

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Tenth 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

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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

submissions

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*“Give over thine own willing, give over thy own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee and be in thee and breathe in thee and act in thee; and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of Life, which is its portion.”*

Isaac Pennington, 1661

## Calendar

**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](mailto:btczyn@gmail.com), 207 899 5937

## 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](mailto:jen@friendsschoolofportland.org).



**Portland Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Business  
October 1, 2017**

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m. with 18 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Lea Sutton read from Isaac Pennington, 1661, the passage which begins:

“Give over thine own willing, give over thine own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee and be in thee . . . .”

1. Review of September Minutes. We made the following spelling corrections to Minute 4: Lisa to Lise, Marion to Marian and Downington to Downingtown. Also, we made clear that the interment in our cemetery was of Marian’s ashes (not her body).
2. Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer Kathy Beach reported. Due to the updates needed to comply with safety regulations for the Family Promise Program, as well as overnight retreats at our Meetinghouse, the Building & Grounds committee has been busy coordinating work with Seacoast Security. This has put us back in the red in terms of our budget. The good news is that our building is up to code. Also, the Treasurer sent our fourth quarter pledge payment to New England Yearly Meeting. Thus, we have met all our Meeting contribution promises for 2017.

We are 75% of the way through the year. Our expenses are at 79% and our income is at 69%.

Here is the September summary:

Income \$3241  
Expenses \$11,375  
September balance (\$8134)

Here is the YTD summary:

Income: \$46,813  
Expenses: \$53,848  
Balance: (-\$7035)

<b>Quick Summary of Income and Expenses 9 months — 75% of 2017</b>	
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Year-to-date Income	\$46,813
Percent of Budget	69%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$53,848
Percent of Budget	79%
Balance	(\$7,035)

The negative year-to-date balance is consistent with October for other years.

Friends accepted the Treasurer’s report.

3. Youth Religious Education Luke Hankins spoke for the Committee. The Youth Religious Education Committee is pleased to report Susan Grannell is being hired as candidate to fill the Nursery Coordinator position. She has experience as a caregiver for a range of ages, is quite familiar with a Quaker environment and has held positions with supervisory and scheduling responsibilities. Her references are uniformly glowing and the Committee members who have met her are pleased with her gentle manner with children and cheerful demeanor.

Friends welcomed this news with enthusiasm.

4. Yearly Meeting Reports. Cristina Davis, Doug Wagner and Lise Wagner reported as follows: Christina Davis, Doug Wagner, and Lise Wagner, appointed representatives, report on their attendance at NEYM Annual Sessions at Castleton University, Castleton, VT, this August. Eight children (including 6 teens) and 11 adults from Portland Friends Meeting attended the annual gathering. The theme of ‘Living into Transformation’ was present throughout the week, from the plenary speaker, Ruby Sales, to the Bible Half Hours, presented by Marty Grundy, to the deep work of confronting our racism. We encourage Friends to visit the YM website to listen to the Bible Half Hours and watch the plenary talk. The Epistle is also available.

(cont-)

(minutes continued from page 2)

4. (cont-) We found that Sessions nurtured our spiritual growth and at times challenged our ability to enjoy Quaker process. Business meeting can feel at times like the worshipful presence has left the room, but at other times can be lifted up and truly enlightening. One such time of enlightenment was when we heard from Young Adult Friend (and staff person to the Young Friends), Xinef Afriam. He spoke to us about how Yearly Meeting has welcomed him and yet as an African-American, at times he does not feel that he fits in this vessel. Can the vessel of Yearly Meeting change to hold him and other people of color?

A Working Group on Challenging White Supremacy was created and held listening sessions during the week, with extra times added due to popular demand. We were encouraged that Friends were able to discuss racism without getting too defensive, but the work at Sessions still was not enough. We hope that Portland Meeting will take up the important work of last year's minute on confronting racism as soon as possible.

We were very pleased that Permanent Board decided to act on the Obama Administration's Fair Labor Standards Act and to increase the pay of most of the Yearly Meeting staff so that they are paid justly. Although this caused the YM budget to have an overage of \$42,000, ways to make up this deficit were outlined by the Development Committee.

Some other highlights: Faith and Practice Revision Committee has presented the chapter on membership which is quite lengthy and deserves close reading and responses before February, 2018. We heard from the Prophetic Climate Action Working Group, in particular about their Climate Pilgrimage and individual and corporate action suggestions. Keith Harvey presented a history and celebration of the American Friends Service Committee's 100 years. He also expressed his concerns for the financial troubles currently plaguing the Committee.

Christina appreciated her Anchor Group, a worship sharing group that met each day. She also attended a Pastoral Care workshop, which included brainstorming with members of other monthly meeting Pastoral Care committees. Lise enjoyed meeting with members of the Friends Camp Committee and Anna Hopkins, camp director, as well as seeing F/friends from all over New England. Doug liked Sessions very much and thought the food was quite good. The Young Friends had three programs per day, when they discussed the theme of YM, attended some of adult business meeting, and heard from various speakers. They also went to a nearby lake one afternoon. All three of us really enjoyed the evening of contra dancing. Doug and Lise were especially tickled by Chris Fitze's "announcements" at coffeehouse, creatively playing on the Sessions theme. Doug expressed his gratitude for our meeting's support to attend Sessions and was really glad that his friend, Owen, came for the first time and really liked it.

