



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

Speaking about his early conversations with Moshe the Beadle, Elie Wiesel, in *Night*, says: "He explained to me with great insistence that every question possessed a power that did not lie in the answer.

"Man raises himself toward God by the questions he asks Him,' he was fond of repeating. 'That is the true dialogue. Man questions God and God answers. But we don't understand His answers. We can't understand them. Because they come from the depths of the soul, and they stay there until death. You will find the true answers, Eliezer, only within yourself!'

"And why do you pray, Moshe?" I asked him.

"I pray to the God within me that He will give me the strength to ask Him the right questions."

Elie Wiesel: *Night*. 1960: MacGibbon & Kee, pp. 2-3.

October

Saturday	October 5	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Workshop on multicultural racism organized by Orono Friends Meeting, held in Orono
Sunday	October 6		Food Pantry Day
Tuesday	October 8	4:00 p.m.	Peace and Social Concerns committee meeting
Wednesday	October 9	4:00 p.m.	Ministry & Counsel committee meeting
Sunday	October 13	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Friday	October 18	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper Meeting for Business
Saturday	October 19	6:00 p.m.	* Potluck supper with Mormons
Saturday	October 26	9:00 a.m. - noon noon	* Landscape Committee fall meetinghouse and grounds cleanup (rain date Sun., October 27) Rally and march of peace, Augusta. See <i>Peace Talk</i> , Autumn '02, for details
Sunday	October 27	8:30 a.m.	Book Discussion Group
Wednesday	October 30	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	AFSC work meeting
~Advance Notice~			
Saturday	November 2	all day	Quarterly Meeting - Eggemoggin Reach
Saturday	November 9		AFSC conference: Alternatives to Militarism for Maine's Youth

* 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 first building on the right, 2/10 mile from the corner

Back Issues of the Newsletter, along with other Meeting Information, are available at:
www.lincoln.midcoast.com/~moonlite/q-pages.htm

The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 8th month of 2002

based on draft minutes by Rob Patterson

Clerk Carmen Lavertu opened the meeting with a brief silence. There were 15 people present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer

Paul Diamond gave an excellent two-part report detailing first our outflows for the period from June 1st through September 20th and then giving a summary of our financial position to date. Very few of our budgeted amounts have been spent in the first quarter, but that is typical of first-quarter activity in prior years. The amount of pledges received is not yet equal to last year, reminders will be sent out this fall. Friends expressed appreciation for Paul's clear report.

Finance Committee

Bill Spock reported for the committee, which will meet again on October 3rd. They welcome comments or questions from members of the Meeting community. The committee projects that there will be no surplus for the coming year.

Ministry & Counsel

Charlotte Ritter reported the committee is planning a report on members and attenders. The committee addressed the suggestion by a member that we have a special committee to look after the needs of elder members. It was decided that a separate committee was not required and that Ministry & Counsel would continue to focus on this area. A Memorial Minute is being drafted for Cully Miller.

Peter Albright has written to the Meeting seeking to transfer his membership to Crystal Lakes Meeting in Illinois, where he has been living for some time. The request was approved, and a letter will be sent to Crystal Lakes Meeting.

Concern has been expressed for the Wabenaki Program Committee. Charlotte Ritter asks that we hold them in the Light.

Friendly 8's dinner gatherings need to be organized for the fall and winter months. Barbara Foust volunteered to take on this assignment.

Query #9

Stewardship

Do you revere all life and the spender of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

Concern has once again been expressed for speaking louder in Meeting for Worship.

Education

Sally Wood and Sarah Ewing are the committee members. We will have a First Day School this fall. We have one family with three young children who have moved to Rockland from the Philadelphia area. According to their mother, the children have enjoyed their "star status" as the only ones in First Day School for the past several weeks, but she expressed hope that other young people will be joining them soon.

