

Midcoast Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Photo: George Waldman

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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Newsletter—October 2012
Vol. 24, No. 10
Published every month but
August.

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October

Sunday	Oct. 7	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch—followed by Work Group
Saturday	Oct. 13	9:30-12:30	*Peace Workshop, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor
Monday	Oct. 15	4 p.m.	*Peace & Social Concerns Comm.
Sunday	Oct. 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Fri.-Sat.	Oct. 26-27		*Deepening Worship, Woolman Hill
Sunday	Oct. 28	Rise of Meeting	* <i>Faith & Practice</i> discussion

November

Saturday	Nov. 3		*Quarterly Meeting, Whiting
Sunday	Nov. 4	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch—followed by Work Group
Sunday	Nov. 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

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

PENDING MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—September 16, 2012

Co-clerk David Cadbury opened the session with a moment of silence. There were twenty-one members and attenders present. Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee – Assistant Treasurer Martin Imm distributed a report for the first three months of the fiscal year, beginning June first. Activity was limited over the summer; there is a small surplus. Investment income is expected to increase \$2600 this year. We are transferring \$500 per quarter from investments until pledges catch up. Treasurer Deb Haviland reported we have so far received \$8,740 in pledges from 20 members and attenders.

Peace Center – Karen Cadbury reported the steering committee is planning a series on farming, fishing, and climate change for early 2013.

Peace & Social Concerns – Gretchen Hull reported the committee was reinstated last May.

Meetinghouse & Grounds – George Waldman reported that he and Guy Marsden will repair the deck and paint the worst sections of the trim. The entire trim should be painted in the spring, for which funds should be allocated. Friends need to consider if we need/want a full-time gardener. Our long-term plan is to transition to lower maintenance landscaping, but volunteer or hired help is needed for the transition. The vegetable garden utilizes a no-till method of meadow conversion which takes place over a period of years.

Ministry & Counsel – Mallory Waldman reported. The committee received a letter requesting membership from Linda Murray. A clearness committee has been appointed and will meet with Linda soon. Ministry & Counsel has sent 14 letters to members we have not seen for a long time in an effort to update the membership list. After discussing the relationship between the number of members and our yearly contribution to NEYM (New England Yearly Meeting), Friends felt that NEYM is not strict about the amount we contribute and little alteration of the list is called for. They referred the matter to Ministry & Counsel for consideration and consultation with others.

Other New Business – Karen Cadbury reported the Peace Center steering committee has discussed **keeping the meetinghouse open** for periods of time during the week. They favor the idea. After discussion, the meeting established an ad-hoc committee to facilitate this. Volunteers to date are: Cynthia Thomas, Carmen Lavertu, Rachel McGinness, Nancy Booth, Willow Rowntree, Gretchen Hull, Sue Rockwood, Suzy Hallett, and Bruce Rockwood.

OLD BUSINESS:

A letter from Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting requesting scholarship support for the **Ramallah Friends School**: The school was founded by Rufus and Sybil Jones, members of our Quarter. Friends requested the letter be published in the Newsletter with information that, in addition to the Meeting's yearly contribution to the Quarter, one-time private donations may be made out to Midcoast Monthly Meeting, earmarked for Ramallah Scholarship Fund, and sent to Deb Haviland. Gretchen Hull suggested that Peace & Social Concerns could organize a yard sale here to benefit this cause.

Universalist-Unitarian Church's need for worship space – Suzy Hallett reported that the Hospitality Committee has invited any members of the UU congregation to worship with us and stay for potluck on February 3.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Meeting received a letter from former member **Holly Baldwin**, presently clerk of the Permanent Board of NEYM. Holly requests hospitality for a day-long meeting of the Permanent Board on Saturday, October 17. Refreshments during the day would be needed. Some overnight hospitality may be needed. The Meeting approved the request. Volunteers to date include Carmen Lavertu, Sue Rockwood, and Pat Spock. There will be an item in the Newsletter.

