

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

Newsletter—October 2015
Vol. 27, No. 10
Published every month but
August.

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

October

Sun.	Oct. 4	10:00 a.m. Rise of Meeting	*World Quaker Day First-Day Program during Worship 20th-Anniversary Celebration
Mon.	Oct. 5	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Tues.	Oct. 13	9:30-11:30 am.	*Challenge of Change
Sun.	Oct. 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Mon.	Oct. 19	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Tues.	Oct. 27	9:30-11:30 am.	*Challenge of Change

November

Sun.	Nov.. 1	10:00 a.m. Rise of Meeting	First-Day Program during Worship Potluck Lunch
Mon.	Nov.. 2	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sat.	Nov. 7	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	*Vassalboro Qtrly Mtg., Belfast
Tues.	Nov. 10	9:30-11:30 am.	*Challenge of Change
Sun.	Nov.. 15	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Mon.	Nov.. 16	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Tues.	Nov. 24	9:30-11:30 am.	*Challenge of Change

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—September 20, 2015

Clerk Jim Matlack called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. and began with a few minutes of silent worship. Ten people attended, later joined by an eleventh. Agenda was approved, followed by approval of the minutes of the July 19, 2015, business meeting.

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

Clerk Bruce Rockwood being absent, David Cadbury reported for the committee:

- a. *A revised “Minute of Change of Financial Officers for Fiscal Year June 1, 2015-May 31, 2016” was amended to replace Bruce Rockwood’s title from “Chair” to “Clerk.” The Business Meeting approved the amended minute.*
- b. The key to the Meeting’s safety deposit box has yet to be found. If former treasurer Paul Diamond does not, on the off chance, have a key, a new key will need to be made, for the probable fee of \$280.
- c. The Four Winds Development Fund investment has been changed as approved by the July Meeting for Business: \$ 5,000 to be rolled over and \$5,000 refunded to the Meeting.
- d. The Finance Committee has engaged the outside consulting firm of Gordon and LeClaire to independently review all finance processes and procedures. After this review, the committee will consult professional bookkeepers about the best methods of bookkeeping.
- e. Payroll is being handled by a professional payroll organization, and bills are being paid by the Meeting’s treasurer as usual.

Martin Imm presented and the Business Meeting approved the final year end report covering June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015: Receipts were slightly greater than budgeted. Expenditures were greater than budgeted. The budget deficit was \$2630. Despite the strain on last year’s budget, total assets increased by \$3,846.00, largely because of performance of investments.

The costs for fixing (replacing?) the pump are thought to be between \$1,500 and \$1,600.

2. Ministry & Counsel Committee

Co-clerk Suzy Hallet reported for the committee:

- a. M&C is looking to expand their committee by two or three new members.
- b. Diane Kirkman has again expressed her desire to be relieved of doing the Meeting newsletter . No one has as yet shown interest. Discussion followed as to how the newsletter responsibility might be divided among two or more people. Suggestions are welcome.

3. Meetinghouse & Grounds Committee

Steve Gorry reported:

- a. A suitable pole has been found from Sally Cartwright’s property. From this pole, Steve will fashion a Peace Pole: 8-sided, 8 feet high, painted a light color. Each side will have the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth,” each in a different language. The pole will be installed in honor of the Meeting’s 20th anniversary and will be in place by our Oct. 4th celebration. *The Meeting agreed that the languages on the pole would include the 5 official languages of the United Nations plus 3 others to be selected.*

[continued on pg. 3]

4. Pastoral Care Committee

Co-clerk Willow Rowntree reported

- a. Participants of Pastoral Care's second Listening Workshop on Sept. 19 have expressed a desire to continue with group listening experiences. Those who attended the first workshop in July, as well as some who are interested but were unable to attend either workshop, have also said they want a chance to participate.
- b. Willow described the process used, which is based on the work of Rachel DuBois, the developer of "Quaker Dialogues." A particular characteristic of the process is silent listening, reacting to the speaker solely through empathetic presence. The Meeting approved a request from the PC committee to continue offering similar listening experiences at varied times and dates to make them accessible to more people.
- c. Willow and Carmen Lavertu, representing the Pastoral Care Committee, agreed that Ministry & Counsel has the purview to set up Friendly 8s. The prior year, Judith and Martin Imm had set up Friendly 8s on an ad-hoc basis, not because Judith was a PC member.

5. Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center

- a. Brewster Grace reported that the center is working on plans and proposals for funding for a six-speaker series with the theme of "How do we respond to humanitarian needs?" Brewster cited a wide range of needs, including the pressures being put on Europe to absorb refugees, the suffering of those fleeing from civil war in the Middle East, people being forced from their villages by climate change, indigenous peoples losing their livelihoods, and the problems being experienced by Maine's fishermen and farmers.
- b. Brewster introduced "Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A Shared Statement by Quaker Groups." This statement was developed by Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker United Nations Office, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation. In response the Meeting approved the following minute:
Minute: The Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business approves and agrees to be a signatory to "Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A shared statement by Quaker groups."
Brewster will inform representatives of QEW, QUNO, AND FCNL of this minute.
- c. Brewster gave the Meeting's library a copy of "Call to Conscience: Quaker Experiences in Facing the Challenge of Climate Change." This document can be downloaded from www.quno.org/areas-of-work/human-impacts-climate-change.
- d. Sue Rockwood reported plans for upcoming outreach efforts focusing on parenting and other family interests. Andy Burt's film will be a possible program.
- e. Sue described plans for the Meeting's 20th anniversary celebration: a potluck on October 4th and installation of a permanent Peace Pole near the walkway into the meetinghouse. Sue asked for people to check the list of those who should receive a special e-mail invitation, to send specially made postcards, and to bring mementos on the day to share. Sue is making a scrapbook of the construction of the meetinghouse. The main courses for the potluck are already offered; other courses will be appreciated.

B. Other Business/Special Concerns

1. Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting will be held Saturday, November 7, 2015, 8:30-3:00.
2. Carmen brought two special concerns before the business meeting: increasing militarism of the country and ongoing racism. She asked, "What can friends do?" and suggested a meeting-wide worship sharing on these issues.

[continued on pg. 4]

[Business Meeting Minutes, continued from p. 3]

The business meeting supported David Cadbury's recommendation that Ministry & Counsel may be regularly approached by individuals who would like to request that M&C set up worship-sharing to address important issues such as those Carmen brought forth.

Carmen mentioned an ongoing dialogue available through Senior College. This study group meets at the meetinghouse on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Discussion is currently focused upon Racism through responses to a book *Between the World and Me*. She will put details on this and other resources in the newsletter.

Clerk Jim Matlack closed the Business Meeting after a brief silent worship.

The next Meeting for Business is Sunday, October 18, 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; Willow Rowntree

QUERIES

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



CHALLENGE OF CHANGE invites Friends to join a reading and reflection project on racism. The book *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates will be introduced by Julia Fitz-Randolph at our next meeting on Tuesday, on October 13, at 10 a.m. A project of Coastal Senior College, Challenge of Change is

a meeting of citizens seeking to understand the crises of cultural, political, and personal breakdown, supporting one another in creative and imaginative ways to respond to and act for sustainable change. Challenge of Change has been supported by Midcoast Meeting since spring 2013. The meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The planned discussion on October 13 will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Coffee and "checking in" is at 9:30 and open to all. The book is available at Maine Coastal Book Store in Damariscotta. Questions and concerns: contact Carmen 354-9556.

You are invited: A Multi-faith Forum and Conversation on "Care for Our Common Home"

Sunday, October 25, from 2-5pm, Bowdoin College Coles Tower/Daggett Lounge

Maine and national leaders—both lay and ordained from diverse faith traditions—will share briefly a response to Pope Francis's recent letter to all people living on Earth, an encyclical on addressing the moral urgency for action on climate change and social justice. Following their presentations, all, including the presenters, will be invited into small group conversations for personal sharing on challenges the Pope has highlighted and what gives them hope. The event is co-hosted by the Maine Council of Churches and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment.

