

10<sup>th</sup> Month

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

Oct. 2006



What we need most in order to make progress is to be silent before this great God with our appetite and with our tongue, for the language he best hears is silent love.

*--St. John of the Cross, from his notebooks*

**September**

Saturday	September 30	3 p.m.	Memorial Service for Charlotte Ritter
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**October**

Sunday	October 1	noon	Food Pantry Day *Ash-Spreading Ceremony/Picnic in in Honor of Charlotte Ritter, Barrett's Cove, Camden
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Friday	October 20	6 p.m./7p.m.	Potluck Supper/Meeting for Business
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Saturday	October 21	8:30 a.m-4:00 p.m.	*Maine Council of Churches Conference: "How Shall We Live So that All May Thrive?" at the Augusta Civic Center
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Sunday	October 22	Rise of Meeting	Work Day
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\*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.

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**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](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com). Thanks!*

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For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website: [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org).

*The Entirely Unofficial* **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 9<sup>th</sup> month of 2006  
Based on draft minutes by Jean Crawford

Clerk pro tem Carmen Lavertu opened the session with a period of silence and a reading. Ten members and attenders were present.

Minutes of the previous meeting (seventh month) were not available.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Ministry & Counsel**

Linda Cote-Small reported. A memorial service for Charlotte Ritter will be held on Saturday, September 30, 3 p.m. This will be under the care of the meeting and the location will be the Meetinghouse. (It is possible the location will be changed to a larger space.) A picnic combined with the spreading of Charlotte's ashes is planned for the following day, October 1, at noon. The location is Megunticook Lake, Camden, and details are forthcoming. Karen Cadbury and Deb Haviland were thanked for writing Charlotte's obituary.

Rowan Rowntree reported the plans for the committee's Fall Series. All four events will take place at the Meetinghouse, beginning at 7 p.m. On Monday, September 18, Peggy Smith will present an "Introduction to Non-violent Communication." On Tuesday, October 3, the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, starring Al Gore, will be shown. On Wednesday, October 18, Brewster Grace will present a recent history of Palestinian/Israeli relations and consider the question "Is there a way to peace in the region?" On Wednesday, November 1, Jim Matlack will present "Iraq, Iran and the U.S. – Perils of a Failed Policy."

Ministry & Counsel then presented its proposal for a winter series of speakers and films and the purchase of audio-visual equipment to support such programs. Rowan Rowntree, Linda Cote-Small, and Todd Garth all spoke, with Todd giving the details and cost of the equipment they recommend. The items are: room darkening materials, audio-visual cart with speaker system, digital projector, DVD player, and screen. The estimated cost is \$1,616. The Meeting requested that security measures be taken. It expressed appreciation for the thorough work of the committee and recommended that, by the October Meeting for Business when the proposal could be adopted, Ministry & Counsel consult with appropriate committees and disseminate the information to the meeting. Friends with questions are asked to address them to any member of Ministry & Counsel.

### **Finance**

Paul Diamond reported on the lawsuit brought against the Meeting by someone who fell on ice on our front ramp 18 months ago and broke an ankle. Our liability insurance did not, at that time, cover all of the person's medical expenses. Our insurance company has made partial payment and retained a lawyer on our behalf. The suit may go to mediation or to court within the next months.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Paul Diamond reported that little has been spent by our committees so far this fiscal year. Pledges for 2006-2007 are coming in well.

### **Meetinghouse & Grounds**

Paul Diamond distributed Steve Gorry's list of projects for our work hour on September 24. The meeting expressed appreciation for Steve's comprehensive list, asking that it be sorted according to priorities and that the committee consider hiring out some of the tasks. Committee members responsible to questions concerning the Meetinghouse are: Stephen Gorry for September, Pete Haviland for October and Paul Diamond for November.

### **Outreach**

Jean Crawford reported that publicity of the Fall Series has begun, as well as research on a possible ad about Quakerism and what this Meeting has to offer.

### **First Day School**

Sally Tukey reported that the committee will be severely short of active members this fall. Jean Crawford expressed a concern that childcare be available during the summer months when we are frequented by visitors and First Day School is not in session. Several suggestions were made, and we will return to these concerns at a later time.

