

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
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David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:
Jim Matlack, 236-0903

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Center:
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September

Fri.-Sun.	Sept. 5-7		*VQM Fall Gathering, China, ME
Sunday	Sept. 7	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Monday	Sept. 8	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Tuesday	Sept. 9	8:30-11:30 a.m.	*Food Pantry
Tuesday	Sept. 16	8:30-11:30 a.m.	*Food Pantry
Sunday	Sept. 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Sept. 22	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Tuesday	Sept. 23	8:30-11:30 a.m.	*Food Pantry
Tuesday	Sept. 30	8:30-11:30 a.m.	*Food Pantry

October

Sunday	Oct. 5	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Monday	Oct. 6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
	Oct. 11-20		*Walk for Peace/Sustainability
Sunday	Oct. 19	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Monday	Oct. 20	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 is 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 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—July 20, 2014

Thirteen Friends gathered for an opening period of silent worship. Clerk Suzy Hallett reviewed the agenda and noted additional items. The MINUTES for the June Meeting for Business were APPROVED.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL Sue Rockwood noted that a volunteer is needed to follow up appropriately with visitors who sign the guest book on Sundays. The procedure for forming Meeting committees that was followed for the current year will be used again for next year. George Chappell will draft a Memorial Minute for Ernie Foust with assistance from Brewster Grace. Tentative plans have been made for another book discussion series to start on September 10.

OUTREACH Sue Rockwood reported that overall funding for Outreach endeavors is in good shape though additional applications for grants are pending. Several program proposals will likely come forward in future weeks.

LIBRARY Rachel McGinness said that books have been reorganized on the shelves in clearer categories. Those who wish to donate books to the library are asked to consult first with a member of the Library Committee. Discussion followed concerning how best to keep records of the books in the library so that books can be searched for most conveniently. A used laptop computer might be an effective tool. Sue Rockwood is familiar with several software applications well suited for use in libraries.

HOSPITALITY A sign-up sheet was circulated for those who are willing to provide snack food at the rise of Sunday meetings over the next few months. Many more sign-ups are needed.

FIRST-DAY SCHOOL Rachel noted that some funds remained in the designated account for purchase of supplies and/or play equipment. No immediate decisions were made.

LINCOLN COUNTY HOMELESS Notice was received of a meeting on July 23 at the local Baptist Church to encourage additional churches to take part in a program of coordinated assistance to homeless persons in Lincoln County. Some members expressed support for this endeavor but clarity was not reached as to whether Midcoast Meeting would sign-on as a full member of the coalition. Nancy Booth will attend the meeting on July 23 and report back.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

—Suzy Hallett, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

There will be no business meeting in August; the next monthly meeting for business will be Sunday, September 21. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

Meeting for Worship—Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are you faithful and punctual in attendance? Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Do all other activities of your meeting find their inspiration in worship, and do they, in turn, help to uphold the worshipping group?

Silence of the heart, not only of the mouth – that too is necessary – but more, that silence of the mind, silence of the eyes, silence of the touch. Then you can hear him everywhere: in the closing of the door, in the person who needs you, in the birds that sing, in the flowers, the animals – that silence which is wonder and praise. Why? Because God is everywhere and you can see and hear him.

—Mother Teresa, *Where There Is Love, There Is God*

September is Friends Meeting month at the **Food Pantry**. We meet at the Congregational Church in Newcastle on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. to set up and leave at 11:30 a.m., after clean-up.

Thanks, Rachel



PRAYING

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway

into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

—Mary Oliver, from *Thirst*

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

Claire Darrow moved August 10, and cards would be welcomed.
Her new address:

Room 131
Governor King Lodge
34 Governor's Way
Topsham, ME 04080
~

Please note **Jean Harris's** new e-mail address:

jeanharris@tidewater.net.

Are you still **SAVING STAMPS**? Quaker Missions is still collecting them. Send your stamps to:

Earl Walker
Quaker Missions West
650 Harrison Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711

Quaker Missions provides funding to Quaker relief organizations such as Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR), www.rswr.org.

