

Midcoast Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends



MIDCOAST MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

P.O. Box 714
Damariscotta, ME 04543

Co-Clerks:
Suzy Hallett, 563-6084 &
David Cadbury, 230-0436

Recording Clerk:
Jim Matlack, 236-0903

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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

December

Monday	Dec. 1	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	Dec. 7	Rise of Meeting	*Potluck Lunch
Sunday	Dec. 14	Rise of Meeting	*Book & White Elephant Sale to support outreach
Monday	Dec. 15	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	Dec. 21	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Sunday	Dec. 28	10-11 a.m.	Annual Candlelight Meeting for Worship

January

Sunday	Jan. 4	Rise of Meeting	*Potluck Lunch
Monday	Jan. 5	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Sunday	Jan. 18	Rise of Meeting	Meeting for Business
Monday	Jan. 19	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Nonviolent Communication
Saturday	Jan. 24 (snow date Jan. 31)	10:00 a.m.-2 p.m.	*Deep Listing Workshop sponsored by Pastoral Care Committee

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!

Midcoast Monthly Meeting for Business—November 16, 2014

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Clerk David Cadbury welcomed fifteen Friends in attendance. The agenda was reviewed. In considering the minutes of the October 19 business meeting a correction was made: The Pastoral Care report had been approved with the clearance for the committee to launch its experiment in “deep listening” but without limiting such workshops to the hour prior to Sunday meeting. (See Pastoral Care report below, and item p. 3.)

OUTREACH: Sue Rockwood reported on recent activities following a successful meeting in early October which codified various committee procedures. A grant check for \$2,000 has been received. A database is being created to facilitate distribution of press releases and other notices. The Meeting may soon be asked to support a local “Diaper Bank,” which would provide disposable diapers to those in need, including the Meeting's own endeavors to create childcare alternatives.

Sue described the upcoming special program for children and their parents on Sunday, December 7. The holiday season will be celebrated with the theme of “Light” and craft projects for the kids. Despite the big snow storm for the November session, tree mothers and four children made it to the meetinghouse on that potluck Sunday. *[See item p. 5.]*

Andy Burt noted that on Sunday, December 7, world leaders will gather in Lima, Peru, to address climate-change issues. Vigils will be held worldwide. A parallel project will support supplying solar lamps to Africa. After discussion, Andy was encouraged to purchase one such lamp to show Meeting members, after which contributions may be solicited. The initial purchase will also fund sending two lamps to Africa. *[See related item p. 3.]*

Karen Cadbury mentioned that additional grant applications are pending to support Outreach programs. Members of the Meeting joined in hearty praise and deep thanks to Sue Rockwood for her valuable service as Outreach Coordinator.

FINANCE: Martin Imm presented a chart of the Meeting's budget with up-to-date data as of October 31. Pledges are coming in, and the overall situation is positive. Some details of investment income were noted, as was the beneficial effect of a recent rise in the equity market.

PASTORAL CARE: Jean Crawford presented the following short minute regarding an earlier proposal to set up “Deep Listening” opportunities:

After careful consideration, the Pastoral Care Committee recommends that a Listening Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the meetinghouse. The snow date would be Saturday, January 31. While the October Meeting for Business considered a Sunday-morning format, the committee feels that a Saturday format would allow more adequate time to introduce the featured activity and to process it later with fellowship and lunch.

After brief discussion, this minute was approved and will appear in the newsletter. *[See item p. 3.]*

Carmen Lavertu informed Friends that she had received an obituary notice for Betty Zisk, a member of Cambridge Meeting and a regular summer attender at Midcoast over recent years. *[See obituary p. 4.]*

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent worship.

—David Cadbury, Clerk; Jim Matlack, Recording Clerk

The next monthly meeting for business will be Sunday, December 21. All are invited. Please bring a bag lunch. All past minutes are available at www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org and the meetinghouse bulletin board.

QUERIES

Outreach—Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in spreading the Christian message? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?

LISTENING WORKSHOP

Listening to that of God in another person, being truly heard, and strengthening community within the Meeting are primary goals of a Listening Workshop to be offered by the Pastoral Care Committee on Saturday, January 24, 2015, from 10 a.m. To 2 p.m., at the meetinghouse. (The snow date is Saturday, January 31.)

Based on activities at Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting's Fall Gathering, the program will introduce guidelines for attentive listening and practice. The central activity will be The Walk to Emmaus from Luke 24:13-35. Time for processing and lunch will round out the workshop. Committee members Deb Haviland, Carmen Lavertu, and Jean Crawford will facilitate.

To sign up for the Listening Workshop, please contact Jean Crawford at jcrawford051@gmail.com or 207-236-4176. Questions are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join Andy Burt at the meetinghouse for soup supper, entertaining and compelling environmental videos, and conversation about how we can act locally while learning and thinking globally. The public will be invited to attend. Fridays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., January 9; February 13; and March 13 (snow dates will e the following Friday evenings). Soup (vegetarian, gluten- and dairy-free) and bread provided by 350 Maine. Program hosted by Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center. RSVP so I can plan food: Andy at 207-380-5387 or 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.

