

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Ninth Month, 2017

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a

Adult Education: 8:45a, 2nd and 4th Sundays

First Day School: 10:45a, 2nd and 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

Jane Mullen, 215-421-5257

jmmaine@aol.com

Mary Tracy, 207-749-8712

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Pastoral Care Coordinators

Christina Davis 518-0784

Religious Education

Adults: Sandi Jensen 207-839-2372

Judith Spross 617-872-8817

Youth: Luke Hankins 207-200-6042

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Lise Wagner 232-1778

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Newsletter

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Heather Denkmire

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“Ministry is what is on one's soul, and it can be in direct contradiction to what is on one's mind. It's what the Inner Light gently pushes you toward or suddenly dumps in your lap. It is rooted in the eternity, divinity, and selflessness of the Inner Light; not in the worldly egoistic functions of the conscious mind.”

MaryAnn McMullan

Calendar

September 17 10:30 Meeting for Worship at Portland Friends Meeting
11a shared Meeting for Worship at Friends School of Portland
12noon potluck at Friends School of Portland

September 24 8:45a Adult Religious Education resumes
10:45a Youth Religious Education resumes, all youth gathering

Monthly

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship

1st Sunday: 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (all welcome)

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 Czyn, btczyn@gmail.com, 207 899 5937



Sunday, October 1, 2017

Friends around the world on six continents will celebrate World Quaker Day on the first Sunday in October. How will you celebrate?

Invite a neighbor, family member or friends who has been curious about the Society of Friends to worship with you that Sunday. There will be a new map of the world poster in the foyer that shows where Friends meetings and churches are located. Put a pin in the map to show where you have worshipped other than Portland this past year. Give thanks for the diversity of our Society and its unifying testimonies. For more information and video resources contact Dorothy Grannell (233-6587).

Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
September 10, 2017

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m., with 21 members and attenders present.

Co-clerk Jennifer Frick read a text about ministry from MaryAnn McMullan. "Ministry is what is on one's soul, and it can be in direct contradiction to what is on one's mind. It's what the Inner Light gently pushes you toward or suddenly dumps in your lap. It is rooted in the eternity, divinity, and selflessness of the Inner Light; not in the worldly egoistic functions of the conscious mind."

1. Minutes. The July minutes were accepted, and no corrections were noted.
2. Treasurer: Kathy Beach presented the treasurer's report. Here's the financial summary that she presented:

For the month of August:

Income:	\$5,640
Expenses:	\$2,836
Balance:	\$2,804

For the year to date:

Income:	\$43,572
Expenses:	\$42,473
Balance:	\$ 1,099

As of the end of August, we have completed 67% of our budget year. Here are the percent of budget that we have actually spent during that period (January—August 2017):

Income

Donations	62%
Rent	123%
Endowment	67%
Total	64%

Expenses

Meeting house	58%
Meeting community	53%
Contribution to other orgs	79%
Total	62%

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses 8 months — 67% of 2017	
Year-to-date Income	\$43,572
Percent of Budget	67%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$42,473
Percent of Budget	62%
Balance	\$1,099

Committee Clerks should send their budget requests for 2018 to Jo Linder by October 20.

The increase in income was largely from renting our space to a children's day camp this summer

3. Buildings and Grounds Committee

Syl Doughty noted that we have used our building as a sleeping facility for various retreats, and now with Family Promise coming up, we have decided on some upgrades to our safety systems. This should have been done some time ago. We will be changing most of the heat detectors to smoke detectors, adding carbon monoxide detectors, and adding a new control panel, with greater capacity and newer technology, to replace our old one that dates back to 1994. A single battery in the main control panel will support all the detectors. There will also be a sprinkler added in the boiler room. The cost of these upgrades can be covered by the building and grounds budget, but it will show as a significant expense next month. The work will be done this Tuesday. We expressed gratitude to Syl and the other committee members for their diligent work on these issues.

4. Ministry and Counsel

Jane Mullen reported for Ministry and Counsel, announcing a called meeting for worship as a memorial gathering to remember Chris Gunderman, scheduled for 12:30 pm on Sunday October 22.

