

11th Month

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

November 2010

NEWSLETTER



Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

--Isaiah 2:5

Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh be swift to love, make haste to be kind.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

October

Sunday October 31 3:00-6:00 p.m. "Living Sustainably & Comfortably and Saving Money,"
a presentation by Guy Marsden

November

Wednesday November 3 6:30-8:30 p.m. "Fishing Voices"/Peace Center Program [*See October newsletter for details on all programs in this series.*]

Saturday November 6 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m. *Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting at Farmington Meeting

Sunday November 7 Rise of Meeting Potluck/Work Hour

Wednesday November 10 6:30-8:30 p.m. "A Leap of Faith"/Peace Center Program

Thursday November 11 3:00 p.m. Ministry & Counsel, Suzy Hallett's home

Sunday November 21 Rise of Meeting
4:00-6:00 p.m. Meeting for Business
Community Chowder Supper & Speakers/Final
Fishes & Loaves Peace Center Program

*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.

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. Thanks!

For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website: www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org.

Highlights--Monthly Meeting for Business--October 17, 2010

Clerk Deborah Haviland opened the meeting with a reading from *Faith and Practice* followed by silent worship. Sixteen Friends were gathered. The Minutes of the Business Meeting on September 19 were approved.

Paul Diamond informed the meeting that he was resigning as Treasurer due to the Diamonds' imminent departure for California. Deep appreciation was expressed for Paul's service and for the many ways in which the Diamonds have enhanced the life of the Meeting. A farewell gathering and potluck supper will be held at the meetinghouse on Friday, October 29 starting at 5:30 p.m.

GIFTS & LEADINGS reported on the overall work of the committee as well as a number of suggestions brought forward during the "visioning" session recently held on "the health of the meeting," many of which have already been implemented. There was further discussion regarding the practice of having one committee highlighted each month for full report and assessment. Additional discussion focused upon the transition from a nominating process to fill out committees to the present practice under which Gifts & Leadings solicits participation and service as members feel led. The committee will give further seasoning to the issues which emerged.

PEACE CENTER--The "Fishes and Loaves" series and Guy Marsden's talk on "Sustainable Living" will take place this fall. A speakers series is planned for the spring.

FINANCE--Paul Diamond gave his last report as Treasurer. The Meeting is in sound financial condition. Resources are available—roughly \$5,500—to cover the cost of resurfacing the driveway. Approval was given to go forward with this project. Approval was given for Deb Haviland and Bill Spock to be the new signatories for Key Bank. After thanking Paul for his able service, it was decided that Linda Cote-Small, Martin Imm, Bill Spock, and Deb Haviland will confer about interim procedures in the absence of a permanent Treasurer. The text of a report by Linda Cote-Small on her financial review of the Meeting accounts will be referred to the Finance Committee.

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION-- Business meeting was briefly recessed so that Friends could reconvene as the corporation and conduct necessary affairs on behalf of the Meeting. Separate minutes are available for this short session.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL--A short text to serve as a "Welcome to Newcomers" was discussed and will be further considered by the committee and a revised version resubmitted. It was agreed that meeting for worship be broken by saying, "Good morning, Friends," along with shaking hands.

PASTORAL CARE--Full discussion of the "Emergency Fund" will be held at the November meeting.

The **next Monthly Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 21**, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch.

The **entire pending minutes** of the meeting are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse.

--Deborah Haviland, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

ADVICES—Stewardship

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

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON MAINE PUBLIC POLICY--Highlights of October 23 Meeting

FCMPP gathered in Waterville with 11 Friends in attendance. The morning session was spent with Penobscot County Sheriff Glenn Ross, who spoke and answered questions about his role as sheriff for a very large county and especially on issues related to the jail and inmates under his charge. Ross described the many challenges he faces as well as the improvements in systems, services, and facilities that he has implemented over the last 8 years. Most discussion focused upon the jail and the handling of some 6,000 inmates who pass through each year. Friends had special interest in how addictive, medical, and psychological problems were handled. As the sheriff explained in detail the preventive steps and services that he has adopted to meet special needs, he made clear that the mounting cost and complexity of necessary medical and psychological services pose an increasing challenge in relation to available funds and support agencies. This situation will only worsen with impending budget cuts. Sheriff Ross was emphatic that the full range of mental-health services must be continued in his jail rather than “consolidated” in another institution as may be proposed under the new Board of Corrections.

