

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



*Although attempting to bring about world peace through the internal transformation of individuals is difficult, it is the only way.*

—The Dalai Lama

From *Peace Is Every Step*, by Thich Nhat Hanh  
 contributed by Louisa Gray

*I know I have used this baby picture before. I just couldn't resist putting it here again. It speaks so strongly of the positive life force, the notion that, ultimately, good must triumph over evil, life over death, and love over hate. —NTH*

## November

- Wednesday November 3 5:00 p.m. Ministry & Counsel Committee meeting
  - Thursday November 4 4:00 p.m. Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
  - Friday November 5 Special concern meeting for Eggemoggin & Orono mtgs.
  - Saturday November 6 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. \* Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting at Midcoast
  - Sunday November 7 \* Food Pantry Day, please bring items for the basket in the meetinghouse
  - Sunday November 14 11:30 a.m. \* Second Hour Discussion: Visioning the Future of Midcoast Meeting
  - Sunday November 21 11:30 a.m. Monthly Meeting for Business. **NOTE: Change to winter schedule.** Bag lunch
  - Monday November 22 asap Call for December newsletter items
- ~ Advance Notice ~
- Saturday December 4 Friends Committe for Maine Public Policy meeting, Waterville, ask Ernie Foust for details

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

Back Issues of the Newsletter and Meeting Information are available at: [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)

### Friendly Reminders

Moving or changing your E-mail 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](mailto:moonlite@lincoln.midcoast.com)

# The Entirely Unofficial **MONTHLY MEETING NOTES**, 10th month of 2004

based on draft minutes by Mary Lavendier Myers

The meeting began with a reference to the current issue of fellowship and a quotation, "What is unique to the Muslim world is not the absence of democracy, but the fact that in 1918...every single Muslim in the world lived under foreign subjugation. Every single one....," from *Fellowship*, September/October '04, page 9. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

## **Ministry & Counsel**

Natalie Wriggins reported for the committee, which recommended discontinuing the reading of Queries at Meeting for Worship. The committee further suggested that the children rejoin Meeting for Worship at eleven. In the discussion that followed, concern was expressed concerning both issues, and Monthly Meeting requested Ministry & Counsel to revisit both issues for further consideration. On the matter of the children returning at or near the end of Meeting for Worship, it was noted that there are several possible ways of doing this that could be tried.

It was noted that the three people currently most instrumental in the First Day School program are coincidentally occupied with personal matters and are relatively unavailable. This situation has made for a lack of leadership of the First Day School. It was hoped that some other volunteers could be found to at least temporarily fill the vacancies in leadership.

The committee is working hard to assure the success of several upcoming programs:

- Sunday, October 24, 11:30: Second Hour discussion, "What Is Vocal Ministry?"
- Saturday, November 6, Quarterly Meeting at Midcoast Meeting. It was noted that Vassalboro Quarterly Ministry & Counsel Committee will be meeting at our meetinghouse on Friday, November 5, 5 p.m. to 8:30, prior to Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, November 6.

Query #8

## **Care of Children**

Do children receive the loving care of your Meeting? Does the Meeting nurture their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Are you an example to your children in your faithfulness to the ideals you profess? Do you promote your children's moral and spiritual development by loving oversight of their education, recreation, and social activities? Do you listen to children, recognizing that the Spirit may lead them along paths you have not foreseen? Do you assist them to assume their rightful responsibilities in the home, the Meeting, and the community?

- Sunday, November 14, rise of Meeting: Discussion for visioning the future of the Meeting.

## **Peace & Social Concerns**

Carmen Lavertu reported that Gretchen Hall is concerned that Bridges for Peace activity was sometimes inappropriately turning political and distorting the non-partisan effort to foster harmony and non-violence.

Nancy Booth announced that the Food Pantry is in dire need of both money and food. She will inform Meeting about where contribution checks should be mailed and to whom they should be made payable.

Carmen reported that Linda Coté-Small would like to attend the Earth Charter workshop at Woolman Hill in January. On the recommendation of the committee, Meeting approved up to \$90 be given from Conference Fund to assist Linda with expenses. Appreciation for Linda's interest and efforts in this area were expressed.

## **Hospitality**

The focus of the discussion was the Quarterly Meeting session to be held at Midcoast on November 5 and 6. Barbara Foust read the day's schedule that begins with coffee at 8:30 am and ends at 4:30 pm. Plans for food preparation and service are proceeding. Cooperation of Friends in setting up tables and all the other details of these events will assure a successful Quarterly Meeting.

## **Committee Meeting Reports**

The discussion of the number of committee reports to be heard each month, which began at last Monthly Meeting, was continued. It was noted that not all committees need to report every month and that a pre-planned schedule of periodic committee reports might motivate committees to more regular activity, knowing that they would be expected to report at a particular Monthly Meeting. The clerk agreed to devise a proposed schedule for further discussion and eventual approval.