### **QUIT**

Carmen Lavertu reported on the work of the New England contingent from the June conference and at Yearly Sessions, where a minute was accepted. It was also endorsed at Quarterly Meeting last weekend. Is our monthly meeting led to act upon it? The Meeting changed the last line of the proposed minute to "call upon its members and the wider community to seek Light and act to end torture." APPROVED. Carmen asked for volunteers to help Friends contact congress

members at this time when they are considering vital legislation. Carmen agreed to invite Friends after worship to meet with her and begin to learn more about the subject. Carmen was thanked for useful information, commitment, and leadership.

#### **Earth Care Committee**

Information on the eco-justice conference sponsored by the Maine Council of Churches on October 21 at the Augusta Civic Center will be given to the Newsletter. It is hoped that a team will represent our Meeting. We will make financial assistance available.

#### **Gifts & Leadings**

The committee is asked to report to the October meeting for business on whether it has found new members and its plans for the upcoming months.

#### **Worship at Morse Mountain**

Carmen or Claire will send a thank you note to Susan St. John.

No further business coming before the Meeting it was adjourned. It will meet next on Friday, October 20, with a potluck supper at 6 p.m. and meeting for business at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

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## **Ministry & Counsel Committee Proposes Program To Nourish Meeting Life and Witness to Our Community**

Ministry & Counsel has responded to two needs expressed by members and attendees of the Midcoast Meeting: (1) To nourish and invigorate our spiritual and intellectual life within the Meeting, and (2) To witness to the Midcoast community our way of life; e.g. a form of inquiry growing out of mutual respect and support, and a richness, in knowledge and dialogue, drawn from our search for personal, community, and global peace. We are blessed with a lovely meetinghouse for warm and peaceful gatherings, but we lack the means to fully meet the two needs above.

Thus, Ministry & Counsel proposed to the monthly business meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> (1) a Fall Program of four presentations, described elsewhere in the Newsletter, and (2) the purchase of audio-visual equipment to support programs aimed at meeting the two needs above. This equipment will also support the activities of the new Peace Center. The cost of the equipment is \$1,616. For details, please contact Linda Cote-Small (563-6712, or [chezcote@gwi.net](mailto:chezcote@gwi.net)) and she will provide you with a copy of the full proposal.

The monthly business meeting agreed to take the proposal into consideration and to make a decision at their October meeting. In the meantime, both the Finance and the Meetinghouse & Grounds committees will be reviewing the proposal. All who review the proposal are encouraged to contact Linda, or Todd Garth, at 677-2757 or [Todd\\_Garth@yahoo.com](mailto:Todd_Garth@yahoo.com), with questions about the equipment and Rowan Rowntree at 549-3020 ([rowanrowntree@aol.com](mailto:rowanrowntree@aol.com)), about other aspects of the proposal before the business meeting. This will enable M&C to do additional research to answer your questions so that a decision can be made at the October business meeting.



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### **CLERK'S CORNER**

It is early the morning after returning late from Austria, where Rick and I sang a Mozart Mass in Salzburg Cathedral, and then immediately flew home. I still have the music running gloriously in my head and have not fully returned to regular life and its concerns. So, I hold my words until the next Newsletter, and in the meantime, "Auf Wiedersehen!"

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### ***QUERY: The Meeting Community***

*Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Do you share each other's joys and burdens? When conflicts arise, do you seek in mutual forgiveness and tenderness to resolve them speedily? Are you careful of the reputation of others? Do you seek beyond all differences of opinion and circumstance for unity in the divine life?*

## MINISTRY & COUNSEL

### Sharing Our Gifts with the Community While Strengthening Our Understanding and Spirituality

The Ministry and Counsel Committee has been working to create a Fall/Winter Program Series. The committee's hoped-for outcomes in providing such a series are:

1. Wider community awareness of Quakerism
2. Broader commitment to peace
3. Deepening our own spirituality and our related understanding of environmental issues and world affairs, etc.
4. A fuller use of our resources

The Fall Program Series is listed below. The committee is still in the process of planning a Winter Series. These events will be open to the public for free and take place at the meetinghouse.

Fall Peace Series:

1. Monday, September 18, Introduction to Nonviolent Communication with Peggy Smith (already taken place)
2. Tuesday, October 3, *An Inconvenient Truth*, film showing as part of a national event sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light called "Spotlight on Global Warming."
3. Wednesday, October 18, Brewster Grace speaking on the recent history of the Palestinian-Israeli relationship and if there is a way toward peace in that region.
4. Wednesday, November 1, Jim Matlack on "Iraq, Iran, and the U.S.--Perils of a Failed Policy."