(cont-)

(minutes continued from page 2)

4. (cont-) Lisa Wagner reported that a Memorial Meeting for Marion Hall was held on August 26, and that her body has been interred in our cemetery. Downingtown Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania, where she was actually a member at the time of her death, told us that Portland was really her spiritual home. She is still with us.
5. Ann Dodd-Collins -- Visit to Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Ann Dodd-Collins shared the following report of her visit to Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

Report on Baltimore Yearly Meeting -- 31 July to 6 August 2017

"Growing towards Justice -- Acting on Faith"

This was my first time visiting Baltimore Yearly Meeting. I was one of 24+ visitors from other yearly meetings and associations, the most they have ever had. BYM takes intervisitation seriously, sending their Friends two by two to visit other yearly meetings, inviting Friends from other yearly meetings to visit them, and providing the funds to do so. They also maintain a lounge for visitors, which is noted on the schedule, giving us an opportunity to get to know each other, the intervisitation committee, and all others who wander in. All are welcome and snacks are plentiful.

Like New England, Baltimore is a dual affiliated meeting, belonging to both Friends United Meeting and Friends General Conference. Their schedule is similar to NEYM's, the concerns are similar, and the "Quakerspeak" is similar -- lots of references to Light and Spirit and not much talk of God, Jesus Christ, or authority. I already knew a number of people from BYM through my own years of intervisitation and my work with FUM, and I enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting, like many others, has been focusing on issues of race and class. Their camping staff has made a concerted effort to have more diversity in their camps, and five STRIDE (Supporting Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments) chapters have been created to focus on community outreach. A panel discussion, "The School to Prison Pipeline", on Tuesday evening was extremely thought provoking. I still have a tendency to exceed the speed limit, but now I am aware that if I were stopped, I would probably get off with a warning whereas my black counterpart would probably be searched, perhaps arrested, and definitely ticketed.

A plenary session on Wednesday was intergenerational. Campers from Camp Catoctin "hiked down the mountain" to join in a discussion of social justice and in making posters. Some of the posters I noted were:

- * "Hate has no home here but YOU do"

- * "No discrimination ... we are someone else's THEM"

- * A Venn diagram of US and THEM with a peace sign in the area where the circles overlap.

Young Friends and Young Adult Friends were present throughout the week. They had their own programs, but they also served as reading clerks at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. And of course they organized the last evening's coffeehouse.

There was a focus on right relationship with the earth as Friends in Unity with Nature gave eco-cloth shopping bags to every registrant and offered a minute, approved, which established a goal of totally eliminating the use of plastic bags among Friends. The Working Group on Right Relationship with Animals provided cookies (and recipes) made without the use of any animal products for one of our midmorning breaks.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee brought a minute regarding North Korea:

Consistent with Friends' Peace Testimony to "utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons for any end or under any pretense whatsoever," Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) urges U.S. leaders to resist any temptation to a preemptive military strike against North Korea. ...

This minute was also approved.

In other business a report, which included a virtual tour, was given on the completion of the new Camp Catoctin bathhouse with appreciation to Friends who made Friendly Loans so that the bathhouse could be built despite the bids coming in far above the budgeted amount. A new method of determining apportionments for monthly meetings was approved. And the 2017 BYM Epistle was wordsmithed at length. We Quakers do have a tendency to let our egos get in the way of Spirit, in my

5. (cont-) opinion. Two of the workshops I attended were excellent. Georgia Fuller's Acting on Faith in not so Friendly Places" was about work being done by Quakers in Kenya, Ramallah, and the slums of Belize City, Belize. Joan Liversedge offered "Nurturing Spiritual Gifts and Ministry" in which we explored naming, nurturing, pruning, and exercising our gifts and the gifts of others. I also enjoyed the Bible Study, one of the choices for the worship sharing time slot. But for me, first and foremost, intervisitation is always about the people, the people I meet and the conversations I have.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity.
Ann Dodd-Collins

6. Family Promise

Ann Dodd-Collins reported that she and Tom Tracy will be attending the mandatory Family Promise coordinators training today. Our Family Promise hosting will begin. Volunteers need to take a three- hour training program if we are to be with guests. Ann found this training to be both interesting and helpful, and, in any case, it is required if you will have direct contact with the families. Jobs like setup, cleaning, etc., that don't involve direct contact, do not require training.

7. Announcements

Our nursery coordinator has moved out of the area, and so the committee is seeking a new nursery coordinator. Meanwhile, they will be providing coverage on an ad hoc basis. Any suggestions will be most welcome.

Ann Dodd-Collins' will be giving a Spiritual Journal talk on her Cuba trip this week, Sept 14, 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Adult Religious Education Classes will resume on September 24, with Tracy Booth sharing about using the Bible.

Arthur Fink will be giving a Spiritual Journey talk about the time he spent at Auschwitz and Birkenau on October 17th, also 5:30 to 7:00.