Letter from **Lincoln County churches** – A letter concerning support for the homeless was deferred to the next meeting for business.

Former attender **Linda Cote-Small** sent greetings and word that she and Edward are moving to Belfast. Friends remembered Linda's many contributions to the work of our Meeting, especially non-violent communication and Alternatives to Violence. It was suggested that Ministry & Counsel send Linda a note of appreciation.

Meeting representatives to handle **NEYM and Quarterly Meeting** matters: Carmen Lavertu spoke of the need for more interest in these worthwhile happenings. There is a Conference Fund in the budget for financial assistance with travel and attendance. The next Quarterly Meeting will be the first Saturday in November.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2012, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. These minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

--David Cadbury, Co-clerk; Jean Crawford, Rec. Sec'y Pro Tem

Join Cobscook Friends on Saturday, November 3, 2012

For Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting
9:00AM- 11:30 at Cobscook Friends Meeting House in Whiting
11:45 – 4:30PM at Whiting Community Building

8:30 a.m. Coffee (breads, muffins, and the like will be provided)
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
11:45 a.m. Lunch (Please bring a brown bag lunch. Cobscook Friends will provide beverages, fruit, and desserts.)
1:00-4:30 p.m. Afternoon presentation with Steve Chase

Faith as Creative Maladjustment: The Prophetic Call To Spiritual Activism

This Quarterly Meeting program will focus on the core quality of faithfulness that Martin Luther King once called being in a state of "creative maladjustment" to an unjust, war-ridden, and unsustainable world.

The afternoon session will include small group discussions, interactive exercises, large group worship sharing, and a guest presentation by Steve Chase, a member of Putney Friends Meeting and the author of the new Quaker Press book *Letters To A Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction To The Quaker Way*. Steve is also a co-coordinator of the *Quakers In Transition* project of the Earthcare Ministries Committee of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends and a professor of Advocacy for Social Justice and Sustainability at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH.

During this afternoon together, we will explore how we can become more faithful channels of God's love in the world and help build the Beloved Community here and now.

Extra! At 7:00pm, the Lubec transition group will meet with Steve Chase at the Cobscook Meeting House. All Friends are welcome.

Please let us know if you plan to come to VQM at Cobscook!

For overnight hospitality, please contact Janet Weston **at least two weeks in advance** at 733-4821 or jbweston@gmail.com

For attendance on the day, please contact Janet Weston **anytime up to the date** .

If childcare is needed, please contact Beth Clifford **at least 2 weeks in advance** at 214-4988 or betheclifford@gmail.com as no children's program is currently planned.

Directions:

(Coming from Machias on Route 1)

1. Go approximately 17 miles northeast to Whiting, Maine.
2. Upon arrival in Whiting, you will note the Whiting Community Building on the left, followed by a church and small white school on the left.
3. Turn right onto Route 189, signposted to Lubec.
[Note: If you come to a store and Gulf gas station, you have gone too far!]
4. Go six-tenths (.6) of a mile on Route 189 and you will see the sign for Cobscook Friends Meeting on the left.
5. Turn left at the sign and you are at the Meeting House. (733-4904)

The Whiting Community Building (which you passed in Whiting on Route 1) is where we will have lunch and the afternoon program. Morning program will be at the Cobscook Meeting House.

FROM Ministry & Counsel: FAITH & PRACTICE

Ministry & Council is hosting the third discussion of *Faith & Practice*, at the rise of meeting, October 28. A notice will be posted on the bulletin board as to which pages will be covered. All are welcome!

FROM Meetinghouse & Grounds: Post-potluck Work Hours

Work hours are scheduled for October and November, following the first-Sunday potlucks. Your participation in helping to keep our lovely meetinghouse and grounds inviting is most appreciated!