For more information, please contact Andy Burt, MCC Environmental Justice Consultant, at 380-5387 or annedburt145@gmail.com.

Save the Date:
Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, November 7, 2015, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
hosted by Belfast Area Friends Meeting and Orono Friends Meeting
at Belfast Area Friends 95 High St., Belfast, Maine

Schedule of the Day: 8:30 a.m. – Gather and Welcome/9:00 a.m. – Ministry and Counsel/11:00 a.m. – Worship
Noon – Lunch/1:30 – Program: Experiences in Following Spirit” Presenters: Suki Rice, Kakemega Orphan Project
of the United Society of Friends Women and Peter Millard, M.D., Mission-hospital physician in Zimbabwe,
Teaching-clinic physician in Mozambique. **More information to come!**

World Quaker Day
October 4: Living the
Transformation

Join Friends meetings and churches from around the world in celebrating World Quaker Day (WQD) on October 4, 2015. This year's theme is "Living the Transformation: Creation Waits with Eager Longing for the Revealing of the Children of God" (Romans 8:19). We are gathered together on this day by Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). For more information on World Quaker Day, or Friends World Committee for Consultation-New England, contact Cynthia Ganung, cganung@gmail.com, or Judy Goldberger, quakerchild@gmail.com.

As the sun rises in each area of the world, we want to remember that Quakers are worshipping through every time zone, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. We are united in love and can accompany each other on this special day that draws us together. As we worship, let us hold each other in prayer and thanksgiving, and let our hymns of praise resound across the world.

Public Statement on the Visit of Pope Francis & Climate Change
27 September 2015

In his address to the U.S. Congress and to our nation, Pope Francis invited us to pray for him, and to pray together.

On behalf of the Quaker faith communities in the six New England states, we offer our prayers for the healing of the world. We join our voice with all who strive to meet our sacred obligations to the planet we share.

Francis reminds us that all creatures are connected, that each must be cherished with love and respect. We are dependent on one another. It is through our relationships with each living being that we make real our love for God and for Creation. Francis challenges us to accept the urgency of the crisis created by human-caused climate disruption, recognizing it as a central challenge of our time. This work cannot be left to the future. Responding to the climate crisis requires of us a serious and clear-eyed recognition of the severity of our impact on the planet and the devastating effects already being experienced, especially by the most vulnerable. Our actions today determine the world our children will inherit. We welcome Francis' message and his conviction that acting together we can still make a difference.

It is the testimony of Quakers that we are divinely required to respond with courageous and responsible efforts to avert the most serious effects of environmental deterioration caused by human activity. At our best, we seek the deep healing of the world. As a faith community, Francis' words confront us with the question, "Are we prepared to bear the burden of this truth?"

We know there is a place for us in this work. We are called to act in hope, with persistence, courage and charity.

We witness Francis' visit with gratitude for his faithful engagement with the people of the United States, both as a nation and personally. We pray that all people will hear and heed the important challenge this servant of God has brought to our country. We call on faith communities and people of faith to take up this burden as together we find the way forward.

Fritz Weiss, Presiding Clerk
Noah Baker Merrill, Yearly Meeting Secretary

New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)

Benefit “Singalong Concert” for Portland Friends School celebrating the opening of their new building!

Friday October 9, 7:00 p.m.
Friends School of Portland
1 Mackworth Island, Falmouth, Maine

Featuring: Annie Patterson, Peter Blood, Bill Harley, Charlie King & Magpie.

Price: \$20 Adult; \$10 Youth (under 18)

Tickets on sale now through the Rise Up and Sing website: www.riseupandsing.org/events/rise-again-portland.

ADVICES

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

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543