PROFILE: CLAIRE MCKENZIE DARROW

By Deborah Haviland - August 2014



Claire has been a dear friend of mine for more than 26 years. We met when Pete and I moved to Cushing in 1987 and were neighbors and friends/ Friends living on the peninsula down the road from each other. We have maintained our friendship and support for each other through the years. Writing her profile at this time is a gift to her and to the meeting so that all can know her life and appreciate her commitment to the growth of our meeting. She is, indeed, one of our elders.

NOTE: In 2010 Claire wrote and compiled a beautiful book for her children and grandchildren, titled McKenzie/Fincke Ancestors. It is enhanced with pictures and

stories of her life. Direct quotes in Claire's Profile are from this family history.

Claire Fincke McKenzie was born in Plainfield, New Jersey, on May 2, 1935. She had one brother, Robert Angus McKenzie, who was two years older and an important part of her life and growing-up years. Bob died in 2002, and Claire has written that she will always miss him. Claire's parents, Ken and Marnie Fincke McKenzie, summered on Cape Cod at Quissett Harbor and Claire spent all her summers there from age of 9 until the end of college. She loved the Cape and being on the water. She came from a sailing family and has been an accomplished sailor all her life. Her grandfather Clarence Fincke had a 36' yawl *Kahuna*, which she loved sailing on during WWII. "I loved being aboard *Kahuna* and going below, climbing up in the fore cabin on the funny shaped bunks and having a nap. We children swam off the boat when we were able to swim around the boat without a life preserver."

"I was lucky enough to be born into a sailing and musical family, strictly amateur but still interested in it all. I started piano lessons at 7 and kept on until teenage years made it impossible to find time to practice in my busy schedule. By that time I had begun singing in the local church choir, which had a talented organist/conductor and I learned how group music worked and loved it." In college she sang in the choir for four years and after college sang in various community choruses.

Claire graduated from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, in June 1957. The same month she married Allen MacGregor. They had four children—Kit, Jenny, Leslie and Amy. Today Kit, Jenny and Amy live in Maine and Leslie in New Hampshire. Claire has nine grandchildren, whom she treasures and who have been a special part of her life.

Claire and Allen lived in Connecticut and Bath, Maine, and divorced after sixteen years. She then chose to support herself and moved around Maine for a few years, joining several different choruses and becoming familiar with other conductors and new music. After living alone for seven years she married an old friend, George Darrow, who was director of a wilderness canoe-tripping camp on West Grand Lake, Maine. When George died, after ten years, she moved to Sheepscot and joined the Oratorio Chorale and sang with them for years.

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While living in Bath, she worked for a local newspaper, doing its bookkeeping. After her divorce from Allen, she started her own accounting business. She felt good being out on her own. After a second passage of years alone, in 1999 she married another old friend, Rick Freeman. She and Rick love to garden and raise most of their own vegetables, storing them in a root cellar to last the winter. Rick is also a sailor and they have chartered sail boats by themselves to explore Penobscot Bay. They also had a 19-foot daysailer nearby their home “which we jump into when we’re tired of gardening.” Their home in Georgetown is beautiful with keepsakes from both their marriages. It is peaceful and tranquil, on acreage that looks out on meadow, marsh, and gardens and is a haven for birds.

When Claire lived in Connecticut she was drawn to Quakerism and became a member of Guilford Monthly Meeting in New Haven, Connecticut. She continued to follow this spiritual direction and joined Midcoast Meeting in January 1979 by transfer from Durham (Maine) Monthly Meeting. At that time Midcoast was a small meeting that met at the Skidompha Library in Damariscotta.

Over more than ten years the meeting changed venues a number of times—Miles Hospital Conference Center, Choutaeu Chapin’s barn, and Mobius, to name a few. By 1991 the Meeting had grown considerably and discussion began about building a meetinghouse. Claire was always in the forefront advocating for this. After determining that the geographic center of our community was the Damariscotta area, the serious search began for property. It was not easy to find, but the Meeting was finally able to achieve the lovely location where we are now located. Now the Meetinghouse Committee moved forward hiring an architect, negotiating with members and attenders about needs and desires, and planning and carrying out fund-raising. Claire was Clerk of this committee from the very beginning and her energy and commitment to this goal did not flag. She was part of a very dedicated group that helped the Meeting achieve a permanent home.