## **Maintenance**

Sylvia Tavares will continue to clean the meetinghouse on a twice-monthly basis until someone else has been found to take over the responsibility. The maintenance committee clerk will be asked to begin the search.

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**The next Monthly Meeting for Business will be Sunday, November 21, at 11:30 a.m., bag lunch. All welcome. NOTE: Change to winter schedule.**

**Visit**

**[www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)**

## Thoughts and Ideas from M&C

The committee has decided to discontinue indefinitely the reading out loud of Queries at Meeting for Worship. We welcome feedback from Friends about this.

We are working hard toward the smooth running and meaningfulness of three fall events, Sunday, October 24, 11:30 a.m.: Second Hour discussion, "What Is Vocal Ministry?" Saturday, November 6, Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, to be held at our meetinghouse, and Sunday, November 14, 11:30 a.m.: Visioning Session about the future of our Meeting. Simple lunch will be provided. All are urged to attend these events.

We want to clarify our view concerning the children coming back into the Worship Room at the end of Meeting for Worship and of their lesson. We heard that the children and teachers sometimes miss doing this and feel overlooked. Our view is that we enjoy having the children sit with us at the end of Meeting, just as we enjoy having them at the beginning. We like hearing from them about their projects and hearing from the teachers. Therefore we suggest to the teachers that the children return at eleven o'clock regularly and without being brought in by us. The return of the children would signal that it is time to close Meeting for Worship. Immediately after introducing ourselves, the children and teachers would be welcome to share their activities and make announcements.



## Food Pantry in Urgent Need

The Ecumenical Food Pantry serving Damariscotta/Newcastle and the surrounding area, is in dire need of supplies and cash to continue their operation. The need has never been greater, and the pantry's resources are being severely stretched. It costs approximately \$25 to make up a typical box going to a family in need. Please help all you can. The easiest way is to write a check, earmarked for the Food Pantry and payable to Ruth Schilling, and mailed to Schilling, 22 Old Mill Road, New Harbor, ME 04554.

If you prefer, you may bring food items to the meetinghouse. There is a basket just inside the front door to receive donations. Appropriate donations include non-perishable items such as canned tuna, salmon, canned ham, beef stew and hearty soups, peanut butter, jellies, canned fruits and vegetables (all kinds), spaghetti and other dry pasta, tomato sauces, etc. In addition, paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, etc., along with soaps and cleaning products are welcome. Fresh items, such as milk, breads, and eggs are purchased using cash donations. Anything you can do will be appreciated.

## Quarterly Meeting at Midcoast, 11/06/04

Midcoast Meeting will be hosting Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting at our meetinghouse on Saturday, November 6.

The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and tea. At 9:00 there will be a welcome, a song, and a query, "How did you come to Friends?" to be followed at 9:30 with Meeting for Worship. Meeting for Worship for Business will be at 10:30. Lunch will be served at 12:30, to be followed by clean up. At 1:45 there will be an intergenerational activity, led by Ronda Nichols and Kathie Gass. From 2:15 to 3:00, Denise Hart will present "Viewing the World from a Radically Different Perspective," her report on the Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial in Auckland, New Zealand. Between 3:00 and 4:25 small group discussion will focus on "Sharing Experiences of God." There will be a closing with joining of hands at 4:25.

There will be a concurrent program for children, led by Friends from the Quarter, at the Damariscotta River Association building a short distance up the road from the meetinghouse. All children are encouraged to attend.

Many Midcoast Friends have already volunteered to help with the hosting of this event, but if you haven't already done so, please call Mary Myers (832-8122, leave a message if no answer) to see what area of responsibility still needs help. And be sure to come for the day on Saturday, November 6!

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## War Tax Resisters Gathering

The annual New England Gathering of War Tax Resisters and Supporters will be held on November 12-14, 2004, at The New School, 38 York St., Kennebunk. Whether you are interested in exploring war tax resistance (wtr) for the first time or are already refusing to pay some or all of your federal income and phone taxes, this weekend is for you. This year's theme is: "Spreading the Word, Practicing Mutual Aid."

The cost for the weekend is \$0-50, which includes meals, activities, and housing at The New School or in nearby homes. For a brochure, registration information, or further details, contact Stephen Soucy, PO Box 5510, Ellsworth, ME 04605, [sjsoucy@downeast.net](mailto:sjsoucy@downeast.net) or Larry Dansinger, [invert@acadia.net](mailto:invert@acadia.net) or (207) 525-7776. Complete information is also posted on the Midcoast Meeting Web site at [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/documents/wartax1.htm](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/documents/wartax1.htm).

