provide hospitality for one or two volunteers for one evening, if needed. Please contact Linda Cote-Small (chezcote@roadrunner.com or 563-6712) for more details or if you are interested in offering hospitality.

QUERIES—Home and Family

Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life. Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustments? Should conflict or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from your meeting and from the larger community?

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543. Clerk Deborah
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