One program was strongly commended, the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which emphasizes non-violent resolution of crisis, hostage, and other confrontations in which an officer might end up using deadly force. With this training, an officer is better able to defuse tense situations, avoid injuries or arrests if possible, and prevent the firing of fatal shots. Friends expressed wholehearted support for the CIT program.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and a discussion as to meeting venues held.

The legal challenge to the Maine Clean Elections Law was discussed. An excellent resource on this issue is available from the League of Women Voters through Caitlin@mainecleanelections.org.

A revised “Statement of Purpose” for the Legislative Committee was discussed. Clerk Diana White agreed to prepare a new draft that would reflect the deep spiritual roots of Quaker witness. Jim Matlack will join with religious leaders on a tour of the Maine State Prison on October 26.

Both Libby Mitchell and Eliot Cutler gave positive responses to a message from FCMPP outlining issues of concern. None of the other gubernatorial candidates have responded.

Maine Indian Issues Controversies persist over sports teams called “Redskins.” A “Ceremony of Apology” was recently held at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in which Quakers participated. FCMPP endorsed a current project to urge the U.S. National Park Service to include full attention to the historical role and presence of Passamaquoddy tribal peoples on Campobello Island as exhibits are revised for the Roosevelt International Park located there.

Communications with Local Meetings--Much difficulty remains in both getting FCMPP communications to all meetings and drawing attenders from meetings, especially those in the Falmouth Quarter. Further efforts will be made to assemble a complete mailing list and to assure circulation of “Highlights of the Meeting” and other documents.

The Next Meeting was provisionally set for Saturday, December 4, in Waterville.

Diana White, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

NEWS: Pat Spock

Bill Spock writes that Pat’s hip-replacement surgery was successful and that she will be on the normal recovery road. She feels well, and there are plans for her to come home October 28. We are so happy everything is moving forward for the Spocks!

QUERIES—Stewardship

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

Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting--Saturday, November 6

Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Gather
9:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
10:00 a.m. Break
10:15 a.m. Joyce Aljouny, Ramallah Friends School
11:45 a.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Cleanup lunch
1:00 p.m. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Continue visioning groups from Fall Gathering re: Ministry & Counsel, Intergenerational Spiritual Ed, VQM in context of MM & NEYM Reflection on Fall Gathering and preparation for 2011 Committee reports Gifts & Leadings Youth check-in
3:15 p.m. Adjourn

Youth Activities--depending on weather and numbers of kids at different ages. Please contact Mark, 293-3967, rains@prexar.com in advance about children/youth coming so we can plan; e.g., hire a UMF student, song-writing workshop, maybe instrument-making?. Trip to early Quaker cemetery in Temple, Maine, gravestone recording and rubbings, geneology in relation to other Maine Quakers? Response to Ramallah School websites, newsletters? Also activities for younger children.

Travel Directions: Trinity Methodist Church, north side of Route 2 before you reach Farmington from the east. (Address for Mapquest: 612 Farmington Falls Rd, Farmington, ME 04938)

Food: Soups & morning refreshments, etc. provided. Side dishes & desserts welcomed.

Contact: Jean Stewart, 778-2268, washburnhank@gmail.com.

Hospitality: Contact Rita Kimber, 778-3168, ritakim@megalink.net.



LINCOLN ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL CLUB DINNER

The Lincoln Academy International Club will be hosting a dinner on Tuesday, November 9, 5-7 p.m., at the the school's Alumni Dining Commons. The cost is \$7 per person. All proceeds will help fund the International Club Homestay in Spain and other International Club outings.

Interim Arrangements for Treasurer

As Friends may know, Viki and Paul Diamond will be leaving us at the end of October and going to live at Friends House, 684 Benica Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95409. This will leave an opening for the position of Treasurer, which Paul has performed for the past several years.

The Gifts & Leadings Committee is currently seeking to fill this position and will be glad to hear from any members or attenders who might be led to take this on. *[Ed. note: Please see item from Gifts & Leadings, page 6.]* The position reports to the Finance Committee which in turn keeps Monthly Meeting apprised of the Meeting's financial situation.

Pending the filling of this permanent position, Deborah Haviland will serve as Interim Treasurer and will be receiving money and writing checks. Friends are requested, with immediate effect, to address any correspondence on financial matters, including the payment of contributions to Midcoast Monthly Meeting, P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543.

Correction to Meeting Directory: Please note that the phone number for Mallory and George Waldman is incorrect and should be 607-0468.

