

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
James Matlack, 236-0903

Recording Clerk:
Bruce Rockwood, 350-2256

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Edit/design:
Diane Kirkman, 236-9078,
diane_kirkman@hotmail.com,
17 Grove St.
Camden, ME 04843

Address changes:
Pat Spock, 373-0898,
patriciaspock@gmail.com,
8 Franklin Ln
Topsham, ME 04086

Web:
Guy Marsden, 443-8942,
guy@arttec.net,
61 Delano Rd.
Woolwich, ME 04579

Midcoast Outreach & Peace
Center:
Sue Rockwood, 350-2256,
midcoastcenter@gmail.com

September

Sunday	Sept. 6	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship, followed by Potluck Lunch
Monday	Sept. 7	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Fri.-Sun.	Sept. 11-13		*VQM Fall Gathering, S. China, ME
Saturday	Sept. 12	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Listening Workshop
Sunday	Sept. 20	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Sept. 21	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

October

Sunday	Oct. 4	10:00 a.m.	First-Day Program during Worship *20th-Anniversary Celebration
Monday	Oct. 5	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	Oct. 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Oct. 19	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 10 a.m. at the meetinghouse, 77 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta
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 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 19, 2015

1. Clerk James Matlack called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. And began with a few minutes of silent prayer. There were 14 in attendance. The agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance.** Bruce Rockwood, Clerk of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, July 16, 2015, from 1 to 3:15 p.m. Her, at the meetinghouse. We had a useful discussion and appreciated the participation of Stephen Gorry, who volunteered to sit in on our discussion and helped us understand the work of the Buildings & grounds Committee. Based on the review of the financial records by the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer we report the following:
- (a) The final report for FY 2015 (which ended May 31, 2015) must wait until we receive it in final form at our next committee meeting; we intend to make it available at September's Meeting for Business.
 - (b) Records indicate that some committee expenses last year exceeded their planned budgets, and even with greater-than-budgeted contributions actually received, for which we are grateful, we still ran an overall deficit. This is not just due to the depletion of the emergency fund, although replenishing that fund has put a dent in our planned FY 2016 budget.
 - (c) We are asking the clerks of the committees and the emergency fund to review their priorities, criteria, actual expenditures and expected needs for the current (2016) FY over the summer, and to get us updated information in order to help us bring forward a revised budget in September.
 - (d) We are **recommending to the Meeting for Business today** that we roll over only half of the Four Winds Development Fund investment which is now up for a five-year renewal. This means we would roll over \$5,000 to the fund for another five years, and ask for the \$5,000 to be returned to the Meeting to help fill in apparent overruns from last year to be better prepared to deal with snow-plowing, repairs, the need for a contingency line item in the budget, and other potential expenses in the new fiscal year. *After discussion, the July Meeting for Business approved this recommendation, and the Treasurer is authorized to take the steps necessary to carry this out.*
 - (e) The 2016 FY budget approved by the Meeting for this year at the May Meeting for Business did not include the replenishment of the emergency fund as part of the “above the line” portion of the budget. It also assumed a 10% increase of contributions over actual contributions last year, which were themselves higher than what we had expected. We are taking this into account as we work on preparing a revised budget so we have a clearer picture going forward. The Finance Committee will hold its next meeting in early August. All are welcome, and we will post the date on the Meeting's online calendar (<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/calendar.htm>) once we set a date and time.
- B. Ministry & Counsel.** Brewster Grace read aloud the “State of the Society Report for 2014,” which was previously circulated to the Meeting by e-mail [*ed. note:* and appeared in the last newsletter]. After a few minor editorial corrections, the Meeting approved the report, and asked that it be forwarded to Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting. Carmen Lavertu indicated the Quarter would like it before their August meeting, and Brewster Grace agreed to coordinate with Carmen in forwarding the report. The Meeting thanked Brewster for his excellent work in helping prepare this report.
- C. Pastoral Care.** Willow Rowntree reported on the success of the Listening Program, which had been initiated this winter. Pastoral Care would like to continue offering this program and to plan a training session for people to be prepared for participation [*ed. note: see details p. 4*]. The program includes four hours of deep listening without responses. They appreciate the support of Ministry & Counsel in continuing this program and invite all to participate, with a view to possibly making it a regular program of the Meeting. Willow also reported on behalf of Deborah Haviland that a meeting for worship is planned in Topsham with Claire Darrow and her family on Wednesday, July 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., and all are welcome. See <http://www.highlandsrc.com/index.cfm/menu/page/stub/Memory-Support> for directions and contact Deborah Haviland for further information.