Next Sunday we will have 10:30 Meeting for Worship here as usual, but there will also be a Meeting for Worship at 11:00 at Friends School, followed by a pot luck.

We closed in silent workshop at 10:05 a.m., with 28 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again, God willing, at 9:00 a.m. on October 1, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Fink,
Co-Recording Clerk

**Please join us for the annual benefit dinner
for the Kakamega Orphans Care Centre
at Durham Friends Meetinghouse
Saturday, September 30th. 5:30 pm**

Once more it will be a chicken BBQ dinner (vegetarian option) with all the side dishes you have come to enjoy with fruit and squash pie desserts. And a great big CAKE because it is the 15th Birthday of Friends of Kakamega!!

Each year this benefit dinner is a great success in raising money for the Kakamega Care Centre, keeping friends connected to the project, and helping bring in new friends. It is a collaboration of Durham Meeting and the sponsors/friends of Friends of Kakamega. This year there will be a pictorial over-view of 15 years and some of our plans as we look to the future. Come and be a part of the celebration!

Advance Tickets: Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Children 6 or older \$6

At the Door: Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, Children \$6, Age 5 or younger FREE

Reserve tickets call 318-8531 or email sukierice@comcast.com

**First Day School starts!
Sunday, Sept. 24th
10:45 - 11:45 AM**

**A fun-filled gathering for all
First Day School Youth!
Games, singing, snacks!**

**Outdoors if the weather if good,
otherwise downstairs**

**Questions? Anne Payson
annepayson10@gmail.com**



Shared Meeting for Worship at Friends School of Portland

Sunday, September 17th at 11:00am in the FSP meeting room, followed by a potluck.

Friends School of Portland Harvest Fest at Broadturn Farm

Sunday, October 1st, 12-5pm

Join us for food by Mashed (food truck), local brews, a contradance, and activities for kids. Also, bring your own instrument for a community singalong! Tickets are \$20 per adult; kids are free.

Proceeds support financial assistance at FSP. Purchase tickets in advance at www.friendsschoolofportland.org.

Family Open House at Friends School of Portland

Saturday, October 28th, 10:00am-12 noon

Tour our energy-efficient school building, meet the teachers, spend time in classrooms, and talk to current parents and students. Learn more about Quaker education and get a feel for our culture of joyful learning. Our Head of School and Director of Studies will be on hand to answer your questions. This event is for families with children entering preschool through 8th grade. Prospective students and their siblings are welcome! If you would like to attend, please contact Jen McNally, Admissions Director at 781-6321 or jen@friendsschoolofportland.org.



You're Invited!

Harvest Fest at Broadturn Farm
Sunday, October 1st, 12-5pm



Events at Unity of Greater Portland

Friday, September 22 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Fall Equinox with Visionary Authors, Filmmakers and Futurists, Connie Baxter Marlow and Andrew Cameron Bailey. Maine Premiere of the short film SEEDS OF FREEDOM: A Vision for America Liberty! Justice! Equality! A new perspective presents a revolutionary look at the syntheses between European colonists and the American Indian in the evolution of the American democracy, mind and spirit. Followed by: Multi-media talk and discussion; Thoreau, the Pope and the Indian: A Shared Vision. Cost: Love Offering POTLUCK 6-7 pm. Bring your favorite dish.

September 24 Sunday with Visionary Authors, Filmmakers and Futurists, Connie Baxter Marlow and Andrew Cameron Bailey

10 AM: The Baxter Legacy - Alignment with Indigenous Values. James Phinney Baxter and his son Percival walked to the beat of a different drum, exemplifying the human potential in their political and personal lives.

12-2 PM: Multi-media Presentation & Forum — Civil Disobedience, Spiritual Activism and Higher Law: A Vision of the Individuals Role in creating a Just World. Previously presented at the Thoreau Society (July 2017). Cost: Love Offering

PFM Annual Calendar of Regular Events

Each Sunday of the month is numbered, **not by the date**, but by which week of the month it is.