We hope to see you there!

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### ***ADVICE: The Meeting Community***

*Let us live in love as members of a Christian community. Let us be ready to give and receive help, to rejoice together in the blessings of life and to sympathize with each other in its trials.*

*Let us maintain unity: let us avoid tale-bearing and detraction, acknowledge differences and seek to settle conflicts promptly in a manner free from resentment and all forms of inward violence; let us visit one another, making sure that those who are alone are drawn into the wider family of Friends. Thus, we may know one another as fellow workers in the things that endure.*

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## MEETINGHOUSE & GROUNDS--by Steve Gorry

We had a great work hour this drizzly misty Sunday morning. There were plenty of people working in the garden and inside. I was also pleased to see people doing the important work of greeting and feeding guests and each other. That is as it should be.

In the garden: Look for improved visibility as you leave the meetinghouse driveway on the left. Look for a newly weeded Memorial Circle, parking-lot beds, and parking lot and beds in general. The Quaker Meeting sign was given a nice scrub down. A peony was transplanted next to the ramp for display next spring. The bayberry next to the ramp was nicely pruned to shape and strength. Many other things were tackled to give an overall sense that the grounds cared for and tended.

Inside, screens were taken out for better natural light. Thermostats were anchored better to the walls, and bulletin boards were weeded. More than anything, with so many people working and enjoying good company, it just feels great to be part of the Meeting for Weeding and Greeting. Oh, and Feeding.

We will charge at the rest of the things on the list on Sunday, October 22, at the rise of meeting. Mark your calendars, bring snacks to enjoy and share. Weather permitting, we will do as much outside as possible and keep working away at the things that are interior in nature over the winter. If, as Carolyn points out, we need to hire some of these things out, we can.

## Obituary: CHARLOTTE RITTER

CAMDEN (Sep 15): Charlotte Ritter, a resident of Camden for 20 years, died Sunday, Aug. 13, 2006 at Shore Village Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Rockland with great dignity and grace after a relatively short illness at the age of 86.

Many people in the Midcoast and throughout Maine knew and loved Charlotte. She was an active and engaged person, contributing greatly to her community, her Friends Meeting (Quaker), in her professional field of occupational therapy and as a practitioner of alternative medicine. She was a finely trained, recognized painter who produced art individually and in collaboration with artists in Maine, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Born in 1919, Charlotte grew up in Glenside, Penn., a suburb of Philadelphia, where she attended Abington High School. After high school, she studied fashion illustration at the Moore Institute (now the Moore College of Art), one of the first art schools in the country exclusively for women. After graduation in 1941, she worked as a freelance artist for several department stores in Philadelphia, including Gimbel's Department Store and, later, as a designer of sheet music covers for Theodore Pressers.

At the advent of the World War II, Charlotte found that she was deeply affected by the large number of war injuries. She wanted to acquire additional skills so that she could be effective in assisting GIs returning from the war. To fulfill this goal, she volunteered to teach art at the Army Hospital in Valley Forge, Penn. and traveled to Washington, D.C. to observe trained occupational therapists working with soldiers. She received her formal training at the Second Army War Emergency Course at the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy, a four-month concentrated occupational training program, followed by a four-month internship in Atlantic City, N.J. at a place where four large hotels had been converted into a single hospital serving 4,000 amputees, paraplegics and brain-damaged soldiers. After the internship, she worked at the Army Psychiatric Hospital in Long Island, N.Y.

Following her training, Charlotte was employed at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, where she worked with cerebral palsy patients and at the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled in New York. Later, she also worked at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, N.J., an internationally recognized

integrated rehabilitation program for civilian amputees, medical and neurological treatment. In 1945, when she found that she was supervising interns and graduate students in her work, she sought additional training at the University of New Hampshire, where she completed an undergraduate degree in occupational therapy and a master's in education. During her graduate studies, she received a two-year fellowship from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and taught at the University of New Hampshire's School of Occupational Therapy.

Throughout her professional career as an occupational therapist, she continued to integrate periodic teaching and graduate internship appointments with employment opportunities in which she had direct contact with patients. She completed internships at Warm Springs in Georgia and at the Hartford Rehabilitation Center, where she evaluated patients for pre-vocational work and matched patients' abilities with the job skills they would need post rehabilitation. She taught at the University of Wisconsin, Boston University and at the Boston State Hospital, where she worked with severely regressed patients. In 1970, she became the coordinator of occupational therapy at the New Hampshire State Hospital, where she worked with nurses, medical residents and occupational therapy students. At NHSH, she introduced "movement therapy" into the curriculum, which was later adopted as a standard part of the hospital's rehabilitation program.