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[Business Meeting Minutes, continued from p. 2]

D. Meetinghouse & Grounds. Guy Marsden noted the new mowing pattern implemented to make the meetinghouse more clearly visible from the road. Stephen Gorry has washed the walls of the worship room and we may wash them one more time in an effort to see if repainting is unnecessary.

E. Midcoast Outreach Peace Center (MOPC). Susan Rockwood reported that the talk by Wendy Batson planned for August 4 has been postponed and that her talk as part of our Humanitarian Crises Series will be rescheduled for the fall. Susan reported that a last-minute film showing on Alaskan Native Peoples and their concerns over oil-drilling in the Alaskan wildlife reserve was arranged in just the past week, was well-publicized by the sponsors, and resulted in a rental this Thursday night which 30 people attended. She also received notice of the annual Peace Walk planned for this October, which some of our members have participated in previously. One phase of the Peace Walk will be from Rockland to Damariscotta, and the participants are looking for a place to prepare a dinner and sleep over “in a local church,” and she asked in the Meeting was willing to support making the meetinghouse available for this purpose. The walk begins in Ellsworth, Maine, on October 9 and ends in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on October 24. A variety of peace groups are involved, and the contact persons include Starr Gilmartin and Bruce Gagnon. There was discussion, and the Meeting agreed that this was consistent with our purpose as a meeting and approved this proposal. Sue Rockwood, Beedy Parker, Andy Burt, and Carmen Lavertu agreed to help arrange and coordinate with the Peace Walkers.

3. Other Business/Special Concerns. Jim Matlack reported that advance documents for the Annual Sessions of New England Yearly Meeting are available for their website at <http://neym.org/sessions/ad-docs>. He also reported that John Eben Lacy had passed away and that a memorial is being planned by his family in Lexington, Massachusetts, on September 19, 2015. Carmen Lavertu commented that she enjoyed last Sunday's discussion of the Pope's Climate Change Encyclical arranged by Patty Seybold that was held after the rise of meeting. About 14 people participated, and she hopes we can do it again, perhaps once a month. Guy Marsden indicated to definite date had been set, but we will see if it can be arranged to be held again.

4. Closing Worship. Meeting for Business closed with a brief period of silent worship at 12:45 p.m. The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, September 20, 2015. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at <http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/newsletter.htm> and on the meetinghouse bulletin board.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Matlack, Clerk; Bruce L. Rockwood, Recording Clerk

QUERIES

Spiritual Life—Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way? Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?

NEW BOOK DONATED TO MEETING LIBRARY: All meetings in New England Yearly Meeting have received a copy of *BLACK FIRE: AFRICAN AMERICAN QUAKERS ON SPIRITUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS*. This anthology edited by Hal Weaver, Paul Kriese, and Stephen Steere Nash contains selected writings and speeches spanning the Colonial Period through to the Twentieth Century by such figures as Benjamin Banneker, Paul Cuffe, Sojourner Truth, Howard Thurman, Bayard Rustin, and Bill Sutherland. It is a fascinating and compelling collection well edited and with biographical notes.

THE NEXT LISTENING WORKSHOP is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the meetinghouse. All are welcome. A planning meeting for the workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 10 a.m. at Jean Crawford's home. All are welcome at the planning meeting whether they are interested in planing the program for the workshop, interested in becoming facilitators for the workshop, or interested in learning more about the purpose of the workshop.

Please let Jean Crawford (236-4176) know if you are coming or if you have questions. Please bring a sandwich if you wish. Soup will be served.



Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting—Fall Gathering

REGISTRATION: online pre-registration by September 6 is **strongly** encouraged:
<http://friendscamp.org/2015/08/07/fall-gathering-weekend-vassalboro-quarterly-meeting-september/>

WHY DO WE DO IT *THAT* WAY AND WHERE DO *I* FIT IN? *Understanding Friends Business Practices* September 11, 12 and 13, 2015 at Friends Camp, 729 Lakeview Drive South China, Maine

Friends' business practices can be elegantly beautiful and faith-affirming, yet at other times our business meetings can feel dry, frustrating and inefficient. The 2015 Fall Gathering theme offers an opportunity to delve deeply into the treasures, and the potential pitfalls, of how we conduct our corporate life together. Jackie Stillwell, 2013 to 2015 presiding clerk of New England Yearly Meeting, will lead us in an interactive and experiential journey into the heart of Friends' decision-making practices. Come to learn the skills and qualities that we all, as participants in a business meeting need, to help business be Friendly!