Christina and Lisa also reported on the music enjoyed at Yearly Meeting— vespers singing and African drumming.

After the report, we discussed several issues, including racism and the drafts of the the new Faith and Practice. The Clerk encouraged us to read these drafts and expects to refer consideration of them to the Ministry and Counsel committee to organize the Meeting's engagement in the process of updating the statements of our faith and how it translates into practice. In this way we will be supporting the Quaker practice of working from the bottom up—monthly meetings— rather than the top—Yearly Meeting— down. Ministry and Counsel will be scheduling a program in 2018 on racism. Lise ended the discussion with a plea to us to consider individual donations to Yearly Meeting, especially in view of the need to support the just pay of Yearly Meeting employees. She will put something in the newsletter about how to contribute electronically to Yearly Meeting.

5. Family Promise Ann Dodd Collins reported as follows: Portland Friends Meeting served as Greater Portland Family Promise hosts for the first time from 17 to 24 September. We cared for two families, although only one family actually stayed with us.

Twenty-nine of our members and attenders helped by setting up and breaking down, preparing meals, doing laundry, and serving as hosts at various times of the day. All of our volunteer slots were filled except for one. Ann and Tom Tracy are very grateful for all the help and thank all who volunteered. They could not have done it without you.

We learned a lot. We learned a lot about food, meal preparation, and serving as dinner and evening hosts. We learned a lot

5. (cont-) about cultures. And we were reminded just how active and curious young children can be.

Some of you know that the Angolan family that was supposed to stay with us did not feel that they could stay because of the cemetery behind our meeting house. GPFP found alternative sleeping places for them during our week, but we provided their meals. On Friday of our host week, I went to the day shelter and talked with our Angolan family about what Quakers believe. The mother greeted me with, "I have done an investigation of Quakers. I know that you believe in Espiritu de Santo, Holy Spirit." We had quite a good discussion about both Quakers and cultures. At the end, the father said that they were sorry they had not stayed with us and that they would not hesitate to stay with us the next time.

Ann felt very supported by the Meeting especially Lise Wagner, and Tom, who handled everything about meals. Muriel Allen reported how much she enjoyed the work she did. Ann reported that some of our visitors were concerned that our Meetinghouse does not look like a church, and will be providing Family Promise with a written description of us and a picture of our meeting room. Andy Grinnell stated he felt Family Promise is a well run program and we managed to perform our end well given it was our first time. We all felt this was largely due to Ann and Tom, and thanked them for their hard work. We also thanked Buildings and Grounds for the hard and quick work of bringing the building up to Code.

Ann pointed out that this is the first time Family Promise has dealt with homeless people who are also refugees, adding to the challenges which all host churches were dealing with in this first year in Portland.

Our next round will be in December. Anne Payson stated that the Advent Garden will probably take place on Saturday, rather than Sunday, in order to accommodate our expected guests.

We closed at 10:25 a.m., with 24 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, 2017, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Ballou  
Co-Recording Clerk

**Announcement** Today is World Quaker Day. Put your sticker on the poster in the foyer if you have attended other meetings.

**A Note from Sharon McDonnell, seeking housing for her son**

My son Morgan McDonnell (27 years) has moved back to Maine from California. He is a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting in Atlanta GA and will come and introduce himself to the Meeting here sometime soon. He is working in Portland and has been attending the Maine Media Workshop in Camden to explore his interest in film production plus working with parking enforcement and as a trainer.

He is looking for a place to live in the general Portland area (wide geographic area) for himself (and a roommate if that is sensible) and can trade chores, animal care, carrying and managing a home as needed. In LA he helped as a property manager so he can provide care. He was hoping to find someplace by middle or end November of this year.

We figured a more personal request might be good as compared to Craigslist or other public places.

Love to hear suggestions or questions call or text Morgan McDonnell: 508-425-1439

*No clear impressions, either from above or from without, can be received by a mind turbid with excitement and agitated by a crowd of distractions. The stillness needed for the clear shining of light within is incompatible with hurry.*

*Caroline Stephen, 1834-1909*

## Quaker Education Panel at Friends School of Portland

Wednesday, November 1st, 6:00-7:30pm

Come to FSP for a panel discussion on the impact Quaker education has made in the life's work of leaders in Maine and New England.

Panelists will include:

- Kate Dempsey, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy in Maine (Germantown Friends School)
- Philip Conkling, Co-founder of the Island Institute (John Woolman School)
- John Jenkins, first African-American mayor in Maine, and first mayor of both Lewiston and Auburn (American Friends Service Committee Princeton Summer Programs)
- Jacqueline Stillwell, General Secretary of Right Sharing World Resources (The Meeting School)

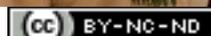
The event is generously supported by the Susan Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund. Free and open to the public; seating is limited. RSVP to Brooke Burkett by October 31 at [brooke@friendschoolofportland.org](mailto:brooke@friendschoolofportland.org) or 558-6214.



New England Quakers at Living Faith gathering | Image by Kathleen Wooten



New England Quakers gathering in song at Sessions | Image by Robert Freund



Portland Friends Meeting  
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Address Service Requested

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Tuesday, November 7, 11:59pm

submissions: [pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net)