***From Cobscook Friends Meeting:
REPUDIATION OF THE "DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY"***

Following months of study, discussion, and prayerful discernment, Cobscook Friends Meeting (Quakers) have formally repudiated the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, announcing their support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In so doing, area Quakers join communities of faith, national governments, and the United Nations in acknowledging and beginning to atone for the injurious effects of the Doctrine on indigenous populations from first contact to present day.

The Doctrine of Discovery was a principle of international law developed in a series of 15th century papal bulls and 16th century charters by European monarchs. A racist philosophy, it gave white Christian Europeans permission and encouragement to go forth from Europe and claim the lands and resources of non-Christian peoples and kill or enslave them – if other Christian Europeans had not already done so. The doctrine institutionalized competition between European countries in an ever-expanding quest for colonies, resources and markets. Essentially, the Doctrine sanctioned the genocide of indigenous people wherever they were found. In addition, much of current economic, climate, ecology, and energy policy have roots in the Doctrine.

Cobscook Friends Meeting began its discernment about the Doctrine in 2009 by learning about how the Doctrine was developed and applied. In the intervening months, they hosted a meeting of Maine Quakers with talks by Wayne Newell, a Passamaquoddy elder and teacher, and John Dieffenbacher-Krall, the executive director of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission.

It was Dieffenbacher-Krall who started what has become a movement to have predominantly non-Catholic Christian churches renounce the Doctrine of Discovery. He spearheaded the effort that led Maine's Episcopal Church to pass a resolution in 2007, calling on Queen Elizabeth and the Archbishop of Canterbury to rescind the 1496 charter given to John Cabot and his sons to go forth and claim possession of all the lands in the "New World" that weren't already claimed by Spain and Portugal. That action led to a similar resolution in New York state and ultimately to the national resolution last summer.

"Our response to the Doctrine of Discovery is based on Quakers' testimony of Equality which states that all people are equal in the eyes of God," said Beth Clifford of Cobscook Friends Meeting. "We invite people of faith and conscience to join the growing inquiry about the Christian Doctrine of Discovery."

[Continued next page.]

For further information:

Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, 30 U.S. (5 Pet.) 1, 8 L.Ed. 25 (1831).

Davenport, Frances Gardiner, *European Treaties Bearing on the History of the United States and its Dependencies to 1648*, Vol. 1, Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1917.

Lessee v. McIntosh, 21 U.S. (8 Wheat.) 543, 5 L.Ed. 681 (1823).

Newcomb, Steve, "Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice," 1992.

Rivera-Pagan, Luis N., "Cross Preceded Sword in 'Discovery' of the Americas," in *Yakima Nation Review*, Oct. 4, 1991.

Story, Joseph, *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States*, Vol. 1 Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1833.

Thacher, John Boyd, *Christopher Columbus*, Vol. 11, New York: G.P. Putman's Sons, 1903.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Williamson, James A., *The Cabot Voyages And Bristol Discovery Under Henry VII*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1962..

Wheaton, Henry, *Elements of International Law*, 6th Ed., Boston: Little Brown, 1855.

Ziegler, Benjamin Munn, *The International Law of John Marshall*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1929.

Cobscook Friends Meeting's formal discernment and Minute follows:

“Cobscook Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends joins with our sisters and brothers of Faith to recognize the injustices that have been and continue to be perpetrated against Indigenous Peoples everywhere. As was first initiated by the Episcopal Church of the United States in July 2009 and has since been supported by the Indian Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, New York Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee, Syracuse Monthly Meeting, Butternuts Monthly Meeting, and others, we repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and call upon others to do the same.

“The impact of the Doctrine of Discovery on the lives of Indigenous Peoples in what we now know as the United States cannot be overstated. As the Doctrine of Discovery website (www.doctrineofdiscovery.org) states, “Papal Bulls of the 15th century gave Christian explorers the right to claim lands they ‘discovered’ and lay claim to those lands for their Christian Monarchs. Any land that was not inhabited by Christians was available to be ‘discovered’, claimed, and exploited. If the ‘pagan’ inhabitants could be converted, they might be spared. If not, they could be enslaved or killed.” This Doctrine has legitimized the confiscation of Indigenous lands and the immoral treatment of Indigenous Peoples for approximately 600 years.