Fall Gathering 2015 Schedule

Friday

1. **Ministry and Counsel – 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** – Janet Hough-Clerk ; All are welcome. Each MM is encouraged to appoint one person to be present for this meeting to be able to report back to their meetings; FMI on agenda and time: Janet.Hough5@gmail.com
2. **Registration – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** online pre-registration **strongly encouraged**, with payment online at <http://friendscamp.org/2015/08/07/fall-gathering-weekend-vassalboro-quarterly-meeting-september/> Walk-ins also welcomed
3. **Dinner – 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.** Friday night dinner is set up in same room as program so late comers can get food and join the program
4. **Program – 7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.** –Joys and Concerns about Business Practices in Our Meetings: Friends are invited to share their experiences or their questions about Friends' business meetings and the practice of corporate discernment. Jackie Stillwell, past NEYM Presiding Clerk, will draw on and amplify the wisdom of the participants as well as sharing with us her own extensive experience with Friends' business practice. The themes/concerns gleaned from this initial Friday evening conversation will be built into the program. This informal time together is an opportunity for our program leader and Friends to begin to get to know one another. Friends are invited to share with Jackie their sense of where their MM is in terms of Business Practices. This will give her a sense of the variety and breadth of experience and wisdom in our Quarter and help us discover what would help us to grow.

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[Fall Gathering Schedule, continued from p. 4]

Saturday

1. **Breakfast - 7:30-8:30 a.m.**
2. **Worship – 8:45-9:15 a.m.** **
3. **Morning plenary - 9:30-10:30 a.m.**** - “*The view from 30,000 feet*” - “What’s it all about?” and “Why we do what we do?” This opening session will frame the rest of the day’s more focused look at aspects of Quaker Business Practices. Here’s where the theological, experiential background and underpinnings are shared, something of benefit to both new and seasoned Quakers.
4. **Small Group Sessions – **** working with scenarios and learning from each other about ways that we can all use our gifts and talents, whether as members of the body, or as clerks, to discern and free up the Life of the Spirit in our practice of business.
10:45 a.m. – Introduction to Small-Group Sessions
11:00 a.m. -noon - Morning Small Group Sessions, facilitated small groups conversations, one before lunch and one after lunch. With guidance from the presenters Friends self-select into groups to share and learn about Quaker Business Practices. Friends in all groups are encouraged to bring their own concerns and MM examples.
11:45 a.m.- Re-gather as a full group to share reflections and learning during the morning
5. **Lunch – 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.**
6. **Business Meeting – 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** ** Regular VQM Business will be conducted, but this time together will also be considered part of the program. Please come to offer your gifts of discernment so the Quarter can conduct important work. We will hear reflections from our guest clerks on conducting meeting for business.
7. **Afternoon Small Group Sessions – 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.** - Afternoon Sessions offer further opportunities for in-depth sharing about typical challenging situations that may affect the conduct of business. Friends will also share experiences where the movement of the Spirit within the discerning group was especially evident and blessed. Topics may include: What can you do to help as a member of the body in meeting for business? What behaviors make Spirit-led corporate discernment more difficult? What kinds of items require discernment within full meeting for business? What are the responsibilities of committee clerks? What’s the process of discernment anyway? Is this time the same as Worship Sharing? How does one formulate queries to prompt deeper reflection on issues? Creating a space that supports deep discernment of challenging issues; What do you do when unity can’t be reached? How can you mend and settle un-Friendly behaviors that may be triggered by stress and differences?
8. **Free Time – 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Swim or boat on China Lake, nap or visit;
9. **Late Afternoon - 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.** - Clerk Link - Friends *who are interested* are invited to self-select into groups of 4-6. The groups can be based on geography, but not necessarily. These are the beginning of core groups that will get together once a month or every other month in person or by conference call to share and support each other in clerking concerns. Individual group members are also resources for one another in between group contacts. Contact information will be exchanged and an initial phone call set up. (Friends will learn about how we can do this free through NEYM.)
10. **Dinner – 6:15 p.m. -7:30 p.m.**
11. **After Dinner – 7:30 p.m.** - Casual time filled with sharing music, conversation, and the opportunity for “show and tell” about what’s happening in your Monthly Meeting or wider Friends activities.

Sunday

1. **Breakfast – 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**
2. **Worship Sharing/Reflections on Fall Gathering** – 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.**
Share your important take-aways; what was particularly helpful, surprising, challenging?
3. **Worship** – 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.**
4. **Lunch – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Camp clean-up and goodbyes!

