

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

First Month, 2018

**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](http://portlandfriendsmeeting.org)

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## Connections

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*“In meetings for business, and in all duties connected with them, seek again the leadings of the Light; let our utterances be brief and without repetition. Let us keep from obstinacy and from harshness of tone or manner and admit the possibility of being in error. In all the affairs of the meeting community, let us proceed in a peaceable spirit, with forbearance and warm affection for each other.”*

Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries, 1985

## Calendar

- January 12 -14** Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat, Westport Monthly Meeting
- January 14** 12:30-2:15p An Open-Hearted Inquiry into Racial Identity, PFM
- January 21** 12:30-2p Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity, PFM
- January 26-28** Junior Yearly Meeting Retreat, Wellesley Monthly Meeting
- January 28** Rise of Meeting, Discussion about Commitment to and Membership in PFM  
Friends School of Portland invited to PFM for worship and programs
- February 11** 12:30-2p Voices of Color/Color Of Change, PFM
- Every Sunday:** 10:30a Meeting for Worship
- 1st Sunday:** 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (all welcome)
- 2nd and 4th Sundays:** 8:45a Adult Religious Education  
10:45a First Day School
- 2nd-5th Sundays:** 10-10:20a Intergenerational singing
- 2nd Saturday:** 5-8p Youngish adults potluck  
Bart Czyz, [btczyz@gmail.com](mailto:btczyz@gmail.com), 207 899 5937

## How Do We Build and Act on Our Commitment to Quakerism and PFM?

Have you seen ebbs and flows in your participation in the meeting? Have you wondered about membership - if, when, how? Share your own experience and hear how others in our community are navigating this journey. On the last Sunday in January, the 28th, at rise of meeting, we will welcome new members who joined in 2017, play a game to warm up, and then settle into what promises to be a rich discussion. Sandwiches, veggies, cookies and drink will be provided. For childcare, please contact Susan Grannell at [grannell8@gmail.com](mailto:grannell8@gmail.com) or call her at 401-4413-5951.

**Portland Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Business  
January 7, 2018**

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m. with 16 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Jennifer Frick read from page 206, New England Yearly Meeting Advices and Queries, which begins: "In meetings for business, and in all duties connected with them, seek again the leadings of the Light."

1. **Minutes** The December 2017 minutes were accepted with the correction in the Treasurer's report from "January to August" to "January to November" in two places..

2. **Treasurer's Report** Kathy Beach presented the year-end Treasurer's report, which showed that we finished in the black. Here is the summary for the month of December as well as the Year-to-Date:

December:	Year-To-Date:
Income: \$9,232	Income: \$64,442
Expenses: \$3,173	Expenses: \$61,746
Balance: \$6,059	Balance: \$2,696

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses  
12 months — 100% of 2017**

Year-to-date Income	\$64,442
Percent of Budget	94%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$61,746
Percent of Budget	90%
Balance	\$2,696

Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

3. **Financial Oversight/2018 Budget.** In December we went over the proposed 2018 budget. There is one proposed change, and that it is to include the NAACP as a recipient of a \$400 contribution. We had deleted it because of problems getting a check to the correct person (it was returned last year). After discussion, it was decided to include the \$400 contribution in the 2018 budget.

The Committee also proposes adding cemetery expenses into the budget this year under Meetinghouse expenses. The cost is paid from a cemetery fund in our endowment. The committee will be explaining our endowment funds in more detail in March. It was suggested that the cemetery information be therefore kept out of the operating budget. It was also suggested that the committee consider raising the pay for the care of the cemetery.

We approved the 2018 budget with the NAACP contribution but without cemetery information, after verification of the figures.

4. **Ministry and Counsel** Mary Tracy reported on upcoming programs here and elsewhere on white privilege and racial justice which might interest Friends, as follows:

Diversity immersion is happening in our meetinghouse in March. It is an immersion course focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion being presented by a group called "Diversity Immersion". See Lise Wagner for a brochure. Some may be available in the front lobby.

Portland Public Library is screening an acclaimed civil rights mini-series, at 6:30 every Thursday in January at the Main Library in Rines Auditorium. These are free. See article on Community bulletin board in the parlor.

