

# 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—December 2012  
Vol. 24, No. 12  
Published every month but  
August.

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### December

Sunday	Dec. 2	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Dec. 9	8:30 a.m.	Potluck Breakfast
		Rise of Meeting	Report by Linda Murray of Bill McKibben's "Do the Math" tour and 350.org activities in Maine Observe International Human Rights Day. Display/handouts to be provided
Wednesday	Dec. 12	12 noon	*Christmas Cheer & Chowder, Nancy Booth's, Newcastle
Sunday	Dec. 16	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business

### January

Sunday	Jan. 6	Rise of Meeting	Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Jan. 20	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](mailto:diane_kirkman@hotmail.com) a request. Thanks!*

**For newsletters, important links, & a current calendar, visit our website:**  
[www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org)

## PENDING MINUTES—MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS—November 18, 2012

The Meeting for Business was convened with a moment of silence by Co-clerk David Cadbury. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with additions and corrections: the heading Gifts & Leadings will be changed to Interdenominational Committee on Homelessness; George Chappell will represent the Meeting on this committee. In the paragraph on Quarterly Meeting the name will be changed from Falmouth to Vassalboro.

Friends approved a **minute thanking George Waldman** for his painting of exterior trim on the meetinghouse. The clerks will ask Pat Spock if the supply of **Meeting directories** needs replenishing.

### Committee Reports:

**Peace Center** – Brewster Grace reported on the two-part seminar being planned on “Farming, Fishing and Climate Change: Global Challenges and Local Responses,” which is being co-sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Camden and Midcoast Meeting. A film series at the meetinghouse during March and April will be followed by a day-long program on May 4 at the Congregational church. Organizers are Andy Burt and Brewster Grace from the Peace Center, and Bruce Cole and John Hufnagel from the First Congregational Church of Camden. The moderator will be Molly Anderson from College of the Atlantic. The organizers are seeking grants to cover anticipated expenses of \$8,550. A Friend suggested a reading list be made available.

**Assistant Treasurer’s Report** – Martin Imm reported that a disbursement of funds from our invested funds at the NEYM (New England Yearly Meeting) pooled fund have been received. Monies received through Peace Center events will be listed under special projects. Other contributions are listed in the general fund.

### New Business:

**Interdenominational Committee on Homelessness** – George Chappell reported the committee assisted a woman with housing. It is looking into the possibility of setting up a soup kitchen in Lincoln County and/or forming a 501(C)(3). A clearinghouse on assistance for the homeless in the area is another possibility. A Friend suggested information on available social services be made available to attendees at the soup kitchen when/if it becomes a reality.

**Outreach Program and Coordinator** – Karen Cadbury reported. Since April, the committee has worked toward having the meetinghouse used more on weekdays and weekends for events and activities that help the Meeting become a more vital and dynamic force in the community. The committee recommends an Outreach Program be established and a part-time coordinator be hired. After reviewing the committee’s proposal, Friends asked it to reconvene at their convenience to move the Outreach Program ahead.

**Meeting of the Permanent Board of NEYM** – Carmen Lavertu reported on the Nov. 17 meeting. Friends in attendance considered ways they use and spend money and discussed possible ways forward as a Society of Friends.

**Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting** – Carmen Lavertu reported on the recent meeting at Cobscook Monthly Meeting. A suggested topic for Quarterly Meeting during the coming year is Rufus Jones on the 100th anniversary of his birth. The midyear quarterly meeting will be March 23 in Portland. A program by Stephen Chase, author of Letters to a Fellow Seeker and Transition Towns is under consideration.

**Peace & Social Concerns Committee** – Carmen Lavertu reported. The committee hopes Sr. Marjorie Raphael, formerly of Haiti, will visit the Meeting. The sale of Singing Rooster coffee is discontinued. A Christmas gift from the meeting to the Heifer Project is suggested.

Request regarding **announcements at the rise of meeting** for worship – Karen Cadbury requested that, because the announcement period tends to be long, (a) Friends be more succinct and (b) announcements be submitted in advance to be made available in printed form. Friends encouraged Karen to submit her request to Ministry & Counsel.

There will be an item in the Newsletter encouraging all in the meeting community to **sign up for service to the Meeting during 2013**. Anyone who is unable to sign up on the easel in the vestibule will please contact any member of Ministry & Counsel.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, December 16, 2012, at the rise of meeting for worship. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch. These minutes are available at [www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org) and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

--David Cadbury, Co-clerk; Jean Crawford, Recording Clerk Pro-Tem

## QUERIES

**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?

## NEWS FROM PAUL & VIKI DIAMOND

“We have moved, about ten miles [from Friends House Santa Rosa], to 1356 Oak View Circle, Apt 240, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. Our new phone number is 707-595-1243, . . . e-mail . . . [Pauldiamond2642@comcast.net](mailto:Pauldiamond2642@comcast.net). We are right across the street from Sonoma State University, which has recently inaugurated a \$145-million concert hall called the Green Music Centre. There are some fascinating concerts coming up, for which we have tickets, and I'm hoping to do some volunteer ushering. Looking forward to see if California has any money left for adult education, but there is nothing approaching the Belfast Senior College. Maine is the place we miss the most.”

“We miss everybody very much, although it helps to be in phone contact with one or two from time to time. Please give our love to all at Meeting and say that we surely hope to visit next year sometime.”

## QUAKER MOTTO CALENDAR A GIFT FROM THE HAVILANDS

For many years, the Havilands have enjoyed giving family and friends the Quaker Motto Calendar at Christmas. Once again Pete and Deb would like to give this gift to all members and attenders of Midcoast Meeting. Calendars will be on the credenza in early December. Please take one and enjoy it. It comes with love and wishes for a peaceful and joyous 2013.