The books will be available at the annual Holiday Sale or by contacting Kathie Gass at 207-230-8071.

THE QUAKER MOTTO CALENDAR

For many years, the Havilands have enjoyed giving family and friends the Quaker Motto Calendar at Christmastime. Once again, 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 2015.



LET OUR SOLAR LIGHT SHINE



As world leaders gather in Lima, Peru, early this month to pursue an agreement to protect us from climate change, Midcoast Friends Meeting will join others around the world in sending our support through song, prayers, and the purchase of a solar lamp for our meetinghouse and two solar lamps for families in Africa. Our purchase from a United Kingdom nonprofit, Solar Aid, supports its campaign to replace ALL kerosene lamps in participating countries with solar-powered lights. This effort will result in improved health for families and the planet as air pollution and carbon emissions are significantly reduced locally. For more information the Light for Lima project, go to www.ourvoices.net/lima

BETTY ZISK, who was a longtime summer attender at worship meeting, died recently. A memorial service was held at Cambridge Friends Meeting on Saturday, November 22. Betty had a summer home in Pemaquid. She rarely attended Meeting in the past several years because of illness, but longtime Midcoast Friends will remember her sitting in the first row bench, and all Friends will appreciate and be thankful for her faithful life. (These are excerpts sent by Charmarie Blaisdell, who was a close friend since graduate-student days in Palo Alto, California. Paul and Viki Diamond were also there, and all were friends and members of Palo Alto Friends Meeting.)

Betty Ann Hershberger Zisk of Burlington, Massachusetts, and Pemaquid Harbor, Maine, died suddenly on October 19th, 2014, aged 83. She had been educated in the Quaker consortium of colleges in Philadelphia (Swarthmore, Haverford) before earning a PhD. Her education had a profound effect on her; she became a Quaker at Swarthmore and remained so throughout her life belonging to the Cambridge MA and Midcoast (Maine) Meetings.

Betty Zisk earned her PhD at Stanford and taught in the Political Science Department at Boston University (MA) from 1965 until her retirement in 2011. In her early years, Professor Zisk was one of the few women in a male-dominated profession. Eager to help other women follow the trail she had helped blaze, she served on bodies such as the APSA's Committee on the Status of Women. Her scholarship and classroom teaching focused on topics of continuing significance: public opinion and political communication, money and politics, the media and social movements, especially those focused on peace and the environment. She was both rigorous and caring as a teacher; she would spend two hours talking with an undergraduate, moving from her office to a coffee shop and back again while the conversation continued. She visited her students if they were in hospital. She taught in BU's program through which prisoners can earn a BA.

The thread running through all her life and work was her devotion to ideals such as social justice, compassion and the environment. In addition to inspiring her teaching and research, these ideals prompted her to be one of the founders of the Massachusetts Green Party and to be involved in the women's movement and many other causes.

Betty Zisk thus lived a life both as a professor and as a citizen that embodied the ideals of the Quaker faith she had embraced at Swarthmore.

—submitted by *Carmen Lavertu*

DIRECTORY CORRECTION: The Rockwoods are Sue and Bruce with children Nathan, Camilla, Alex, and Aliane.

THE WHITE ELEPHANT RETURNS! We will enjoy a repeat of our 'white elephant sale' from past years on Sunday, December 14, after Meeting for Worship. Friends are invited to bring in gently used items, indicating a suggested price if they would like



MONTHLY POTLUCKS SNOW UPDATE



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.

An early snowstorm kept some of us home on the day of our first potluck, November 2. We've set "snow dates" for the next potlucks now that the season is really upon us. Here are the plans for our next two programs. Please spread the word!

December 7 (snow date December 14): Winter Celebrations of Light, 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 and make candle holders, wrap and label 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.

January 5 (snow date January 12): MLK Day & Chinese New Year, Testimony of Equality

Read aloud: MLK perhaps *The Young Martin Luther King, Jr.*, from Scholastic. View *Saga Chinese New Year* PBS episode Activity: Sweep away bad luck. Make wontons. Terms: equal, fair. Testimony of Community: Friends hold that all people are equal in the eyes of God and have equal access to the "inner Light." This profound sense of equality leads Friends to treat each person with respect, looking for "that of God" in everyone.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

—from "Love Came Down at Christmas,"
by Christina Rossetti



As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

—John 15:9 (ESV)

ADVICES

Outreach—The power of God is not used to compel us to Truth; therefore, let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, let us seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable.

Friends are advised to witness to the power of Truth and justice and to foster growth of the divine community at home and abroad. While remaining faithful to our Quaker insights, and ready to share them with others, let us seek to understand the contributions made by the people of God everywhere. Whenever possible, let us seek to enter into prayer and work with the wider community of faith.

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