PBS NewsHour and the New York Times are teaming up to offer a national book group called Now Read This. The first book is Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward, a two-time winner of the National Book Award. You can sign up through Facebook.

On January 15, the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. at Colby College will culminate with a lecture by bestselling (nonfiction) author Ibram X. Kendi, whose 2016 book Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America won the National Book Award. Kendi will speak at 7:00 p.m in Ostrove Auditorium, which is located in the Diamond Building, center campus on Mayflower Hill Drive. Andy Grannell has read the book and highly recommends attending.

Dorothy Grannell added that there are other Martin Luther King events we should be aware of. First, an Interfaith Worship at First Parish Church on Sunday January 14 at 5 p.m. (425 Congress Street, Portland); and second the MLK Holiday Dinner on Monday January 15 at Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, also at 5 p.m. Details are on the bulletin board.

Dorothy also recommended a course entitled "Racial Justice & the Beloved Community: Quaker Practices for Interrupting & Transforming Racism" being given over 3 months in spring 2018 by Lisa Graustein of New England Yearly Meeting. It starts on March 10 at the Beacon Hill Friends House (Boston) from 9:30 to 4. See bulletin board for further details.

(cont-)

(minutes continued from page 2)

4. **Ministry and Counsel** (cont-) Look for upcoming events on the subcommittee on racial justice Bulletin Board. People who need child care for Quaker events here should contact Susan Grannell ahead of time.
5. **Special request** Dorothy Grannell reported a request from Leslie Manning in regard to attendance at the Martin Luther King annual dinner sponsored by the NAACP. Diane Dicranian, who was one of the nine clergy arrested at Susan Collins' office for protesting the tax bill, will be honored at the dinner. Diane is the Quaker representative to the Maine Council of Churches. The catch is that the dinner is a fundraiser and attenders, even honorees, are expected to pay their own way. Unlike the other clergy attending, Diane has no funds for such expenses. We are asked to contribute \$60 toward Diane's attendance. We approved making a \$60 contribution from the Adult Scholarships for Friends Activities line.
6. **State of Society Report** The Clerks distributed a draft State of Society Report for 2017. Jennifer Frick then read the report. Friends praised the overall description of the life of this Meeting and suggested a few changes and additions, particularly to reflect our increasing witness in the world around us. The Clerks will present a proposed final version at February Meeting for Business.
7. **Communications Review Committee** Heather Denkmire reported that Edd Burns is the new Clerk of the Committee. The second E-group (for events of interest to our Meeting/third tier) will be started soon, and will include all of the existing E-group members. Heather is available for anyone needing help or with questions.

We closed at 10:15 a.m., with 23 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9:00 on February 4, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lyn Ballou  
Co-Recording Clerk

### **Martin Luther King, Jr Events 2018**

January 14 - 5:00p **The Color and Cost of Justice: Fifty Years After the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.** Interfaith Worship First Parish Church, 425 Congress St, Portland <https://www.facebook.com/events/205007053407895/>.

January 15 - 5:00p - **MLK Holiday Dinner Program** Inn Spring St., Portland, ME  
The extraordinary Kenya Hall will sing selections during the program along with live music representing the global sounds of local musicians. Featured speakers include Marc Mauer, executive director, The Sentencing Project and Andrea James, founding executive director, The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. This is a ticketed program through Eventbrite that includes a short cocktail reception with cash bar beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by the dinner program at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please call (207) 553-5851. **ADVANCE SALE OF TICKETS ONLY \$60.00 per person.** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-mlk-holiday-observance-portland-me-tickets-41699338845>

January 15 7:00p **Lecture: Ibram X Kendi, Author Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America** Ostove Auditorium of the Diamond Building, Colby College, Waterville. **FREE**

January 15 8:00- 10:30a **MLK Breakfast** University of Maine, Orono -Wells Center \$20.00 <https://umaine.edu/multicultural/mlk-breakfast/>

January 15 10 am - noon **Sherri Mitchell: Sacred Instruction, An interactive discussion about healing ourselves and our community.** St Francis Xavier Church, 130 US 133, Wintrop, ME Sherri Mitchell is a Penobscot woman who is an Indigenous rights attorney, activist and teacher. She speaks and teaches around the world on topics ranging from Indigenous Rights, Environmental Justice, Spiritual Activism and the Indigenous Way of Life. The morning will include a time to hear from Sherri and also to engage in conversation in small groups. Her writing has been featured in numerous anthologies and publications. She has recently completed her first book, titled "Sacred Instructions" Contact Leslie Manning for information or a ride from Bath 319-0342.

