

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

First Month, 2017

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a

Adult Education: 8:45am, 2nd & 4th Sundays

First Day School: 10:45am following 15 minutes in Meeting
for Worship, 2nd & 4th Sundays



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103
portlandfriendsmeeting.org
207-200-6544

Connections

Co-Clerks

Jennifer Frick 939-1312
Lea Sutton 642-2327

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 391-6116
60 Shadagee Road, #2
Saco, ME 04072

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940
14 Drew Road
South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 749-9706

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940
Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Kirk Read
207 782 3524
kirkread@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Christina Davis 518-0784

Religious Education

Adults: Arthur Fink
arthur@arthurfink.com
207 615 5722
Youth: Luke Hankins 207-200-6042
Youth Religious Education Coordinator:
Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Lise Wagner 232-1778
lise.r.wagner@gmail.com

e-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
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Newsletter

submissions
Heather Denkmire
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Dennis Redfield
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“Do we live in thankful awareness of God’s constant presence in our lives? Are we sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do we nurture our spiritual lives with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?”

New England Yearly Meeting, 1985 Faith & Practice, III: Advices and Queries

Calendar

January 13-15: Junior High Yearly Meeting retreat, Westport Monthly Meeting

January 27-29: Junior Yearly Meeting retreat, Wellesley Monthly Meeting

January 22: Friends School of Portland invited for worship and programs

Monthly

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship

First Sunday: 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
(open for all)

2nd-5th Sundays: 10-10:20a Intergenerational singing

1st Thursday: 4-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen
Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

2nd Saturday: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck
Bart Czyz, btczyz@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

2nd & 4th Sundays: 8:45a Adult Religious Education
10:30a Children in Meeting for Worship
10:45a First Day School

Intergenerational “Odd Sundays”

The Youth Religious Education Committee is seeking volunteers to be available to spend time with our younger members and attenders, those older than nursery age, on Sundays when First Day School isn't in session. Greet the kiddos, show them the shelf of crafts and games, and help keep the volume low as appropriate. Interested? sign up in the parlor or talk to Anne Payson annepayson10@gmail.com 781-2501

Portland Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

January 1, 2017

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m. with 16 members and attenders present.

Co-clerk Lea Sutton query #1 on Spiritual Life from our 1985 Faith and Practice. Do we live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in our lives? Are we sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do we nurture our spiritual lives with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature? This query spoke to our condition, as we prepared to enter into a new year.

The clerk stated that she hopes we can conclude by 10:20, so that we can enter graceful into worship.

1. Minutes. The December minutes were received, and no corrections were noted.

2. Treasury: Kathy Beach presented the treasurer's report, with the good news that we're finishing 2016 with a positive bottom line.

For the month of December:

Income:	Donations:	\$ 8,974
	Rental Income:	\$ 500
	Endowment Income:	\$ 1,000
	Total:	\$10,474
Expenses:	Meetinghouse:	\$ 547
	Meeting Community:	\$ 1,869
	Meeting Contributions:	\$ 1,083
	Total:	\$ 3,499
Balance:		\$ 6,975

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses	
12 months — 100% of 2016	
Year-to-date Income	\$56,902
Percent of Budget	85%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$54,790
Percent of Budget	82%
Balance	\$2,112

Friends accepted this report, with appreciation for the careful work of our treasurer, and for the generosity of all friends. It is particularly helpful that many of us have given throughout the year, and not just at the end of our fiscal period.

Jo Linder asked for approval of a revised 2017 budget, which reflects discussion at our December meeting, and had been printed in our December newsletter, Friends approved this budget.

[Note that the printed budget that was handed out reversed the amounts for Ramallah Friends School and FLGBTQC, which should be \$500 and \$150 respectfully. Also, the donations figure should be \$54,740, and both the income and expense lines should be \$68,240.]

3. Peace and Social Concerns: Rob Levin has sent a request asking for the meeting's support that Friends carry a Portland Friends Meeting banner to the August Women's March on January 21th. Unfortunately, nobody from P&SC could be present to present this in person. Rob's letter emphasized that this is a human rights march, in support of women's rights, civil liberties, and protection of the planet, and that women, men, and children are all welcome. (It's a companion to the national march on Washington, and in many other cities, held on the same day.)