** These sessions are up in the AVIARY ; all others are in BIG BIRD –dining hall.

OF INTEREST TO FRIENDS:

Waldo County Peace Activist Award

The Award is a non-profit, non-political initiative dedicated to encouraging young men and women in our community to think about, discuss, embrace and act on social justice, community service, alternatives to violence, peacemaking, and respect for other people and the earth.

History: The Waldo County Peace Activist Award was founded by peace activist David Demere in 2005. Since its inception, the Program has awarded cash prizes of up to \$2,000 per recipient to area students. Upon the death of its founder, the Program was taken under the care of the Belfast Area Friends Meeting (Quakers). David Demere's vision of awarding scholarships to those "committed to peaceful living" continues with the support of those who embrace peace in all its manifestations.



Eligibility: Awards are granted to graduating senior-year students in Waldo County who demonstrate activism in social justice, community service, peacemaking, human rights and/or environmental protection. Awards are granted without regard to a student's religion, race, gender, sexual orientation or political views.

There are many ways to "wage peace." The applicant's task is to demonstrate his or her commitment to the values honored by the award, in past accomplishments and in future plans. To accomplish this applicants complete short-essay answers in the written application, obtain three adult references, and, if chosen as a finalist, attend a follow-up interview.

Advisory Committee: Applications are reviewed and students are interviewed by an independent Advisory Committee that includes community members who volunteer their time and service. Peace advocates and activists themselves, they bring their experience, passion and desire to help others "plant seeds of peace" to the process of choosing each year's award recipients.

Your Donation: All donations to the Waldo County Peace Activist Award are disbursed without administrative charges or deductions of any kind. Donations are also fully tax deductible; Belfast Area Friends Meeting is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift or bequest may be made to the Waldo County Peace Activist Award c/o Belfast Area Friends Meeting, Attention: Sharon Leavell, 72 Bayview Street, Belfast, ME 04915.

For more information about the Waldo County Peace Activist Award Program, please contact Leslie Umans at lumans@roadrunner.com.

Come Celebrate with Us—20th Anniversary of Midcoast Meeting's Meetinghouse!

Sunday, October 4, at the Rise of Meeting

We will have a celebration on October 4—complete with albums and scrapbooks, a barbecue/pot luck, and peace pole unveiling—celebrate the gift of the meetinghouse and its early history now that it has reached its 20th year! It also happens to be World Quaker Day, so we will gather on the porch for a picture together, too. We hope to see you there!

Peace Poles

Symbolize the oneness of humanity and our common wish for a world at peace
Remind us to think, speak and act in the spirit of peace and harmony
Stand as a silent visual for peace to prevail on earth

From http://www.worldpeace.org/activities_peacepoleproject.html



THE WORD FROM WOOLMAN HILL

We've had wonderful children's peace camps, singing groups, family reunions, weddings, and individuals, couples and families on retreat here this summer. The south side of the main building looks lovely with its new coat of paint. The fields are lush with Queen Anne's lace, or stubbly with just-mown fresh green. The fruit trees are laden with apples and peaches. And the coyotes are busy with their night-time cacophonies.

Upcoming programs:

- "Journey toward Wholeness" with Valerie Brown, November 5-8 (waiting list).
- "Support Across Generations for Elders (SAGE)" with Anita Paul, Fran Brokaw & Lori Martin, December 11-13.
- "Turn 'Round Right," annual silent retreat, December/January date TBA.
- "Rise Again!" singing with Annie & Peter Blood-Patterson, winter date TBA.
- "REnewal and REsources" with Beth Collea and Melinda Wenner Bradley, March 18-20.
- "Finding God in the Verbs" with Jennie Isbell and Brent Bill, April 1-3.

And more to come!

For details: <http://woolmanhill.org/upcomingprograms/>.

We hope to see you up here on the Hill sometime soon!

From Margaret Cooley, Executive Director, Woolman Hill (www.woolmanhill.org and www.facebook.com/WoolmanHill)
413-774-3431, margaret@woolmanhill.org

ADVICES

Spiritual Life—Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, which are the leadings of the Holy Spirit. It is God's redemptive love that draws us, a love shown forth by Jesus in all his life, on the cross, and in his abiding presence.

Friends are advised to make a quiet place in their daily lives for prayer and communion with Gods and to be constnant in the reading of the Bible and other devotional literature.

Let us cherish the seed of God in ourselves and in others, that we may be open to new revelations of truth. Let us look to our meetings to guide and stimulate our spiritual growth.