## 2017 Annual Report of the Communications Review Committee

The Communications Review Committee was formed at the beginning of 2017. The purpose of this committee is intended to be a non-technical committee concerned with communications policy and workflow. It does not implement the decisions made, but provides additional insight into the technical aspects of communications to support Portland Friends Meeting, and reviews communication requirements and makes recommendations.

During 2017, the Communications Review Committee:

- Documented existing communication channels, how different committees and members communicate with each other.
- Gathered ideas on how the e-groups may be moved to a different host and what are members expectations and needs for the reconfigured egroups.
- Examined the newsletter process and how more members could participate in longer-term editorial development perhaps through an expanded newsletter subcommittee.
- Identified a need for editors for the Newsletter, Meeting House Directory and related publications.
- Identified the need for at least one non-technical individual to assist with clarifying communication requirements.
- Published the revised directory in electronic format to the e-group in February
- Finalized the paper version of the directory and published in March.

The first task for the committee was moving the existing Yahoo e-group to a new Google group. The committee chose Google groups as the best way to accomplish its goals for the e-group for these reasons:

- Ease of enrollment and management.
- No need to have a Gmail account; no need to register or have a password.
- Current users of the Yahoo group will not have to do anything to begin using Google Groups; Communication Review Committee members will move email addresses from Yahoo to Google.
- Those not interested in receiving messages will be able to unsubscribe at any time; click to unsubscribe will appear at the bottom of every message.
- There is no cost to the meeting for using Google Groups.
- Other email addresses that the meeting currently has in its directory base also will be added to the Google e-group with the option to unsubscribe.

New attenders may add their names to the e-group by signing the guest book in the foyer and their addresses will be added. The person would receive an invitation to join the group and would confirm if they want to begin receiving messages.

File storage will continue at Yahoo groups and on the PFM website as appropriate; the CRC will review more permanent options in 2018.

Dennis Redfield reviewed and edited the Portland Friends database of more than 700 people to make it more useful, and current. The published database currently only has the phone numbers and email addresses. Ultimately, the database will be designed to include the following information about people that attend the Meeting:

Name, Address, Phone Numbers, Email Addresses, Status (member or non-member)

The Communications Review Committee plans to establish two Google-based communications groups. The first group, established in the fall of 2017, Life of the Meeting, is Meeting-oriented and supports the life of the Meeting. This email list has been implemented, and is currently active as of November 2017. The second group, PFM Community, is more general, and will promote the sharing information about interests and events beyond the life of the Meeting. These groups will both be moderated and are not intended to be discussion groups. The committee still needs additional volunteers to enter new addresses of people who sign the guestbook.

The Yahoo E-Group members have been migrated to the new Life of the Meeting email list and the Yahoo E-Group has been retired. The email addresses in the PFM Directory have been added to the Life of the Meeting email list, but anyone can be unsubscribed upon request. The Communications Review Committee is working on a draft document explaining the scope, purpose and procedures that will be employed to use and post to the new email list.

Lyn Ballou, Sarah Cushman, Edd Burns, Heather Denkmire, Arthur Fink, Dorothy Grannell, Dennis Redfield, Roger Roy, and Mary Tracy are to be commended for the work done during the year.



## Save the Date—Living Faith Gathering — April 14, 2018

The next Living Faith gathering will be held Saturday, April 14, 2018 in Portland, Maine—and you are invited!

Living Faith is an initiative of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends (NEYM) bringing together Quakers from across our region to nourish our faith, grow our communities, and strengthen our witness.

These semiannual, day-long gatherings include large group worship, fellowship and community-building, workshops led by dynamic Friends, an integrated youth program, and opportunities to connect on shared concerns.

Our April 14th Living Faith Gathering will focus on how Friends are living—and can more fully live—our faith in the world, helping to bring about the Beloved Community for all. Through worship, workshops, small groups and more, we will be deepening our capacity to foster the relationships of healing and justice so needed at this time.