The P&SC Committee wants to encourage as many of us as possible to join this march, with ride-sharing to minimize our carbon footprint getting to Augusta. The committee will be making a new banner, since our only current banner has a message specific to the Maine Pride March.

Friends warmly approved this request, with appreciation that we are making ourselves more visible in support of our concerns.

4. Nominating Committee. Muriel Allen presented for Nominating Committee with a proposal to merge the Peace and Social Concerns and Earth and Spirit Committees into one committee, with the name "Peace and Social Concerns Committee". The two committees have overlapping concerns, and the clerks of both committees feel it is appropriate to have a single committee reflecting the range of concerns in our meeting. It was noted that the earth spirit concern is now being called "Climate Justice", and that this fits comfortably into a "Peace and Social Concerns" mission.

We have welcomed the mystical celebrations that Earth and Spirit has offered, and we wondered how this might continue. We do not want to lose a spiritual sense about our earth.

(cont-)

4. Nominating Committee (cont-) Friends approved this merger. We look forward to hearing from the committee how it will incorporate the earth and spirit concerns into its mission.

We also look forward to a final report from the Nominating Committee, including a complete list of committee appointments and meeting roles.

5. Finance Committee. Dorothy Grannell presented a proposal that charges for Meeting house rentals be on a “pay as led” basis. In response to requests for Meeting House usage, the Meeting House Use Coordinator would send out a letter that might include a range of rates, but only as a suggestion. The letter will encourage people to consider the real costs of operating our building, but explain there is not a fixed rate structure. Groups using the Meeting House will need to consider an appropriate payment that they can manage. Friends approved this experiment, for one year, noting that it is similar to the way New England Yearly Meeting handles session fees.

Dorothy noted that Lisa Wagner will now be handling Meeting Rentals, with Sarah Cushman assisting.

6. Communications Review Committee. Dorothy Grannell presented a report on the continuing work on this subject. We will be forming a new Communications Review Committee, to start implementing the vision that the ad hoc committee has outlined. All the ideas that have been mentioned, such as replacements for the e-group, will be considered by this committee, and brought to Meeting for Business when they are properly seasoned. Friends approved.

7. Ministry and Counsel. Mary Tracy reported several announcements from Ministry and Counsel. None of these required meeting action.

* After a search for several months and appeals to the meeting at large, the committee has not succeeded in finding a second representative from PFM to NEYM Ministry and Counsel. They are grateful Jessica Eller is willing to be the first representative. They will lay down the active search for now but anyone inspired can contact Mary Tracy, marytracy126@gmail.com, 749-8712.

* On January 29 at rise of meeting, we will welcome those who joined the meeting in 2016, as well as those who we inadvertently missed this fall. This time, M&C is planning a couple of get-to-know-you games for all of us to find out something new about people we don't know well. There will be food, of course! We hope to see many of you there

* M&C has written guidelines for the oversight of memorial services in the care of our meeting. You can request a copy from the clerks or find a copy in the Ministry and Counsel Notebook in the library.

* We are grateful to Adult Religious Education Committee for solving the problem of ARE classes overlapping in the meeting room with the singing group. The new plan is for both groups to use the meeting room, with ARE beginning at 8:45 and ending promptly at 9:55 on the second and fourth Sundays, so singing can begin at 10:00.

* The unexpected cancellation of meeting for worship recently prompted a new plan for such times: the clerks will decide whether to cancel, will call it in to WCSH6 to list with their storm cancellations, and will post it via the PFM e-group. The rest of us can check WCSH6 online or by radio or TV, or the e-group. It is also possible for individuals to sign up to receive a text alert from WCSH6.

* Friends are reminded to turn off cell phones (not just set them to vibrate) before entering the meeting room. Signs on the doors, a button for greeters to wear, and periodic reminders in the newsletter and from the clerks as we settle for meeting for worship will help us all cement this habit more firmly, we hope.

8. Appreciation for Liz Maier (retiring co-clerk). Friends asked that our recording clerk draft a minute of appreciation for Liz Maier, as she leaves the role of co-clerk. [Note added later: Arthur will draft such a minute, for consideration at the February Meeting for Business].