When the meetinghouse was finished and dedicated in 1995, her daughter Amy was the first to be married under the care of the Meeting. The meetinghouse wasn’t completely finished, but almost—enough to allow this joyous occasion to take place. As the Meeting has grown and changed, Claire has played many roles—Ministry & Counsel Committee and clerk, Building & Grounds Committee and clerk, Nominating Committee, and Clerk of the Meeting. In early years she had the idea for a newsletter to help the members and attenders communicate and get to know each other better. For years she was the editor and I was her assistant. She had the idea for writing profiles of Meeting members and attenders, and she and I did this for a number of years. She has left her mark and helped us mature and grow.

She has also been very active in the wider Quaker community. She was a member of the Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting for a number of years and also served on Yearly Meeting committees. During these years Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting was growing and Claire was also an active participant in VQM affairs.

Over the years she and Rick have had many wonderful trips together and she has seen many corners of the world. But today Claire’s life is quiet. She has Alzheimer’s and aphasia, and she is not a part of the world the way she was most of her life. Rick brings her to Meeting when she says she would like to come. Her daughters visit weekly and her life is smooth and filled with love and caring.

In her family history she ends the section about her life with these words: “It has been an amazing life, none of which I could have predicted in college, except marriage and children. But I am grateful for the painful times and the alone times which I see as occasions for much inner growth. And the good times have been wonderful, My college, Vassar, has imbued me with an innate curiosity to look around and really see what’s important and beautiful there. There is never a dull moment.”

Caring for One Another–Journeys in Peer Ministry
Vassalboro Quarter
Fall Gathering 2014, Sept. 5,6,7
Friends Camp, China, ME

This year we have an opportunity to explore Peer Ministry- a journey in caring for one another in our meetings: How do we currently care and nurture each other? Do we rely on individuals in an informal way or Ministry and Counsel to take care of those in need? Do we turn to each other to help us seek guidance from the Source of Truth and Light?

Goal: To discover what gifts we have to care for one another; To move from our individual growth into ministering to others in community; To experientially examine models of care for one another in our faith groups.

Schedule

Friday, Sept. 5 Registration 5:30-7:30 PM

Dinner	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Program *	7:00 - 9:00 PM

Saturday, Sept. 6 Registration 7:45 AM-8:30 AM and 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Breakfast	7:30 - 8:30 AM
Program*	8:45 AM -11:45 AM: Welcome, Goals, Overview of day; small group
Lunch	12:00 PM-1:15 PM
Program*	1:30-3:00PM .
Waterfront available	1:30 to 5:30 with lifeguard.
Free Time	3:00-4:30 PM
Meeting for Worship for Business*	4: 45-6:15