Living Faith provides child care for ages infant through 4 years, and a youth program for K through 6th-grade students. Seventh-graders through high-school students can choose to attend the youth program or participate in the adult program and workshops.

In keeping with our Quaker community's commitment to remove barriers to participation, this is a Pay-As-Led event. Registration will open in early March, so save the date—April 14th!

### Friends School of Portland admissions deadline

The deadline for applying to [Friends School of Portland](#) for the 2018-19 school year is January 31st. Want to learn more about Maine's only Friends school? Come tour our energy-efficient building with our Admissions Director, observe our students and teachers in action, and learn more about Quaker education and our *culture of joyful learning*. Tuesday, January 23rd at 9:00am; for parents only. If you would like to attend, please [click here to RSVP](#) [friendsschool.wufoo.com/forms/rsvp-form/](http://friendsschool.wufoo.com/forms/rsvp-form/) or [email Jen McNally](mailto:jen@friendsschoolportland.org) [jen@friendsschoolportland.org](mailto:jen@friendsschoolportland.org), Admissions Director.



## Racial Justice & the Beloved Community: Quaker Practices for Interrupting & Transforming Racism - Spring 2018

Racial Justice & the Beloved Community: Quaker Practices for Interrupting and Transforming Racism is a three month course facilitated by Lisa Graustein of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, that will provide an opportunity for Friends to explore how Quaker practices can enhance our practical racial justice skills and build a community committed to the on-going work of racial justice and healing. Starting with a day-long retreat on March 10th, participants will meet virtually twice a month as a full group and twice a month in small groups, via phone or in person. Co-sponsored by Beacon Hill Friends House, Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, and offered with support from the Legacy Gift Committee of New England Yearly Meeting, this course is pay-as-led and open to all Friends and fellow seekers. More information and a registration information can be found below. Please share widely and send any questions to [lisa@neym.org](mailto:lisa@neym.org).

The goals of this course are to:

- grow our individual and collective understanding of racial justice and our part in racial justice as Quaker witness in the world
- build the transformational skills needed for racial justice and healing work, grounded in our faith and practice
- provide spiritual and personal support for the tangible, justice-based change we are working for our home communities

We'll gather on March 10th at the Beacon Hill Friends House (Boston, MA) from 9:30am-4:00pm for an opening retreat. We'll then meet virtually twice a month on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 pm (March 19, April 2, 23, May 7, 21, and June 4). On the alternating weeks, participants will meet with a small group of 2-3 other Friends either locally, if possible, or via phone, at a time to be determined by the small group. Our closing, in-person gathering will be June 16th from 10am-4pm in the Boston area (location TBD). There will be 30-60 minutes of reading/viewing/listening/journaling homework each week along with a spiritual practice.

Some topics we will cover are:

- Racial Justice & the Beloved Community: Defining and understanding racial justice and our role in racial justice & healing work as Quaker witness.
- Patterns of Diversity: Building skill in recognizing the patterns that play out over and over again as a tool for change and transformation. We'll also explore where and how Quaker culture and practice are intertwined with the culture of white supremacy and how we can begin to reclaim Quakerism from white supremacy.
- Practices for Interrupting & Transforming Racism: Practical skills for doing the intrapersonal, interpersonal, and group work of racial justice in the moment, using practices grounded in Quakerism.
- Spiritual Grounding & Self-Care: Developing the skills and supports to deepen our long-term commitment to racial justice
- Next Steps for Our Work

The course is open to Friends at all levels of racial justice engagement.

Knowing that many of us lead busy lives, there are two options for participation. Full participants will be expected to attend the opening and closing retreats, participate in the bi-monthly calls and meet with their small groups, as well as do the homework. Auditors can sign-up to receive the weekly assignments and the recorded portion of the group calls, to access as their time allows. Everyone will have access to the on-line materials and course chat space to share thoughts, questions, and resources.