In 1986, Charlotte moved to Camden, where she joined the home-health care agency Know-Wal-Lin as a home-based occupational therapist. In 1987, she retired from the formal practice of occupational therapy.

During the years of her professional life, Charlotte practiced occupational therapy in traditional medical settings, but her knowledge of health, healing and the importance of physical well-being led her to explore and then to pursue several types of alternative medicine. She became a practitioner of therapeutic touch and health kinesiology, which uses muscle testing, diet and nutrition to tap vital energy sources within the body and to make "energy" corrections, based on ancient Chinese acupuncture. Charlotte always felt that these practices were "...an honor and responsibility to be doing," and that they offered a holistic way of healing that nurtures the body, mind and spirit.

Her career as an occupational therapist was parallel by a sustaining commitment to her artistic work in painting and other related areas of art. She continued to expand the knowledge that she had gained as an art student at the Moore Institute by taking courses and classes throughout her life. Her work was exhibited in galleries in Maine and New Jersey. As Moore College of Art's oldest graduate, in 2006, she exhibited intricate, detailed watercolors of Greenland and the Davis Straits north of the Labrador Seas for a judged, invitational, group show at the college.

She was a lifelong, active member of several artists' groups, a member of a dance troupe, a drummer and practiced Chi Lel Chi'gong. She played music in various music groups throughout the area and piano at Windward Gardens, for long-term care and retired residents. For many years, Charlotte worked with the American Friends Service Committee's Maine Indian Program. She believed strongly in securing better opportunities and prosperity for America's Native people and she was especially interested in seeing more resources dedicated to improving life for Native people in Maine. She was an avid outdoor person who celebrated her eightieth birthday by going dog sledding across northern Maine.

Charlotte had never been a patient in a hospital until spring of 2006 when she entered the hospital for a diagnostic test. After the two-day hospital stay, she

moved to a rehabilitation center in Rockland, but she continued until the last week of her life to visit her home, work in her garden, attend "ecstatic" dance classes and to go out to dinner, the movies, on a garden tour, to concerts and art openings and — most especially — to visit with friends.

She is survived by her brother, Kenneth Ritter and his wife Barbara from Moorestown, N.J.; her nieces, Marcia Young Ritter Doiron (William) and Ann Stewart Ritter Wilson (Gregory); her nephews, Thomas Kenneth Ritter (Lisa) and Robert Steven Ritter (Holly); her great-nieces, Rebecca Hobbs Ritter, Kristin Anne Ritter, Amanda Stewart Ritter and Emma Hamilton Wilson; her great-nephews, Kyle Livingstone Ritter and MacLean Kenneth. She was predeceased by several months by her dear friend Lid Hill Brady from Wycombe, Penn., with whom she had been friends since the sixth grade and whose family introduced her as a child to many Friends (Quaker) values.

A memorial service in the tradition of Friends (Quakers) will be held at Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Friends on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 3 p.m. at 77 Belvedere Rd. in Damariscotta.

A celebration and picnic honoring Charlotte will be held Sunday, Oct. 1 at noon at Megunticook Lake in Camden. For more information call 562-6712 or 230-0436.

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## Invitation to Charlotte Ritter's Ash-Spreading Ceremony and Picnic

You are invited to attend an a Ceremony to Scatter Charlotte's Ashes and Picnic for Charlotte Ritter on Sunday, October 1, at noon at the Barrett's Cove Park on Lake Megunticook (see directions below) in Camden. The ceremony will be outdoors on the water regardless of weather. You are welcome to bring canoes or kayaks if you'd like. If you do, please arrive early to put in.

Lunch will be provided. RSVP your intention to come to Jill Abernathy at <[jaberwocky048@yahoo.com](mailto:jaberwocky048@yahoo.com)> by Wednesday, Sept 27. If you don't have e-mail contact Linda Cote-Small at 563-6712 and leave a message.

In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held at Rob Patterson's home on Molyneaux Road across from the Yoga Barn.

