

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

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Newsletter—November 2014

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November

Saturday	Nov. 1		*VQM, Winthrop
Sunday	Nov. 2	Rise of Meeting	*Potluck Lunch
Monday	Nov. 3	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	Nov. 16	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Nov. 17	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

December

Sunday	Dec. 7	Rise of Meeting	*Potluck Lunch
Monday	Dec. 8	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	Dec. 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Dec. 22	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication

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

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—October 19, 2014

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Clerk Suzy Hallett welcomed nineteen Friends in attendance. The agenda was reviewed and minutes of the September Meeting for Business were approved.

PASTORAL CARE: Willow Rowntree presented a written report “Suggestions For Furthering Personal Connections Among the Meeting through Increased Listening Opportunities.” [*See item p. 3.*] The committee stated an intention to go beyond basic attention to the sick and elderly. They see an area for growth in the Spirit and in mutual understanding among meeting members as a form of “inreach.” The central proposal is to create settings for “deep listening” to one another, especially with an openness to personal experiences and challenges in small-group exchanges. After extensive discussion, approval was given for the committee to launch a test of their proposal by scheduling group meetings on Sundays prior to regular meeting for worship. Attention should be given to issues of confidentiality as well as the interplay between Pastoral Care and Ministry & Counsel.

FINANCE: Martin Imm distributed a chart showing that cumulative pledges for 2015 budget support are now ahead of comparable pledges for 2014 a year ago. The average pledge has also increased. These data provide a sound basis for the 2015 meeting budget.

OUTREACH and MINISTRY & COUNSEL: Sue Rockwood noted that a Memorial Minute for Barbara Foust is needed. Her obituary notice could serve as a starting point. She also cautioned Friends to be sure to close and lock the front door of the meetinghouse and return the key to its hideaway. Sue also described a program that she and Suzy Hallett will stage of the first Sundays of December, January, and February. [*See item p. 4.*] Young children and their parents will be encouraged to attend and to spend opening minutes in regular meeting. Then Sue and Suzy will take the children out for a planned program. In December the focus will be on Harvest and Stewardship with readings, discussion, and making applesauce that everyone can share in the Potluck Lunch to follow meeting. Friends are asked to be tolerant of additional noise and activity that may arise from including young newcomers to Meeting.

ARCHIVES: Pat Spock presented a written report that reviewed recent accomplishments, e.g., the death record book is up to date and a full review of Meeting documents is underway to ascertain what should be kept and what may be missing. A separate book has profiles of members. Two areas of discussion emerged: 1) should all members prepare a profile for themselves and for Meeting use? and 2) should all available profiles be scanned on to the Meeting website? Guy Marsden raised a more fundamental query—How should the Meeting arrange for the transition from written records to electronic records? Are written documents now obsolete and/or would on-line documents be difficult for some members to consult? Adequate response to this transition will have to be worked out over coming years. Sue Rockwood demonstrated that existing electronic back-files of the Meeting Newsletter and Business Meeting Minutes can now be searched by Google.

PROGRAM/OUTREACH: Jim Matlack reported on the “Bring It Home” event at the meetinghouse at which participants in the NYC Climate March on September 21 shared their experiences after which local activists and groups spoke about ongoing programs in the area that respond to the challenges of Climate Change. An event is scheduled at the meetinghouse on November 23 at which several participants will describe their experiences during the Healing Walk at the Alberta Tar Sands site in Canada last summer. This annual event has been sponsored by indigenous First Nation peoples, especially the tribal groups whose land, forests, and water are being ravaged by tar sands extraction.

MEMORIAL STONES: Memorial Stones on the meetinghouse grounds have been chosen and paid for by family members. The question was raised (but not answered) whether the Meeting should seek to install a simple stone in memory of all current members at their death.

OTHER: Carmen Lavertu informed Friends of a concern that has arisen in connection with Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting over the fate of gay Friends and others in Uganda who are subject to abuse, threats, and violence. She will place a relevant Minute in the next newsletter. [*See Minute, p. 3.*]

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

—Suzy Hallett, Co-clerk; Jim Matlack, Acting Secretary

The next monthly meeting for business will be Sunday, November 16. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

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?

MINUTE FROM VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING September 7, 2014

A group met at Vassalboro's Quarterly Meeting 2014 Fall Gathering to focus on a deep concern - the Uganda Government's continued targeting of the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) population. The Ugandan government has created a climate where life, health and freedom of all LGBT Ugandans and those who support and assist them are at immediate risk. We are appalled that LGBT citizens have been forced to leave their homes, denied basic rights, beaten, imprisoned or killed and live in constant fear of further reprisals.

Washington State's Olympia Monthly Meeting has been called to create a "Friends New Underground Railroad" (FNUR) to aid LGBT Ugandans and their allies who are fleeing their homeland for their lives and safety. The purpose of this initiative is to financially support Ugandans helping to save Ugandans.

We ask that Vassalboro Friends, both individually and through their monthly meetings, learn more about the Uganda situation by visiting the Olympia Meeting's site <http://www.friendsnewundergroundrailroad.org>, which contains background information and reports on current activities. We also ask that individuals and monthly meetings prayerfully consider if they are led to financially support the work of the Olympia Monthly Meeting and the FNUR.

FROM PASTORAL CARE October 19, 2014

Suggestions Furthering Personal Connections
Among the Meeting through Increased Listening
Opportunities

Pastoral Care Committee's Response to Business
Meeting's Request for Seasoning

After focused seasoning during the past several weeks, the Pastoral Care Committee has come to share a conviction that pastoral care includes more than caring for those who are ill, hospitalized, suffering loss, or in need of transportation. As important as these services are, pastoral care also involves ongoing awareness and response to the spiritual needs of one another. Pastoral care calls us to attend to the Quaker practice of deep listening. In so doing, our community can strengthen.