New England Yearly Meeting's Legacy Gift Committee has provided a grant to cover a portion of the costs of running this course. Beacon Hill Friends House is donating its space for our initial retreat. Friends are invited to pay-as-led for the registration costs of the course (\$0-35 full course, \$10 to audit)

<https://neym.org/news/racial-justice-course-offered-spring-2018>

*Dorothy Grannell has registered and would really appreciate having others from the meeting attend with her as well as to travel to Boston by bus with her.*

*Lisa Graustein is a member of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting (Boston) and a diversity trainer, high school teacher, and artist. She serves on NEYM's Challenging White Supremacy Working Group and Youth Ministries Committee. Lisa holds a Masters in Education in racial justice education and is a co-facilitator of Beyond Diversity 101 and Beyond Diversity 101 Race. She serves at the Equity Coordinator at Codman Academy Charter Public School and has a free-lance practice facilitating racial and gender equity work in Boston area schools and non-profits. Lisa has two decades of experience leading retreats, workshops, adult education classes, and facilitating groups of all ages.*

**Portland Friends Meeting**  
**Racism, Privilege & Quakers**  
**Upcoming Programs**

**An Open-Hearted Inquiry into Racial Identity** Sunday 1/14/18; 12:30-2:00

Facilitators: Julie de Sherbinin (Portland) and Susan Davies (Vassalboro)

Format: Interactive workshop for everyone; bring your lunch if you wish

Description: This workshop offers an entry point into the conversation about racial identity for all Friends, wherever we may be on the journey toward increased awareness, action and racial healing. Julie de Sherbinin and Susan Davies have co-led a number of sessions on inquiry into racial identity in Maine. Both are members of NEYM Permanent Board's ad hoc Work Group Challenging White Supremacy.

**"Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity"** Sunday 1/21/18; 12:30-2:00

Facilitators: Julie de Sherbinin

Format: Film Clips & Discussion; bring your lunch if you wish

Description: Shakhti Butler's film delves into the internal components and external relationships that perpetuate the system of racial inequity. We will watch pre-selected clips and focus discussion on responses to the issues posed therein. "Cracking the Codes" is designed for dialogue and is being used at meetings around New England as a catalyst for conversation.

**Voices of Color/Color Of Change** Sunday 2/11/18; 12:30-2:00

Facilitators: Julie de Sherbinin & Dorothy Grannell

Format: Discussion of selected text & film clips; bring your lunch if you wish

Description: Further exposure to the heartbreak of racism and the ways it shows up in Quaker communities. Getting comfortable with the words "white supremacy." Readings will come from "Black Quakers"; October 2014 volume of Friends Journal (the articles are available online at Friends Journal and some copies may be available in the library).

**White Fragility and Dismantling Racism** Sunday 2/25/18; 12:30-2:00

Facilitators: Julie de Sherbinin, Melissa Brown & Maggie Nelson (Portland)

Format: Readings/small group sharing/discussion; bring lunch if you wish

Description: Moving from learning to action ideas on advocating for racial justice. What holds us back? Where do we start? How do we discern future action?

**Privilege Walk** Sunday 3/11/18; 12:30-2:00

Facilitators: Sophie Szatkowski & TBA

Format: Experiential activity for middle school, high school, and adult ages

Description: A Privilege Walk is a group exercise enabling participants to investigate how a range of types of privilege manifest in their lives. Possible sources of privilege and identity include social, economic, gender-based, age-based, racial, and cultural. Participants will be invited to discuss their experiences of the Walk after the exercise.

**Worship Sharing** Sunday 3/25/18; 12:30-2:00

Convener: PFM Facilitators

Format: Worship sharing

Description: Join with others to both listen deeply and share as led on two key questions: "Racism, Privilege & Quakers - What have we learned personally and as a meeting? Where or what do we do next personally and as a meeting?"