*Dear, dear Friends, my heart is full with all the expressions of love and support that I have received from you in the past two weeks since Don's death. My grateful thanks to you all for your thoughts and prayers, always.*

*Nancy Terrell Hall*

on a number of vital issues. We have had these people come to our meeting almost annually, speaking on such subjects as healing, death and dying, the Bible, and others. M&C sends its members to meetings asking for help on problems they are facing, holding them in prayer, and helping to guide threshing sessions to try to come to mutual understanding. The Spiritual Nurture Working Party sponsors retreats on such subjects as "The Art and Spirit of Parenting" and "Pastoral Care." It is working on educating members on the needs of families having children with disabilities, and will expand this work to include adults as well. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Child Abuse, newly formed, is developing guidelines for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in our meetings.

Last year, M&C presented to yearly meeting a Minute on Racism, which was approved. The minute seeks ways to open dialogues to increase our awareness of racism within the Yearly Meeting and to overcome the pain caused by deep-seated racism. It looks for ways in which we can learn to hear deeply within ourselves and with others.

**Youth Programs Committee**

This committee is busy all year long, organizing retreats, serving as a connection between groups and individuals, and, in general, making children welcome and eager to attend a variety of retreats and gatherings. These events are popular, sometimes even necessitating waiting lists to attend. We often hear from the children how having this place of love and openness sustains them. As one says, "This is my spiritual place." Children find a kind of acceptance and welcome rarely found elsewhere. In nurturing our chil-

**The Advices**

Care of the children of the Meeting should be the responsibility of every Friend. Let us share with our children a sense of adventure, of wonder, and of trust and let them know that, in facing the mysteries of life, they are surrounded by love. Both parents and Meetings need to guard against letting other commitments deprive children of the time and attention they need.

Friends are advised to seek for children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education. All Friends are cautioned against harshness of tone and manner when offering counsel or reproof. To the child, even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of repentance or growth, and a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended. Let us nurture a spirit of common concern, thereby giving children a sense of belonging to a larger community.

dren, we build the future of NEYM, clear and simple.

**Permanent Board**

The Permanent Board is charged with the year-long business matters of NEYM, including personnel matters, such as hiring, overseeing NEYM employees, evaluations, and creating job descriptions. It also is the body that looks to the future, seeking to find the best structure in which to conduct our business. It oversees the legal and financial aspects of our association with other Quaker organizations, such as Moses Brown School, New England Friends Home, and China Camp.

**Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

This is the international body to which NEYM belongs. It concerns itself with the Triennial Gathering, which was held this year in New Zealand. Its function is to support our peacemakers and educate us about Friends issues worldwide. During the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas, Friends from the Western Hemisphere gathered and shared common interests on health, global issues, and prayer.

**Other Committees and Organizations Within NEYM**

The United Society of Friends Women supports NEYM women in their concerns, such as ministry within prisons, building for the Kakamega Project, and translating Quaker texts for use in Cuba Yearly Meeting

The **New England Friends Home** in Hingham, Massachusetts, is a retirement home under Quaker leadership. It provides a lovely congregate home in the country for retirees, offering good food, companionship, and activities. Its recent expansion has enabled more residents to enjoy it.

**Puente de Amigos** was organized about 15 years ago to make connections with Friends in Cuba. Since that time there has been much intervisitation between the two yearly meetings, and a rich and warm relationship has resulted. We have learned a lot about each other.

**Friends Committee in Unity with Nature**, recently renamed the **Earthcare Ministry Committee**, has labored to raise consciousness about the importance of careful Earth stewardship and sustainable living.

**Peace & Social Concerns** does just what our own committee does, only on a larger scale. This year it has worked to motivate us to act against war in whatever ways we may be led. It is working against the U.S. Patriot Act and connections between obtaining a driver's license and registration with the Selective Service. It does ongoing work with the Peace Testimony and its many applications.

There are many other important committees in NEYM, but I hope this has given you an idea of its

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breadth. The many committees are all listed in the NEYM Minute Book, published yearly, containing reports of all that occurred at Yearly Meeting. A copy is in our library.

**NEYM Staff**

Employees of NEYM include Administrative Secretary Katherine Clark, who oversees the busy office and the many different requests for information which come in, as well as mailings and connections of all sorts. A big job is producing the yearly Minute Book. The Administrative Secretary is helped part time by Karen Armstrong, Administrative and Program Assistant. Karen also assists with the youth programs, helping organize retreats and programs at Sessions. The Young Adult Friends group, which is clerked by Holly Baldwin, is the newest youth group. Young Friends who have graduated from high school now have a group of their own.

The Field Secretary is Jonathan Vogel-Borne. He visits meetings, connects with people, organizes, instructs, supports other employees, edits the "New England Friend" newsletter, and performs many other duties. He is always a cheerful face in the crowd, and he holds the understanding of just how NEYM works almost better than anyone else. He is a fount of information to those of us with questions.