## From MINISTRY & COUNSEL

The sign-up sheets for 2013 Meeting Committees are posted just outside the meeting room door. Ministry & Counsel hopes Friends and attenders who have not already signed up will so! Anyone who wants to know more about any or all committees should look at the 2012 committee list at <http://midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/pdf-files/Committees%202012.pdf> or call Brewster Grace at 594 -8082.

## CHRISTMAS CHEER AND CHOWDER!

All are invited to Nancy Booth's home at 25 High Street in Newcastle for Christmas cheer and chowder on December 12 at 12 o'clock. For directions, call Nancy at 563-3464.



## NEWS NOTES

Deb Haviland reports that she had a lovely visit with Claire Darrow last week. Claire is doing well, but since she is no longer driving, she will not be at Meeting as much. She hopes to see us monthly when Rick will drive her. Gardening, reading, and keeping up with family and her beautiful home fill her days, and she is very content. She also does email ([cmd@singingbridge.net](mailto:cmd@singingbridge.net)), and would love to hear from friends.

Patty Sebold and Tom Hagan are now attending Meeting on a regular basis. Their address is 136 Back Narrows Road, Boothbay, ME 04537, and their emails are: [psebold@customers.com](mailto:psebold@customers.com) and [thagan@actioneer.com](mailto:thagan@actioneer.com)

## REFLECTION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY (DECEMBER 10)

By Carmen Lavertu



On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is written that the Assembly rose from its vote in a rare standing ovation to a single delegate, the one most responsible for its crafting and bringing it to completion. That delegate, of course, was Eleanor Roosevelt. It had not been an easy task in those days of the emerging "Cold War." between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is said that Mrs. Roosevelt brought rare gifts of conflict-resolution in helping the Russians to accept ideas of "democracy" and "freedom" that they defined so differently from what was meant in liberal political theory. On the opposing side, she persuaded the commission members to accept social-rights terms that were more familiar to communist states than to free-market democracies.

It behooves us at this time to study the 30 articles of the declaration and to remember how much work still requires our attention and effort. For example:

Article 15 states that "everyone has the right to a nationality." We may ask, "What about the Palestinians?"

Article 21 states that "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country. . . ." We may ask if there is equality of participation when "money equals speech" as it was often expressed in the recent election.

Article 23 states that "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment." We may ask if the current employment practices in an economic system that resists government guaranties can ever provide this universal right.

Therefore, let us honor Eleanor Roosevelt, a great American leader, and read the Declaration to assess how much we have advanced in the last 54 years and to see how much work remains.

### **SOME SUGGESTIONS FROM LINDA MURRAY FOR HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING THAT SUPPORTS LOCAL ECONOMIES**

Who says a gift needs to fit in a box wrapped in paper?

Everyone gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local salon or barber? Gym membership? It's appropriate for people of all ages who are thinking about some health improvement. Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Perhaps that gift receiver would like his driveway sealed or lawn mowed for the summer or driveway plowed all winter or games at the local golf course. There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants – most offering gift certificates. And if your intended recipient isn't the fancy-eatery sort, what about a half-dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint? How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck, or motorcycle? Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom might love the services of a local cleaning lady for a day. My computer could use a tune-up, and I know I can find some young person struggling to get a repair business up and running. OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local craftspeople spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner-operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. How about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theater? Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Do you really need to buy another string of lights for the house? (When you buy a five dollar string of Chinese lights, about fifty cents stays in the community.) Why not spend that money instead on an extra-big tip for the mail carrier, trash hauler, or babysitter?

## Minutes of Peace & Social Concerns Meeting, November 23, 2012

Present: Nancy Booth, Carmen Lavertu, Rachel McGinness, and Linda Murray.

### NEW:

Linda brought an appeal to support local businesses and service providers in choosing Christmas gifts this year. The appeal provides many suggestions for spending our dollars so they will provide the joy of gift-exchange and in the process help our struggling small stores, restaurants, and crafts people. The appeal will be sent to Diane Kirkman to print in the December newsletter.

We are interested in developing local decision-making, such as the Transition Initiative. We will seek more information about the movement in Maine. We are reminded that Corwin Rockwood has information and experience from Young Friends in Pennsylvania Yearly Meeting in conducting group sessions to raise awareness and activate participation.

Linda advised us of the environmental concerns that will be of political urgency this coming year. We are urged to study and join the efforts to support the legislation needed with our friends and partners in the 350.org, Maine Council of Churches, and Sierra Club, as well as the advisories from FCNL. We agree to provide information so that all members of the Meeting can act.

Linda will invite Friends to meet with her at the rise of meeting for worship on December 9 to report of the Bill McKibben 350.org tour.

### CARRIED OVER AND ADVANCED:

HAITI. Restated our commitment to help with the annual community benefit dinner on February 8. We need a contact person at St. Andrews. May we ask if Midcoast Meeting can be listed as a co-sponsor? In the matter of Nancy's invitation to Sister Marjorie Rafael to come to Meeting and join us in an "honor tea," it is best to suggest a date in January or February, looking at the 2nd or 4th Sunday.

HEIFER PROJECT. Linda has informed us that it is too late to order the greeting cards for donating individual gifts. Instead, she will prepare the giving tree and make cards that Friends can send to their family and friends, pooling their donations to make a collected gift to Heifer from the Meeting. The project will be introduced to the Meeting on Sunday, December 2.

DECEMBER 10 - INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY. Time and energy are lacking to do an open-meetinghouse public program. Carmen will bring display and informational materials for our Meeting. We will meet again on December 9 after Linda's presentation.

--Carmen Lavertu

### ***ADVICES***

**Care of Children**—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 or 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.

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