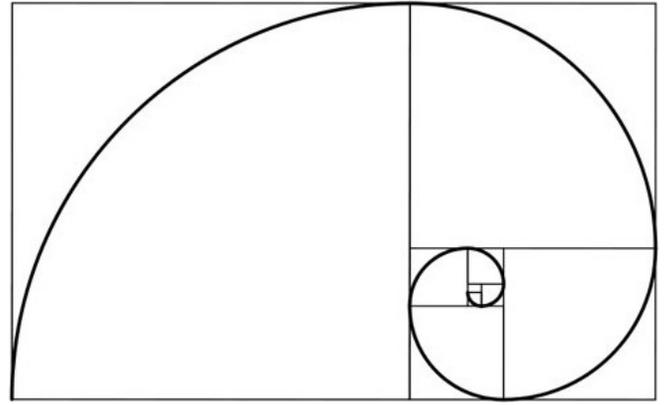
*Child Care will be provided as needed for those planning to attend any of the series of programs offered through Portland Friends Meeting on "Racism, Privilege & Quakers" **To ensure that your child has care, please contact Susan Grannell at [grannell8@gmail.com](mailto:grannell8@gmail.com) or call 401-413-5951. Indicate the dates you will plan to attend, you name and the child's (children's) name.***

## Welcome to Friends School of Portland!

On the morning of Sunday, January 28, 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!



## Climate Disobedience Group forming soon

PFM's Anna Barnett is gathering a group of Friends and others who are drawn toward civil disobedience on climate change issues. They will be part of a network of local groups starting in New England this winter with support from the Climate Disobedience Center.

This group is about building connection, community, and love to sustain us over the long haul. It will also become a lab for planning actions and learning by doing.

New England Friend Jay O'Hara helped found the Climate Disobedience Center after blockading a coal tanker with a lobster boat in 2013. Here's how the co-founders describe their grappling with how to be faithful:

"All of us at the Climate Disobedience Center have experienced despair in the face of our impossible challenge, and we have found that the greatest way to work through the pain and grief is to engage in principled action that is backed by a community of support. It is through this work, grounded in love, that we are able to experience joy and hope. Thus, we do not seek to shield others from their own experience of despair, as we realize it is a valuable part of liberation. We do not operate in safe space, but rather in the vulnerable space of new possibilities."

The Southern Maine Climate Disobedience Praxis Group will be forming in January or February, and we hope to be in touch with and participating in the racial justice conversations planned at PFM in coming months.

To learn more and get involved, go to: <http://www.climatedisobedience.org/invitation>

Or contact Anna, (503) 953-2423, [anna.s.barnett@gmail.com](mailto:anna.s.barnett@gmail.com)



## Adult Religious Education (ARE) Report January 2018

ARE Committee Members: Judy Spross (co-clerk), and Sandi Jensen (co-clerk), Muriel Allen, Arthur Fink and Rhoda Renschler

It has been a few months since we reported on our activities though you know from our twice-monthly classes we have been active.

Spiritual Journey Series—October: Arthur Fink, using photographs taken on his journey to Auschwitz, presented *Encountering the Holocaust: An Artist's Vision*. Through his art, he invited attendees to consider spiritual dimensions we might not typically consider? I am likely paraphrasing but this is what my heart heard when Arthur spoke *What do the trees know or understand about this place and its history that we might not?* Approximately 20 people attended including PFM members and others from the wider community.

**Request for committee participation** The Nominating Committee in their activities this fall included a call for two members for our Adult Religious Education Committee. I thought I'd share a little more about our work in case there are those among you who are curious about what we do and how we do it and want to think about joining us next year. While Nominating Committee members help us by soliciting nominations in the fall of every year, our work actually occurs on an "academic year" schedule from September through June with one meeting over the summer to begin to plan our calendar of classes.

What we do: We grow, we laugh, we collaborate, we delve, we coordinate, we write, we create! And we are flexible. More specifically, In addition to our twice-monthly classes, we meet approximately once a month for two hours during which we accomplish most of our planning and organizing. We try to have two members at each class but often we are at most of them--I point this out as it is not a requirement to attend each ARE class. Often members facilitate or lead a class (nor is there a requirement to be experienced or expert in education or in Quakerism). A curiosity about spiritual matters and spiritual development in the Quaker tradition and a willingness to participate in our work is all that is needed. We tap members of our community to help with preparing and or leading/facilitating classes--we committee members do not do them all! Any work that needs to be done between meetings is mostly done by e-mail or by phone. In addition to developing the classes, we have tried to contribute regularly to the newsletter so that people who cannot attend class have an idea of what we have covered and can learn about resources.