**DEEPENING WORSHIP—at WOOLMAN HILL
COLIN SAXTON AND CHRISTOPHER SAMMOND
OCTOBER 26-27, 2012**

CRACKED OPEN: Going Deeper into the Why, What and How of our Quaker Practice

“Spirit-filled worship is something we can’t plan for or make happen; it is a gift. But there are things we can do which will make us more likely to find this gift, and more able to open to it when it begins to arrive.”

“Worship is at the heart of all we do as Friends... And we mostly leave each other to find our own way in this crucial part of our lives. Come join others in learning ways to enrich our common worship, the lifeblood of our communal faith and practice.”

“[Deepening Worship](#)” is a program on a topic that we rarely give enough attention. It will be facilitated by Christopher Sammond, General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting, and Colin Saxton, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting.

Woolman Hill invites Friends to join them as they launch their first weekend workshop in the series “Cracked Open: Going Deeper into the Why, What and How of Quaker Practice.” The series is a joint effort of New England Yearly Meeting Ministry & Counsel, Quaker Studies Program, and Woolman Hill. This particular offering in the series is co-sponsored by Friends United Meeting’s North American Ministries.

You can read more about the [program here](#), and more about the [Cracked Open series](#) here, or go to Woolman Hill's [Upcoming Programs](#) page for further information.

QUERIES

Personal Conduct—Do you live with simplicity, moderation, and integrity? Are you punctual in keeping promises, careful in speech, just and compassionate in all your dealings with others? Do you take care that your spiritual growth is not sacrificed to busyness but instead integrates your life's activities? Are your recreations consistent with Quaker values; do they refresh your spirit and renew your body and mind?

Peace Training Workshop with Chuck Fager, Director of Quaker House, Fayetteville, NC

Saturday, October 13, 2012, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Gates Auditorium, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor
Presented by Acadia Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends
FREE to the Public

Highlights:

- Why working with Congress and the White House unproductive.
- How the military actually has the best methods for working for peace.
- Ideas and actions for ordinary people that really make a difference.
- Why working mostly with the “powers that be” is a mistake and which groups should be worked with.
- Why the best peace work asks different questions and sets different priorities, and what priorities should be set.
- Why we should re-examine what the “power structure” really is.
- Why most conventional approaches to peace work don't work, and which approaches do.
- How to readjust the ways we think about peace work to make it more productive
- Why and how I studied war to learn how to work better for peace

For more information, contact: Eric J. Uberseder, 288-0483 or tzarathu@myfairpoint.net; or Dr. Gray Cox, gcox@coa.edu.

Supporting Ramallah Friends School

We have received the following letter in a letter from Hank Washburn:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Committee of Concern for the Friends School in Ramallah, a group within Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting of Friends. Our committee has undertaken to raise funds to provide a scholarship for a student to attend Ramallah Friends School. We are asking your meeting to consider helping us, by making a contribution to Quaker education in Palestine.

In November of 2010, Joyce Ajlouny, the Director of Ramallah Friends School visited the Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting in Farmington. She told the story of the school that Eli and Sybil Jones from China Monthly Meeting founded in 1869, and of the great challenges of maintaining the school during its long history, up to the current Israeli occupation. A number of Friends present that day felt moved to offer support to the school, feeling that it upholds Quaker ideas and values in a very troubled part of the world.

Since that time, those Friends and some others have formed the Committee of Concern for Friends School in Ramallah. They established the Eli and Sybil Jones Ramallah Friends School Scholarship Fund, with the goal of sending enough money to support one student for 13 years of education. With the generous help of the Quarter, many monthly meetings, and individual contributors, the first installment of \$2800 was wired directly to Ramallah Friends School this April.

Our goal now is to sustain this support through 2024 and beyond. We wish to continue the living connection to the school that was founded by members of our Quarter 143 years ago. Since beginning, this work, we have learned of the many people in our area who have connections to the Ramallah School, and have also learned a great deal more about the serious nature of the problems in Palestine today. We strongly believe that providing the future citizens and leaders of Palestine with a Quaker education, with its emphasis on conciliation and achieving peace, is more important now than ever before. With everyone's help, we can help fund the important mission of the Ramallah Friends School, now and in the future.