Peace and Social Concerns

Ernie Foust announced two upcoming programs worthy of the Meeting's attention. AFSC is sponsoring an Alternatives to Militarism for Youth in Maine program at Bates College on November 9th. Pamphlets are available and the committee is willing to sponsor people, especially youth, educators, and parents who want to attend. The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is holding a program called "Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis: A Friend's Consultation" on January 17 through the 20th at Guilford College in North Carolina. Each Yearly Meeting is being asked to send 3 or 4 people. In order to be considered for one of NEYM's sponsored positions, a letter of intent needs to be submitted to FWCC committee of NEYM by October 5th.

Andy Burt discussed a proposed Middle Eastern Dinner which the Meeting would sponsor jointly with the Midcoast Unitarian Universalists and Beth Israel Congregation as a fund raiser for the Seeds of Peace Camp. The event would probably be held in January or February. The 2nd Congregational Church in Newcastle or St. Philips in Wiscasset is being considered a venue because both have excellent kitchen and dining facilities. Support was expressed for this interfaith project. Andy will continue preliminary planning. Ernie Foust read a draft of a letter which we might want to send as a meeting to our political representatives in Washington. There was much discussion, and ultimately it was decided that we should write individual letters due to the urgency of the situation, the difficulty in preparing a corporate letter under the pressure of time, and the fact that the number of contacts is often a critical factor in getting the attention of our leaders.

Landscape Committee

Pat Spock reported that the committee has fallen behind with its work this year, and that it might be prudent to get some professional help from a landscaping company. She has requested a number of specific bids and will report the results.

continued on next page

Hospitality

Vicki Diamond reported that we are still in need of more volunteers to take charge of refreshments after Meeting. Food is not always available on Sundays and during some weeks this summer, visitors outnumbered members in the social room after Meeting.

Old Business

The benefit yard sale for Ramallah School was a great success both financially and energetically! The Meeting raised \$3668, and there may still be more monies coming in. The organizing committee—Claire Darrow, Deb Haviland, Jean Crawford, and Nancy Booth—did a wonderful job bringing this together, and Jean calculated that 39 members of the Meeting community had participated in some fashion. Gretchen Hull wrote a good news story for local papers, which is reprinted in the newsletter (see page 4).

Jim Matlack of the AFSC heightened our awareness of the Palestinian issues in his excellent talk on August 4th. We thank Jim for his time and his insights.

Worthy Needs

Jean Crawford gave the final recommendations for charitable giving from the ad hoc Worthy Needs committee. A total of \$1600 was allotted for charitable giving this fiscal year. Ten organizations were chosen for gifts ranging from \$100 to \$250, based on a list of 10 criteria which were clearly defined and expressed in the report. The report was approved.

New Neighbors—Potluck Supper with Mormons

The Church of Latter Day Saints has responded to our welcome invitation, and they have suggested that a potluck dinner be held on October 19th. This is a Saturday and though some members expressed concern that it is wedged between our last Friday business meeting and Sunday Meeting for Worship, others noted that there have been several delays already and said we should not put it off any further. It was agreed. The event will be held at the meetinghouse.

The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Friday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. following a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. This will be the last Friday evening Monthly Meeting/potluck until spring. ALL WELCOME.

Friendly Reminders

Moving or changing your email 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

Nominating Committee

Committee Job Changes

Nominating Committee will meet in October and November to consider the needs of the Meeting. There are many different ways a person can serve the needs of the Meeting, and each one of us has different skills and interests to share with our community. Please consider how you would like to help the Meeting, either by taking on a new responsibility or staying with an old one.

Please feel free to come forward with suggestions or questions. The co-clerks of the committee are Susan Phelps (633-6636 <STPMeadowCove@aol.com>) and Deborah Haviland (354-8714 <havidand@midcoast.com>). They look forward to hearing from you.



Meeting News Notes

- ✓ The phone/email chains are being updated. Please let either Carmen Lavertu (354-9556, lavertu@prexar.com) or Deb Haviland (354-8714 <havidand@midcoast.com>) know of any changes that need to be made. If you're not currently on either list and wish to be, or are on one and wish to be on the other, this is the time to let someone know.
- ✓ Many Friends are writing emails and calling our federal government officials expressing opposition to the proposed invasion of Iraq. Jean Crawford reported that it's very easy to call the White House. The number is 202-456-1111. When you call, Monday thru Friday between the hours of nine and five, a live person answers, listens, and says she'll deliver your message to the president.
- ✓ Recently some people have reported trouble hearing messages during Meeting and introductions at the close of Meeting. Friends are reminded to please speak loudly enough to be heard by those sitting across the room.