Friends Camp Director Nat Shed is new at his job this year and is approaching it with much enthusiasm. Having been a camp director myself, I can attest that it sometimes is a bit like herding cats but also can be one of the most rewarding jobs one can have. Many details, many people, and a fine facility to manage are part of his responsibility.

The Youth and Education Secretary is currently Christel Jorgenson, but Chris is retiring after 17 years of loving service. Involving programs for several hundred children of all ages, this is a comprehensive job, with all sorts of duties, such as communications between groups and staff, oversight of retreats, programming for each group at Yearly Meeting Sessions, and assisting monthly meetings with First Day School curricula.

A new part-time employee this year is Marnie Miller-Gutsell, the Archivist. She receives minutes and newsletters from monthly meetings, which are sent periodically to the Rhode Island Historical Society, where all NEYM's records from hundreds of years are stored. Hers is a very important job—aside from our Faith and Practice handbook, these are the only historical records of what we believe and how we have evolved.

Without all these people laboring behind the scenes, our own little meeting would be just a small spot on the map of religious activity in this country and beyond. By working together with others at the region-

al level, we can accomplish much more than we can operating alone, and our impact on world problems multiplies accordingly. Finally, through attending Yearly Meeting Sessions and working on YM committees, I have met many truly fascinating people and found great pleasure and fulfillment in assisting the work that goes on there.

*Peace & Social Concerns*

**Dear Senator Snowe**

*This letter was sent to Senator Snowe from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee*

As we commemorate the third anniversary of the Sept. 11 tragedy, we are compelled to write to inform you of our dissatisfaction with the way our government is addressing global conflict.

We have written or called as individuals at various times to make our opinions and concerns known about going to war and supporting various military agendas. The replies to our communications, however, leave us still concerned about the direction the United States is taking in the global arena. We believe that the current strategic emphasis of preemptive strikes and military dominance does more to foster the continuation of war than to create a peaceful world.

As a nation and as individuals, we should use all our resources to create a peaceful world: a world without war, where countries work together to help each other solve their problems, where all people have food and shelter and good livelihood, and where we take care of the earth. We need to focus our resources on working on the root causes of conflict, preventing the next wars before they begin.

With that in mind, we have included a booklet for you to review that addresses the biggest roadblock to peace - WAR. The name of the booklet is "If War Is Not the Answer, What Is? Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict," published by the Friends Committee on National Legislation. We highly recommend that you read this booklet and encourage other Senators to do so also. Most importantly, we urge you to initiate measures that support a new security strategy for peaceful prevention of deadly conflict as outlined on pages 8-10.

In this post 9/11 world, where the shadows of terrorism follow us wherever we go, we remind you that this is the time to move our country in a new direction. America needs a more positive course of action, and the world needs a more positive course. We sincerely hope that you'll take the necessary steps to move us in the direction of peace.

In Peace,  
Peace & Social Concerns Committee of the Midcoast Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

# WHY NEYM?

By Claire Darrow

Enough people in our meeting have asked, "What does New England Yearly Meeting do for Midcoast Meeting?" that I feel I have to line it out as clearly as I can. I believe so deeply in what NEYM does for us that I want to share it with others. Perhaps when things are a bit clearer, more people will become involved with this very worthwhile organization. If, after reading this, you have any questions, please feel free to buttonhole me and ask away. I'd be only too glad to elucidate as best I can.

Our yearly meeting is well over 200 years old. For some of that time, it was divided into two separate yearly meetings, due to differing views on how meetings should be held. One faction felt a pastor was necessary to properly worship God. The other, like our meeting, believed in the individual's discernment of God's word, in corporate worship with others seeking the same. There were other differences as well. The two yearly meetings were reunited 50 years ago.

Yearly meeting goes on all year, but the main event is Sessions, held in August, when as many members as possible gather together to conduct the business matters which await attention. During the rest of the year these jobs are dealt with by the committee called

"Permanent Board." Our yearly meeting is made up of all the meetings of New England, save for one, which recently had differing opinions and withdrew (but that's another story). These meetings are organized into quarters (ours is Vassalboro Quarter), much like counties within a state. There are 8 quarters incorporating 68 meetings, worship groups, and preparative meetings. In all, 4291 people are actual members of New England Yearly Meetings, though many more (attenders) do a lot of the work needing to be done. Of the members, 682 are young people of various ages. These youngsters are the future of Quakerism in our area.

## Ministry & Counsel (M&C)

This yearly meeting committee promotes the spiritual health of the yearly meeting through attention to worship at all levels of NEYM. It also has responsibility for pastoral care of NEYM and its constituent meetings. The committee has charge of the Spiritual Formation program, which seeks to increase the depth of spiritual life of its participants. It also oversees the Traveling Ministries Program, which sends seasoned Friends to meetings that request their help or insights

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