Midcoast Friends are invited to support this good work by sending Deb Haviland (33 Stonewood Rd., Rockland, ME 04841) a check, payable to Midcoast Meeting with a note indicating support for Ramallah Friends School.

Postcard from Linda Cote-Small

August 11, 2012

Dear Friends,

We are about a month away from our move up to Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage. I have not come to meeting in recent months; one reason is that I am devoting a lot of time to committee work for our new community. I am grateful for and appreciate your support over the years and the opportunity to contribute to the community. You are welcome to some visit—call me on my cell 322-2122.

Love,
Linda

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee met on October 1 and decided to pursue several activities this month.

We encourage Meeting members and the larger community to follow the Bill McKibben "Do the Math" tour regarding the Tar Sands pipeline issue. He will be speaking in Portland on November 13, and we will intend to organize car pools to attend. To learn more about the event or to join a car pool, please contact Linda Murray (loonsong204@gmail.com) or speak to anyone on P&SC—Gretchen Hull, Carmen Lavertu, Rachel McGinness, or Debbie Atwell.

We also plan to invite Nancy Booth's friend Sister Marjorie Rafael to the Meeting for a tea and to raise interest in and support for her work in Haiti. If you'd like to help in this effort, please speak to Nancy Booth or someone else in the group.

All are invited to the next meeting of P&SC on Monday, October 15, 4 p.m., at the meetinghouse.

Midcoast Meeting Member Gretchen Noyes-Hull sent the following to the editor of the Boothbay Register:

As we head into the final days of this election cycle, we encourage everyone to ask candidates these questions, provided by FCNL.

- 1) Pentagon spending has doubled in the last decade, with contractors getting much of the increase: "Would you support cutting the Pentagon budget back to 2007 levels?"
- 2) The president plans to keep US troops in Afghanistan through, or beyond, 2014: "Do you support bringing all troops home from Afghanistan before 2014?"
- 3) Investing to prevent war is 60 times more cost-effective than military intervention after a crisis erupts. However Congress has cut funding even for small programs like the Complex Crises Fund and Civilian Response Corps, that can help prevent violent conflict: "Do you support funding for programs like the Complex Crises Fund to help the State Department peacefully prevent deadly conflict?"
- 4) Former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz and others argue that the US should pursue a "world free of nuclear weapons": "Will you support ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty?"
- 5) The threats between the US and Iran continue to escalate; "Do you support direct talks with Iran to prevent war and nuclear proliferation?"
- 6) Some employers cannot find workers while some US workers feel threatened by immigration; "What kind of comprehensive immigration reform do you support to help employers and workers?"
- 7) The federal government heavily subsidizes coal, oil and gas companies; "Do you support ending subsidies for fossil fuel companies and keeping subsidies for renewable energy?"
- 8) Existing laws to keep our democracy strong by limiting corruption and promoting transparency in election contributions have become ineffective; "Should the Constitution be amended to regulate how campaigns are financed?"

Information about these items are in the FCNL Jan/Feb newsletter and, of course, online: www.fcnl.org/QFC.

MAINE NATIVE TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Prompted by an article entitled [“Stolen from Home as a Child, Tortured, Now Ending the Silence”](#) in a recent issue of the *Bangor Daily News*, Jean Crawford would like to remind Friends of the landmark work of Maine Quakers, AFSC, and Native tribes in the establishment of the first cooperative Truth and Reconciliation process to be undertaken by Native tribes and a US state. The new Maine Tribal TRC will address the damage done by the child-welfare system to Native children and families. For more details, please visit <https://afsc.org/story/maine-launches-historic-truth-and-reconciliation-process> and <http://www.mainetribaltrc.org>.