Fall Clean-up Day

Come help with fall cleanup of the meetinghouse landscape and building

**Saturday, October 26, 9-noon
(rain date, Sunday, October 27)**

Bring gardening tools. For times and details, contact Pat Spock at 729-0826

Friends to Friends in Ramallah

by Gretchen Hull

first published in the Lincoln County News, September 19, 2002

Almost \$4000 is being sent to the Ramallah Friends Schools in Palestine, the proceeds of last weekend's barn sale held by the Midcoast Meeting of Friends (Quakers) in Damariscotta. New friends of the Ramallah School include donors and buyers from here and afar, brought together by the fine weather and the search for treasures. The money generated will be used in part to repair the damage caused by an errant bomb last December, in part to support programs of the kindergarten through grade 12 schools.

The Ramallah School was the focus of national attention this past weekend when world-famous Israeli pianist Daniel Barenboim defied a ban on visiting the West Bank, slipping through a military checkpoint to bring music to the Ramallah students. The students were impressed both by his efforts and by his lack of guns. Violence has temporarily closed their school several times during the last school year.

The Ramallah School, occupying two campuses about 10 miles north of Jerusalem, shares its philosophy of peace and non-violent conflict resolution with more than 900 students with Moslem, Christian, and Jewish backgrounds. Although the school is governed by local boards, it has been administered by the Friends United Meeting of Quakers for over 100 years.

The Advices

Friends are advised to consider our possessions as God's gifts, entrusted to us for responsible use. Let us free our time and our abilities to be able to follow the leadings of the Spirit. Let us cherish the beauty and variety of the world. Friends are urged to speak out boldly against the destruction of the world's resources and the difficulties that destruction prepares for the future generations. Let us guard against waste and resist our extravagant consumption, which contributes to inequities and impoverishment of life in our own and other societies. Let us show a loving consideration for all God's creatures. Let kindness know no limits.

FOR RENT ~ November to June In Delray Beach, Florida

Two-bedroom Rainberry Bay Villa apartment. Includes access to community pools, tennis courts, and events. Available for full season or monthly. Contact Nancy Appel Boothby, 832-4817

VQM Fall Gathering— Sept. 6-8, 2002

by Charlotte Ritter

Throughout the weekend, 95 people attended, 30 of them children. The goals realized during the last couple of years seemed to have been met. Although there is a greater cost for individual attenders and greater contributions from monthly meetings, the treasurer indicated a balanced budget from last year in regard to the Gathering, and this year's records are going to be similar.

Everyone seemed to be overjoyed about the number of families and children. The weather and the hiring of a lifeguard allowed many to swim Saturday afternoon. The wholesome food was enjoyed, and cleanup and preparation of the dining area went smoothly.

The theme, "Finding Our Foundation: Living in the Light in an Ocean of Darkness," was introduced intergenerationally during the first evening with games and singing. This was followed the next morning with more interactive opportunities following Jonathan Vogel-Borne's introduction, which again was stimulating for all ages.

As usual, there were many workshops to choose from Saturday afternoon. Carmen and I left to return to Midcoast Meeting for the memorial service for Cully Miller. Gretchen and her son Peter came to coordinate two sessions in preparation for the presentation of "Quaker Hats" in the evening as part of the entertainment.

There are a few highlights of many structured and unstructured encounters of Spirit and Friends, some in quiet silence, some in full voice and activity.

Sunday morning Meeting for Worship was followed by a well-attended business meeting. Although there was much to consider and report, the meeting moved along. There will be minutes for those interested.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held November 2, 2002, in the Eggemoggin Reach area, specific location to be announced in the Quarterly newsletter in October.

In regard to the intergenerational spiritual program, there was a suggestion that every monthly meeting that has children have someone on the committee that could meet between quarterly meetings and "do the work."