We have come to our conviction, first, through deeply listening as we have cared (some of us for many years) for the sick and/or elderly and bereaved.

Second, in our more recent seasoning process, we experienced among ourselves the fruits of deeply listening. We felt the presence of Spirit among us and experienced easing, comfort, support, trust, intimacy -- all of which lay not only a foundation for individual spiritual well-being, but also for strengthening our Meeting community.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Andy Burt has a new e-mail address: annedburt145@gmail.com.



Songs of the Spirit, a Quaker book of songs, have been donated to the Meeting to support peace education. They are available for a donation to this effort.

Monthly Potlucks Take on New Flavor!

Once a month, as part of the MOPC mission to serve families, we are having a special exploration with children for First Day followed by a family-style lunch! Here are the first two programs—please spread the word!

November 2: Harvest Time & Stewardship Testimony

Children's Activity: Making applesauce (to share at lunch!).

Read aloud: *Mr. Putter and Tabby Pick the Pears* by Cynthia Rylant. Exploration: Find the Meeting's apple trees (in good weather) OR find the apple (indoor alternative). Perhaps introduce song "Simple Gifts" or the "Johnny Appleseed Grace."

Terms for talking about: recycling, "drop apples," preserves/ing, sharing gifts.

Testimony of Stewardship: Friends strive to use our gifts wisely, with gifts conceived of in the broadest of terms. To Friends, good stewardship means taking care of what has been given, not just for ourselves, but for the people around us and for future generations as well. Friends strive to use their gifts in accordance with their beliefs.

Luncheon theme: Local harvest products featuring apples, pumpkins, etc.

Main items: Harvest soup, mac & cheese casserole, bread & butter.

December 7: Winter Celebrations of Light, and Gift-giving, Community Testimony

Read aloud: Browse through several faith traditions, including Hanukkah story and Yule log tradition. Let children pick which book to read. Holiday song (children's choice).

Activity: Decorate candles & make candle holders, wrap and label for those on their family-supplied gift list.

Terms for talking: Community, various celebration names ("Festival of Light," Christmas, Diwali, Kwanzaa, Bohdi Day, Eid, Chinese New Year, etc.)

Testimony of Community: While our Quaker faith is founded on the principle that every person can have a direct relationship with God, we also believe in the power of the "gathered community."

Luncheon theme: Latkas!

VASSALBORO QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday November 1

8:30 a.m. Gathering and refreshments

9:00 a.m. Worship – Semi-programmed

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

12:00 Lunch and groups of concern

1:30 – 3:00 Program led by Beth Collea

3:10 Closing.

Program – Quaker Outreach Now: Growing Edges and Possibilities for a Regional Outreach Strategy. Beth Collea, Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator, NEYM. The Quaker message is vital, powerful, and compelling. It is match enough for our times of challenge and change. What is missing are more effective ways to get the word out and better strategies and resources to help newcomers embrace their own Quaker journeys. We need a fresh perspective on Quaker outreach designed to function in these times and new materials to support it. Much creative work is afoot in NEYM doing just this. The new approach to Quaker outreach is fresh, fun and interactive. We are re-imagining ways to connect and engage our broader society with the treasure of Quakerism. We do this by "meeting people where they are" knowing that good ministry is the best outreach. We are creating a new generation of outreach materials designed intentionally to promote Quaker spiritual formation and personal experiences of the Light. These materials are a creative blend of outreach and religious education. Join us for a "tour" of this cutting edge work. Share in the excitement of imagining what a Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting Outreach Strategy might look like. Together, we'll hold the question, "What can we do together, as a Quarter, to support, encourage, and set the stage for success of our Quaker outreach efforts?" For further details, please visit: <http://www.neym.org/events/4389>.

Un-Grounded, Un-Earthed, Un-Believable: Tar Sands Mining and its Effects on a People, a Place, a Planet

Presented at the Meetinghouse on Sunday, November 23, at 12:30pm

On Sunday, November 23, beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the meetinghouse, three Maine environmental activists will share some of their experiences and reflections from their participation in this past summer's Healing Walk in the Tar Sands of Alberta. The walk was organized by First Nations peoples whose homeland, health and culture are being destroyed by mining for tar sands oil. The Maine Outreach and Peace Center is presenting this program. Please bring a sandwich, and the program committee will provide fruit and cookies. Maine Friends meetings will be invited to join us for this important program. Our guest presenters are Lee Chisholm, Hilary Clark and Sarah LaChance.



Lee, of Freeport, was a practicing attorney in Portland for 15 years before he became a Waldorf School class teacher. Since 2008 he has taught science, math, history, and geography at the Friends School of Portland. He is a nonviolence trainer for the Keystone Pipeline Pledge of Resistance and a committed member of 350 Maine.

Hilary, of York, is a lifelong environmental activist. Currently she is coordinator for 350 Maine York Region, a member of the York Energy Steering Committee, President of the York Land Trust, Convener of the South Church Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary and a member of Population Matters Maine.

Sarah, of Cape Porpoise, started Campaign Earth in 2000 to educate the public about climate change. She currently volunteers as 350 Maine's Tar Sands Team Co-coordinator. Her passion is educating everyone about the enormous environmental harm and social injustices that result from tar sands extraction. Her goal is to stop any new infrastructure that would allow for more rapid development of tar sands.

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.

—from Philippians 2 (*The Message*)



NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
— OF FRIENDS —
QUAKERS

Did you know that NEYM's "extensive library of recorded talks from past Yearly Meeting Sessions and other events have been made available online"? Recordings are being added all the time. Listen to talks you missed or listen again to ones you enjoyed at: <http://neym.org/recordings>.

ADVICES

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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