QUAKER PEACE ACTIVIST THOMAS STURTEVANT DIES—Carmen Lavertu was touched by the Memorial Minute for Tom Sturtevant, which was read at Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting. Because many Midcoast Friends knew Tom, Carmen hoped that excerpts from the Memorial Minute could be printed here.

Thomas Charles Sturtevant died unexpectedly Saturday evening, January 7, 2012 at the age of 83, at his home. Tom was a longtime resident of Winthrop and touched many lives in multiple roles – educator, peace and community activist, volunteer, father, grandfather, friend and neighbor. He was a faithful part of our meeting community for the past six or seven years and prior to that, of the Pondtown Friends Meeting. While never overtly pushing us, he always kept us informed of activities and by his example and encouragement he inspired us to become more action-oriented. We delighted in his wonderful mixture of visionary energy and practicality mixed with simple kindness.

The attendance by 500-600 people at his memorial service attests to his widespread influence, but it was not just what he did, but who he was, that touched us so deeply. We knew him as a man of true integrity and compassion. He was generous, enthusiastic, dogged, earnest and very humble, with a heart-warming smile. Above all he was a peacemaker. Tom had served for four years in the navy during the Korean War and it was during that time that the seeds of his peace activism were sown. He began to question the legitimacy of war as a means to settle conflict, and was struck to the heart by the destruction he was helping to cause. In 1985, he became a charter member of Veterans for Peace. The organization was founded in Auburn, Maine, with just 20 members, and has grown into a national organization with hundreds of chapters and thousands of members.

* * *

One of the highlights for Tom, in recent years, was a trip to Seoul, South Korea in 2009 for the Veterans for Peace Global Network conference.

From a man in Korea came the following accolade upon learning of Tom’s death: “It is sad news for the people like me in Korea, too. I remember Tom’s gentle and beautiful smile. He was such a kind and generous man! We could feel how good-natured, thoughtful, and courageous man he was. I was also surprised when he walked so healthily with vitality near the DMZ, in Pyeongtaek and Mugeon-ri in 2009. His presence and manner, and concern in small details touched me deeply at the time. The Veterans for Peace of Korea has kept his banner so precious. How wonderful it is that he has connected the bridge between the veterans in the United States and Korea. Despite psychological and physical scars from war, the solidarity between the VFP in U.S. and Korea has touched many people. It is a beacon of hope and love for our next generations. How honorable man he is! I can hardly express my thanks to him for his wish for the Jeju conference. I feel his love of Korea. It is a gift from love that we should accept with deep gratitude and respect. The Jeju struggle has grown up thanks to many peace-loving people in the world like Tom, who understand how critical this struggle is. Here I send my sincere homage and love for him. We will remember him. Tom will be always with us.”

ADVICES

Personal Conduct—Let us bring the whole of our daily lives under the ordering of the Spirit. Let our faith free us from crippling fears so that we may live adventurously. In relations with others, let us exercise imagination, understanding, and sympathy. Let us live and work in the plainness and simplicity of true followers of Christ.

In view of the evils arising from the use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks and from the abuse of drugs, Friends are advised to consider whether they should refrain from using them, from offering them to others, and from having any share in their manufacture or sale. We should not let the claims of good fellowship or the fear of seeming peculiar influence our decision.

Let us maintain integrity in word and deed. Holding to the simplicity of truth, let us keep free of oaths. Remember how widespread and diverse are the temptations to grow rich at the expense of others, and how apparently harmless indulgence often leads by degrees to wrong-doing. Let us avoid and discourage every kind of betting and gambling and commercial speculations of a gambling character.

Friends have always held that the sacred nature of a sexual relationship is affirmed only in marriage. In recent times, however, some Friends have found such affirmation in other contexts. Let us be certain, in any case, that we hold up to the Light any sexual relationship we may be considering and reject any relationship that may violate the integrity or spiritual welfare of either of the partners or of others. No relationship can be a right one which makes use of another person through selfish desire.

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