Molly Duplisa spoke to the need to replace the coordinator so the excellent program for youth and children could be continued. It is a unique program in our New England Yearly Meeting.

Rob Patterson Opens Law Practice

Dear Friends:

I would like you all to know about my new law practice based in Camden and ask for your support in spreading the word to people who you think might appreciate my orientation. My goal is to develop a holistic approach to problem solving and advocacy—to practice law as a healing profession. Sound oxymoronic? “Lawyers” and “healing” in the same sentence? There is a small but growing initiative to find ways to make the legal system more humane and outcomes more restorative and less punitive. My own experience in matters of family law plus my earlier practice in Washington, DC, convinced me that the law as often practiced is a corruption of very noble intentions.

Though my work will, initially, be fairly broad in scope, simply because of the time it takes to develop a specialty practice, my focus will be toward so-called “Elder Law” issues such as Medicaid eligibility and estate recovery, long-term care insurance, wills, trusts, powers of attorney, guardianship and conservatorship, and probate of estates. The demographic reality is that an ever-increasing number of us are facing issues concerning our own aging and that of loved ones, which involve both legal complexity and personal challenge. People need more than a correct interpretation of the law, they need a compassionate and ethical ally.



Please hold in the Light...

Judy and Reuben Bailey. Judy is pregnant with their first child, and having experienced some difficulties, must stay in bed until the baby is born.

Rob Patterson who expects to undergo knee surgery at Maine Med in mid October.

Bill Bowers, recovering from a recent hospitalization.

Carolyn Miller and **George Sparks**, both recently bereaved.

Our dear elder friends, **Erica Welter** and **Chouteau Chapin**.

“To treat life as less than a miracle is to give up on it.”

Wendell Berry, quoted by Barbara Kingsolver in *Small Wonders*. Contributed by Esther Cope



I will make house calls, or clients can meet me at my office in Camden. I think that word of mouth is the very best advertising for a professional practice, so don't look for me to be wielding a baseball bat on TV anytime soon!

If you would like to discuss your legal needs or know someone who is in need of intentional, respectful listening from a law practitioner, I hope you will feel comfortable contacting me.

I should mention that I am also still involved in real estate brokerage as well! You can visit my company, Blue Water Properties, on the Web at www.bluewaterproperty.com.

Thanks, as always for your support!
Rob Patterson, 236-8800
P.O. Box 714, Camden, ME 04843

Sign Up for Freedom

Alternatives to Militarism for Youth in Maine

Saturday, November 9th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine

In the face of increased pressure by military recruiters, high school students face important choices and need to hear about alternatives to violence. The goals for this conference according to the promotional brochure are “to inspire youth to take greater control of their lives and to take action for a more nonviolent world, to reduce fears that young people have about our violent world, and to encourage them to find and practice nonviolent alternatives.”

The keynote speaker will be Kevin Ramirez, program coordinator of the Military in Our Schools Program of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) in Philadelphia. This program counters military recruitment in high schools by presenting information on the realities of military life and gives students information on conscientious objection.

This conference is a first event being sponsored by the new American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Peace and Justice Clearness Committee in Maine. Co-sponsors include Veterans for Peace, Maine Council, the Department of Philosophy and Religion of Bates College, and Maine draft and military counselors.

Information and registrations to: Natalie Kempner, 82 Joseph Mains Rd., Woolwich, ME 04579, 207-442-0907, <natkempner@gwi.net>.

This space available. Friends, this is *your* newsletter. If you want to read interesting news and features, you have to send them to me so I can put them in. In the absence of a co-editor, I am appointing you **all** to the post! E-mailed materials preferred, but I can still retype handwritten copy! NTH

Midcoast Meeting of Friends
PO Box 714, 77 Belvedere Road
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Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends • Clerk: Carmen Lavertu, 354-9556 • Recording Clerk: Rob Patterson, 236-9551 • Treasurer: Paul Diamond, 236-0283 • **The Newsletter** • October 2002 • Volume 14 • Number 8 (This year the January and February issues were combined.)
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