“As was noted by the Indian Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, “under this discovery doctrine, English, Canadians, and Americans, including Friends, settled in the lands of Indigenous Peoples, removed them from their homelands, broke treaties made with these peoples, [and] aided in multiple ways in the destruction of their sacred cultures, languages, and spiritual practices.” We, too, see the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery as providing a path “toward reconciliation and healing justice between Native and non-Native peoples.” Cobscook Friends Meeting House sits on the coastal waters of Eastern Maine and is on land that was once tribal territory of the Passamaquoddy Indians. We recognize that Western Europeans, which included early Quakers, perpetrated grave injustices against Indigenous Peoples.

“As Minuted by the Indian Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, ‘We find this doctrine to be fundamentally inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus, with our understanding of the inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God, and inconsistent with Quaker testimonies of Peace, Equality, and Integrity.’ Cobscook Friends resoundingly believe that these Friends ‘speak our minds.’

In like spiritual discernment, we affirm and support the 2007 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Our faith and our belief that there is that of God in everyone necessitate our joining ‘this evolving path to peace, justice, and an earth restored.’

From GIFTS & LEADINGS--Ways You Can Serve Midcoast Friends

It is time again to see how we can be of service to the Meeting through our work on committee and in offices. Opportunities abound! The sign-up sheets are on the credenza, enabling everyone to review the committees and offices and to consider where their gifts may take them.

Two Offices that Need to Be Filled:

After years of dedicated work, Deb Haviland is stepping down as **Clerk of the Meeting**. Deb can talk to anyone interested about what the position entails. In addition, workshops are often available for those wishing to learn more about clerking. While these workshops are not usually local, funds are available from the Meeting to defray costs.

The Meeting also needs a **Treasurer**. Paul and Viki Diamond are leaving for California, which is a great loss for us. Paul, who has served us well for many years as Treasurer, is available for details and guidance for a few weeks.

Anyone feeling called to either position should please contact Mallory Waldman (clerk of Gifts & Leadings), 233-1482 or mallorw@aol.com.

Thinking About Membership?

If you have been attending Midcoast Friends for some time but hesitate to become an "official Quaker" by becoming a member, perhaps the following questions from the Friends General Conference Web site <http://www.fgcquaker.org/library/fosteringmeetings/0704.html> will help you find clearness:

- 1. How would you describe the spiritual journey which has led you to seek membership in the Society of Friends?*
- 2. Are you familiar with the way in which Friends conduct their Meetings for Business? What has been your experience with business meeting?*
- 3. Are you entirely comfortable with an unprogrammed Meeting for Worship based on expectant waiting? Are you familiar with the source of vocal ministry? Have you experienced messages which are intended for yourself as opposed to messages which are meant for the Meeting as a whole? What kinds of messages do you need for your continued spiritual growth?*
- 4. Are you familiar with the various testimonies of Friends? In particular, what are your feelings in relation to the peace testimony? Have you considered other Friends' testimonies including those on simplicity, integrity, stewardship of our means, social justice, and temperance and moderation?*
- 5. Are you aware of the historical roots of Quakerism and the diversity of Friends practice today?*
- 6. Have you had the opportunity to explore books and articles on the subject of Quakerism? Which of these have been most beneficial to you?*
- 7. Are you familiar with some of the language used by Friends: discerning community, listening to that of God within, yielding to the Spirit, coming to unity with Friends, seeking inward peace?*
- 8. Are you aware of the responsibilities of members in a community without hierarchy or hired staff? Do you have special gifts that you can contribute to enrich the life of the Meeting? Have you considered other ways that you might be able to contribute to the work of the meeting, financially or in other ways?*
- 9. Are you currently a member of any other religious organization?*
- 10. One question which you do NOT need to ask yourself is: "Am I good enough to be a Quaker?" The Society of Friends is not a body of ultra-virtuous people; it is important to recognize that we all have our weaknesses as well as special gifts. And in any case who among us is to judge "who is good enough?"*

Friends General Conference (FGC) is "a vibrant association of fourteen yearly meetings [including New England Yearly Meeting] and regional groups and ten directly-affiliated monthly meetings that serves Quakers year-round with a vast array of programs and services." FGC "with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers" (<http://www.fgcquaker.org/about-us>).

Please talk with a member of Ministry & Counsel--or any member of Midcoast Friends--if you are contemplating membership.

MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS, P.O. Box 714, Damariscotta, ME 04543.
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236-0283. Newsletter--November 2010, Vol. 22, No. 11. Published every month but August. Editing/design:
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