Dinner –	6:30-7:30 PM
Brown Bag Skits and music	7:30-9:00 PM

Sunday, Sept. 7

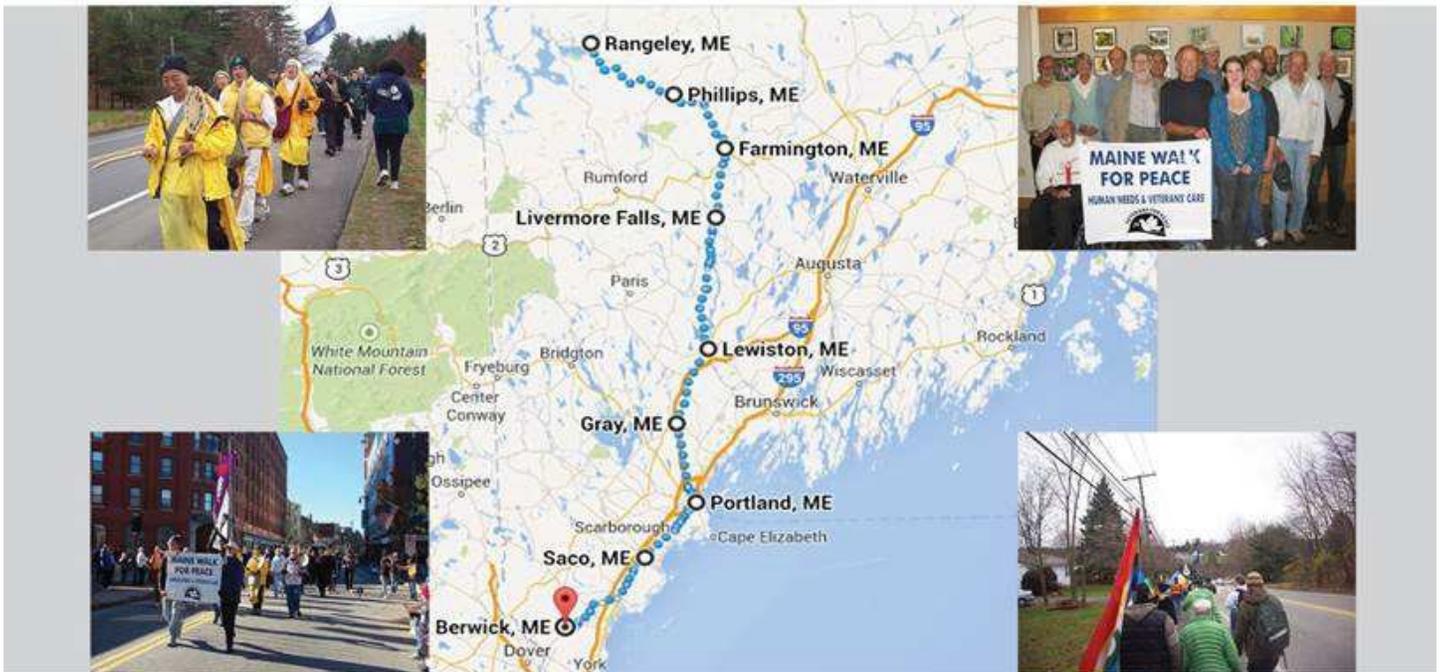
Breakfast	7:30 - 8:30 AM
Worship Sharing *	8:45 - 9:45 AM Reflections on the weekend and what we may take back to meetings
Meeting for Worship*	10:00 - 11:00 AM
Lunch and Farewell	11:30-12:30 PM
Clean up Aviary, Big Bird, Kitchen and Bathroom	

Meals: All meals are prepared by Friends Camp staff; this year it will be all vegetarian and much local; please indicate on pre-registration about dietary needs such as allergies to peanuts, gluten and lactose intolerance.

To pre-register, visit www.vassalborofriends.org and drop down to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting.

MAINE WALK FOR PEACE & A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

*Maine Veterans For Peace
invites you to join a Rangeley to North Berwick
Peace Walk from October 11-20*



The goal of the walk is to connect various communities that have become reliant on military production for jobs. We hope to accelerate a statewide discussion about the need to diversify Maine's growing dependence on military production. Last year, Connecticut passed legislation creating a statewide planning commission to begin the process of moving away from its heavy reliance on military production. We need jobs building things like rail, solar, properly placed wind and other sustainable measures to help us deal with the coming reality of climate change.

The Pentagon has announced that Rangeley is one of four sites along the east coast being considered for deployment of an expensive and destabilizing "missile defense" interceptor base. These systems will be

targeted on Russia and China and are key elements in US first-strike attack planning. General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems in Saco has a multi-million dollar contract to build gun barrel kits for the Army. In North Berwick, Pratt Whitney has a \$2 billion contract to build F-35 Joint Strike fighter engines. Bath Iron Works has billions of dollars in contracts to build destroyers for the Navy. Taken together almost 10% of Maine's gross domestic product derives from military spending. How can we ever end war unless we begin to deal with our domestic addiction to Pentagon spending?

The walk will be led by Buddhist monks and nuns from the order Nipponzan Myohoji that does peace walks around the world and has previously walked with us in Maine.

Maine Veterans for Peace • www.vfpmaine.org • 207-443-9502

ADVICES

Meeting for Worship—Consider with care how God reaches us in meeting for worship. To every Friend is given a share of responsibility for the meeting. Friends are advised, therefore, to be diligent in attendance at meetings and in inward preparation for them. Let us be concerned to enter reverently into communion with God and with one another, to yield ourselves to the influence of the divine presence. Then what is evil in us may be weakened and the good raised up. God calls each one to the service of the meeting; let us be obedient and faithful, whether by word, by song, or by silent waiting, and let us receive the messages of others in a tender spirit.

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