### Directions:

Take Rt. 105 from Camden, take a right on Molyneaux. Take the first left off of Molyneaux onto Beaucaire. The park is very visible. From Mountain St in Camden, or Rte. 52, it's the sharp left at the bottom of the hill just before the Megunticook (Maiden's Cliff) hike parking area. You'll be on Beaucaire, and the park will be to your right.



## Celebrating Co-op Month

By Erbin Crowell, Providence (RI) Monthly Meeting

October is Co-operative Month and co-ops across the country will be celebrating around the theme "Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities."

What does this have to do with Quakers? From its first days, the Religious Society of Friends has asserted that living faithfully cannot be confined to places of worship but rather must encompass every aspect of our lives. To the extent that our *economic* relationships constitute our most tangible interaction with one another, Friends have long wrestled with how to bring our business activities in line with our spiritual witness. Early Quakers were not just vocal critics of conventional modes of commerce; they were also businesspeople and active creators of alternatives. Friends gained a reputation for honesty and integrity in business, and many became successful. At the same time, traditions of simplicity and plain living reduced expenses, freeing resources for other purposes in the community.

In response to growing economic success, some Friends consciously limited their commercial engagements. Others came to recognize the links between trade and oppression, and refused to produce materials for war or purchase the products of slavery, and appealed to members of the Society and others to disengage from such enterprises. One such Friend, John Bright (1811-1889), was a Quaker factory owner and parliamentarian from Rochdale, England, who employed his resources as an abolitionist and advocate of the "Rochdale Pioneers," the founders of the modern co-operative movement.

Later, here in New England, our own yearly meeting's Faith and Practice identifies concerns with "control of industry," proposing that employees and employers consider themselves "co-operators sharing in their common purpose to serve their community" (1930 edition). The concept of formal representation for workers and consumers in relationship to business owners and "wise experimentation looking toward answers to these questions" is proposed. It is further asserted that wealth should be regarded as a means and not an end, its responsibilities "assumed in a broad spirit of Christian service and brotherhood."

The following edition of NEYM's Faith and Practice (1950) likewise states that "the development

of a sensitive conscience concerning the existing maladjustments, unfair practices, and positive evils of our economic system should be a vital concern to all Friends," asserting that "the problem of distribution in the world's economic order should be a matter of profound Christian concern." During the same decade, British Quaker and industrialist Ernest Bader (1890-1982) began experimenting with worker co-operation, eventually turning his company over to his employees. Today, the Scott-Bader Commonwealth is a worker-owned and controlled company operating on an international level ([www.scottbader.com](http://www.scottbader.com)). While other "Quaker" businesses have been converted into investor-driven institutions indistinguishable from conventional firms, the Commonwealth remains true to the values established by the founders who had the courage to give up its control to their co-workers.

While more recent editions of Faith & Practice have been somewhat vague in their economic concerns, it comes as no surprise to find many Friends active in the co-op movement. After all, our spiritual individualism is matched only by our commitment to a radical, participatory democracy. We honor each person's direct link to the divine, but emphasize community as the more accurate lens through which to understand God. How then would we translate such a spiritual vision into an economic one?

A co-op is defined by the International Co-operative Alliance as "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise" guided by the values of "self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others."

Want to know more? For more information on co-operatives and Co-op Month, visit [www.coopmonth.coop](http://www.coopmonth.coop) or feel free to contact me at [<erbin@cox.net>](mailto:erbin@cox.net).



The trees, the flowers, the plants grow in silence. The stars, the sun, the moon move in silence. Silence gives us a new perspective.

--Blessed Mother Teresa

## Maine Council of Churches Conference on Eco-Justice

The Maine Council of Churches will present a conference on eco-justice, "How Shall We Live So That All May Thrive?" on Saturday, October 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Augusta Civic Center. The keynote speaker will be Gary Gardner, Senior Researcher at WorldWatch Institute.

Please see the flyers on the meetinghouse credenza for more information and registration forms. The Meeting is encouraged to send a team to the conference -- teams will receive discounts on registration. The Meeting is offering financial assistance to anyone who would like to attend but would have difficulty affording it -- please let Treasurer Paul Diamond know.

According to the flyer, "Speakers, practical workshops, exhibits and discussions will inspire, inform, and equip you to meet the great moral challenge of our times, in your own section of neighborhood Earth. This is a working conference. Come as a team if you can. A working team will help to keep you energized and empowered when the day is over."