We closed in silent workshop at 10:25 a.m., with 25 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again, God willing, at 9:00 a.m. on February 5, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Fink,
Co-Recording Clerk

Stamps Program



Save your stamps for Right Sharing and other Quaker service projects!

Through our partners at Quaker Missions West (formerly Quaker Missions) who sort, package and sell the stamps to collectors, well over \$50,000 has been donated to Right Sharing of World Resources and other Quaker organizations via this project.

This project was begun in 1996 by **Brad Hathaway** from Mattapoisett Friends Meeting in Massachusetts. Brad was a retired stamp dealer and began to collect and sell stamps

for Quaker Missions after his retirement. With help from a committee at his meeting, he was able to send thousands of dollars to Quaker service projects such as Right Sharing of World Resources, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Ramallah Play Center, Lugulu Hospital in Kenya, and the Quaker United Nations Office, to name just a few. Brad was forced to discontinue his service in 2009 due to ill health, but the project was taken over and continued by **Earl Walker** of Claremont Friends Meeting in California.

Almost all stamps are valuable, although some have greater value, particularly those from foreign countries. All stamps, domestic or foreign, are welcome. **The new domestic Forever stamps that are currently being released are especially valuable. No USA flag stamps please as they have little value.**

Follow these simple instructions:

Stamps should be cut from envelopes with 1/8" to 1/4" of paper around the stamp. **For foreign mail include the envelope as well.** There are many dealers who collect foreign envelopes. Save the envelopes of domestic mail postmarked prior to 1946 too.

In addition to stamps, we also accept:

baseball cards

coin collections

Box Tops for Education

picture postcards and government postal cards in their entirety

old and new covers of philatelic value

historical paper including photographs, documents, prints, autographs, etc. Do not remove stamps from very old letters, as the envelopes and letters can have considerable value.

Greeting cards, birthday cards, Valentines, etc. from the early 1900s are also very valuable.

Deposit stamps or postcards in the manila envelope on the table in the parlor. Contact Sandi Jensen to donate any larger or special items as listed above. These will be collected and sent to Earl Walker every few months.

Eat at the Foreside Tavern on Monday, January 23rd and help raise money for Friends School of Portland! 3% of sales all day (11:30am-9pm) will go to FSP. Invite your family, friends and coworkers! The Foreside Tavern is located at 270 Route One in Falmouth. We hope to see you there!



Quaker Meeting in Bath

Thursdays at 2 PM at the Neighborhood Church, corner of Washington and Center streets, under the care of Friends Community of New England (the Quaker house :). All are welcome. Please join us as able and led.

Meetinghouse Use, Experiment for 2017

On January 1, 2017, Portland Friends Meeting agreed to try a "Pay as Led" policy for use of our meetinghouse during 2017. All groups and individuals will be asked to make a donation to the meeting that takes into consideration their own budget and helping us cover the cost of the building use. At the end of the year, financial Oversight and the building use coordinator will evaluate the results of the experiment. Meeting members are urged to share the concept with organizations and groups that may want to use our building. Portland Friends ask that groups that use the building share the values of the Religious Society of Friends. Lise Wagner is now the person who takes reservations for the use of the building.

Welcome to the Friends School of Portland!

On the morning of January 22, Portland Friends Meeting welcomes the Friends School of Portland community - students, parents, faculty, staff - to our Meeting House.

This is an opportunity for the Friends School families and community to become acquainted with the Meeting community that gave birth to the school.

Please help welcome them!

Newsletter note:

While good and important information is in this issue, I feel sure there is a lot more going on in the Portland Friends Meeting community, in the wider Quaker world, and in each individual member/attenders' lives. A reminder that I (Heather) happily lay out content that is sent to me to create the newsletter, but I do not curate content. The content must come from you!

Ideas for newsletter helper jobs:

calendar curator — look at NEYM and other Quaker sites for up coming wider-world Quaker events

photo editor — pictures! it would be so lovely to have more pictures of us!

member/attender profile editor — encourage our F/friends to share themselves!

"bulletin board" curator — remind our F/friends that sharing events not directly Quaker, but important to us is perfectly okay! anything you might post on the hallway bulletin board is welcome in the newsletter!

Quaker organization profiles?

Quaker staff profiles? Friends School teachers? Friends

Camp counselors? Letters from recent graduates?