<p>January 1 9:00 am Meeting for Business (MFB) 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 5 Last Welcome new members at rise of meeting</p>	<p>July 1 Meeting for worship changes to 5:30 p.m. First full week (Sun - Sat) FGC Gathering 2 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 5 Last Summer MFB 7pm</p>
<p>February 1 9:00 MFB 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes</p>	<p>August 1 NEYM Sessions Sun-Thu 2 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 5</p>
<p>March 1 9:00 MFB - Final approval of SoS report 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 5</p>	<p>September 1 2 9:00 MFB, 10:30 a.m. worship resumes. 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 MFW at FSP 4 First RE classes & Welcoming Celebration 8:45 Adult, 10:45 Youth 5</p>
<p>April 1 9:00 MFB; Final SoS due to Falmouth Quarter 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 5</p>	<p>October 1 9:00 MFB; World Quaker Day 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classe 5</p>
<p>May May 1 - SoS report due to NEYM 1 9:00 MFB 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes Love Your Meetinghouse Day 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 5</p>	<p>November 1 9:00 MFB 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes Love Your Meetinghouse Day 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 5</p>
<p>June 1 9:00 MFB 2 Last RE classes & End of Year Celebration 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 5</p>	<p>December 1 9:00 MFB. 4 pm Advent Garden 2 8:45 Adult RE classes; 10:45 Youth classes 2nd Sat 5-8pm Youngish Adult potluck 3 4 5</p>

Newsletter Adult Religious Education (ARE) Report September 2017

We were pleased to welcome Rhoda Renschler to the ARE committee in August; she joins Muriel Allen, Arthur Fink, Judy Spross (co-clerk), and Sandi Jensen (co-clerk). Members of the ARE committee met August 14 and September 12, 2017. Our primary focus in these meetings has been on planning classes for the coming year. We are working on the budget for next year. Our next meeting is October 10 from 1 to 3 PM at Judy's house.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have already held our first Spiritual Journey Presentation on Quakers in Cuba presented by Ann Dodd-Collins. Note that our second Spiritual Journey Presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th, from 5:30 to 7 pm with light refreshments available. The topic is Encountering the Holocaust: An Artist's Vision--Arthur Fink will present. Look for the call for Spiritual journeys in November (and respond) so we can plan to offer two in the spring!

Based on suggestions from the PFM community, you will see that we are introducing the use of selected QuakerSpeak videos to inspire discussion in some of our classes this fall (see Calendar). While the topics are as announced--the titles for later classes may change to become more specific. We are grateful for the input of so many. We have other topics under consideration so we may tap you to present or co-facilitate.

We welcome your feedback. Feel free to reach out to any member at meeting or send an e-mail to Judy at jaspross@gmail.com or call her at 207-775-2570 (home) or 617-872-8817 (cell). Below is the calendar:

ARE CLASS DATES FOR FALL 17 AND SPRING 18

- Sept. 24, 2017 Making friends with the bible: Part I Speaker: Tracy Booth; Facilitator: Muriel Allen
- Oct. 8, 2017 QuakerSpeak: How spirituality makes activism more effective (about 5 minutes-long video with Eileen Flanagan (we anticipate showing the video in class but you can view it online: <http://quakerspeak.com/spirituality-makes-activism-more-effective/>) (Columbus Day weekend)
- Oct 22, 2017 Making friends with the bible: Part 2; Speaker: Tracy Booth; Facilitator: Judy Spross
- Nov. 12, 2017 Being Present and Being Practical: Spiritual, emotional and practical support for those with life-threatening or terminal illness (tentative title); Facilitator: Judy Spross and TBA
- Nov. 26, 2017 No Class (Sunday after Thanksgiving)
- Dec. 10, 2017 QuakerSpeak: Quaker Spiritual Disciplines (we anticipate showing the very short video in class but you can view it online <http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-spiritual-disciplines/>)
- Dec. 24, 2017 No Class
- Jan. 14, 2018 Concerns and Queries: How do we move from concern to query in our collective and individual spiritual development? Facilitator: Arthur Fink
- Jan. 28, 2018 Quaker 101: Learn about Rufus Jones' role in the evolution of Quakerism(he is considered the "re incorporator" of mysticism); Facilitator: Muriel Allen
- Feb. 11, 2018 (Note: the two February classes are tentatively planned to be a book group with a guest--more on the topic next month)
- Feb. 25, 2018 see above note.
- Mar. 11, 2018 Contemplative Writing (Writing topic to be determined); Facilitator: Theresa Oleksiw
- Mar. 25, 2018 Contemplative Writing (Writing topic to be determined); Facilitator: Theresa Oleksiw
- Apr. 8, 2018 Class development in process
- Apr. 22, 2018 Writing a spiritual memoir (tentative title) with Andy Grannell
- May 13, 2018 Quaker 101: Threads of mysticism in Quakerism; Facilitator: Muriel Allen
- May 27, 2018 (Memorial Day Weekend)
- June 10, 2018 To be determined but likely our traditional final meeting of eliciting feedback and ideas for the next year.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, October 3, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