Events Committee Annual Report 2016

Responsibilities – Coordinating use of the meetinghouse for Quaker events such as weddings, memorial services & retreats, as well as for significant events hosted by renters; forming and maintaining a list of volunteers to help at such events; holding occasional trainings about the use of the building.

2016 Members: Kathy Beach (clerk), Dorothy Grannell, Anne Harwood, Kiya Smith, and Sue Calhoun

We continue to rely on our trained volunteers who have made themselves familiar with all the inner workings of the Meetinghouse. We continue to encourage all members and attenders to learn as much as possible about the Meetinghouse so that we can all pitch in where needed and most importantly, to leave the Meetinghouse locked and in good order if/when we are the last ones to leave.

2016 was a busy year at the Meetinghouse. Members of the Events committee as well as volunteers helped make the following events go smoothly.

PFM Men's Retreat February 27

Falmouth Quarter Women's Retreat March 18-19

Jung Center Lecture and Workshop April 29-30

NEYM Youth Retreats May 6-8 and November 18-20

Wedding of Rania Campbell Cobb and Colin Bussiere-Nichols July 24

Chuck Norris Memorial Service July 30

Karin Wagner and Bernard Mohr Wedding August 13

Jane Mullen and Bill Jose Wedding August 20

Bea Wehmeyer Memorial Service October 8

Al Norton Memorial Service October 29



Portland Friends Meeting—2017 Budget Proposal

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Donations	54,740	52,640	2020
Rent	1500	1500	
Fundraising	0	750	(750)
Endowment	12,000	12,000	
Other			
Total Income	<u>68,240</u>	<u>66,890</u>	<u>1350</u>

<u>Meetinghouse Expenses</u>			
Fuel	3000	3500	(500)
Electricity	800	800	
Water & Sewage	1400	600	800
Phone	300	300	
Insurance/Worker's Compensation	2500	1900	(worker's comp 2016 = 450) 600
Snow Removal	2100	2100	
Building & Grounds	5000	5000	
Custodial Care of Meeting	2500	2500	
Endowment Replenishment	4500	4500	
<u>Subtotal Meetinghouse Expenses</u>	<u>22,100</u>	<u>21,200</u>	<u>900</u>

<u>Meeting Community</u>			
Religious Ed Coordinator	7500	7500	0
Nursery Coordinator	4160	4,160	
Employee Taxes	900	Not in budget	900
Workers Comp	(see insurance)	450	(included above) (450)
First Day Program	1000	750	250
Childcare Providers	2400	2000	400
Camperships/Youth Scholarships	4500	5000	(500)
Adult Religious Ed	100	100	
Adult Scholarships for Friends Activities	1500	1500	
FO/Payroll/Audit	750	750	
Communications	1000	850	150
Peace & Social Concerns	150	150	Will Include E & S concerns
Library & Records	400	300	100

Ministry & Counsel	200	150	50
Earth & Spirit	0	120	Folding into P & SC (120)
Clerk's Enrichment	500	500	0
Pastoral Care	100	100	0
Events Committee	150	150	0
Special Needs Fund	1500	2000	(500)
Clerk's Fund	0	100	(100)
FSP Resource Committee	0	50	(50)
Miscellaneous	250	250	0
Subtotal Meeting Community	27,060	26,930	130

Meeting Contributions			
NE Yearly Meeting	13,300	13,000	300
Equalization Funds	1000	1,000	
Friends School of Portland	1500	1500	0
Friends Camp	300	300	0
AFSC	400	400	0
FCNL	400	400	0
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting	200	200	0
City of Portland—in lieu of taxes	200	200	0
Maine Council of Churches	150	150	0
Quaker Ridge Building Fund	80	80	0
Preble Street	400	400	0
NAACP	400	380	20
FLGBTQC	150	150	0
Ramallah Friends School	500	500	0
FWCC	100	100	0
Subtotal Meeting Contributions	19,080	18,760	320
Total Expenses	68,240	66,890	1350
Balance	0	0	0

For sale: LL Bean snow shoes and boots, only used six times! Call Dorothy 207-233-6587

True silence is the rest of the mind; and is to the spirit, what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment.

William Penn, 1644-1718

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, February 7th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