The approximate time commitment ranges from 5 hours to 10 hours/ 4 to 6 weeks. The upper limit is associated with preparing for classes that one leads or facilitates or preparing newsletter content. Co-clerking involves a bit more work--the joy of co-clerking is being able to share the work of clerking and covering for each other for planned and unplanned contingencies.

We know Sandi will be away much of the spring and Muriel will be stepping down at the end of her term on this committee. If you are curious and reluctant, we invite you to attend one of our meetings to see if this is something that appeals to your heart, your interests, and your gifts.

### Upcoming Adult Religious Education classes:

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 "reincorporator" of mysticism); Facilitator: Muriel Allen

Feb. 11, 2018 and Feb. 25, 2018. The two February classes will be discussions to give community members a chance to reflect on, discuss and otherwise deepen our spiritual responses to the series on Racism, Privilege and Quakers

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 (note because of PFM's Easter Breakfast on April 1, Meeting for Business was moved to 4/8 so there will be **no class** today)

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) **no class**

June 10, 2018 To be determined but likely our traditional final meeting of eliciting feedback and ideas for the next year.

Let us hear from you!

We welcome your feedback. Is there a discussion you'd like to facilitate? A topic we should consider? Are you curious about joining our committee next year. Feel free to reach out to any member at meeting or send an e-mail to **Judy** at [jaspross@gmail.com](mailto:jaspross@gmail.com) or call her at 207-775-2570 (home) or 617-872-8817 (cell).



Quinn Lavigne sends greetings from Malaysia where she is a Fulbright scholar teaching English in a secondary school. Quinn will be blogging about her experience and welcomes anyone interested to follow her blog: [quinnabroad.wordpress.com/](http://quinnabroad.wordpress.com/)

### Wabanaki Book Study Group

Awareness is growing around Wabanaki history, culture and current challenges. The Maine Indigenous Awareness Group in Brunswick is collaborating with various local organizations in the area to facilitate native-led programming.

Among its other activities, the group is holding book discussion meetings at the Curtis Memorial Library during January, February, March and April. Talks focus on the anthology *Dawnland Voices*, which covers 350 years of native literature from New England tribal groups. Meetings run from 5 to 7 PM each Wednesday evening. Visit their Facebook page for more information at Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG), or email Wayne Cobb at [wcobb2@gmail.com](mailto:wcobb2@gmail.com).



Come see the Casco Bay High School performance of 'The Addams Family' musical, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. or Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Portland High School. Doug Wagner will be playing Pugsley and even has a solo!

### PFM Life of the Meeting — (Google) Email List Notes

To send an announcement, send an email to [pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com](mailto:pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com). Some guidelines:

- make the subject line of your email the subject line that will go out to the list;
- remove your standard email signature (if you have one) to avoid the unintended appearance of advertising;
- only include text to be sent to the list, notes to moderator should be sent to [pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com](mailto:pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com).



Rev. John Dear is a long-time activist, priest, author and lecturer. He served for years as the director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the largest interfaith peace organization in the U.S. John has traveled the war zones of the world, been arrested some 80 times for peace, led Nobel Peace prize winners to Iraq, recently visited Afghanistan, given thousands of lectures on peace across the U.S. He recently helped draft Pope Francis' Jan. 1, 2017 World Day of Peace message on nonviolence. He is a co-founder of Campaign Nonviolence and the Nonviolent Cities Project. He has authored thirty-five books including: *The Beatitudes of Peace* and *The Nonviolent Life*. He has been nominated many times for the Nobel Peace Prize, including by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. ([www.johndear.org](http://www.johndear.org))

## Living a Nonviolent Life A Workshop with Fr. John Dear SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Saint Joseph's College  
278 Whites Bridge Rd. Standish, Maine

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM LIVING A NONVIOLENT LIFE:

Using his book, *The Nonviolent Life*, John will guide us in reflections on our individual and shared journeys deeper into the life of creative nonviolence. First, we will have a session about being nonviolent to ourselves, and cultivating inner peace and nonviolence. Then, a session about being nonviolent to all others, all creatures, and Mother Earth, and how we can deepen our interpersonal nonviolence. Finally, we will have a session about our vocation to help build up the global grassroots movement of nonviolence, to work for a new world without racism, poverty, war, nuclear weapons and environmental destruction, a new world of nonviolence. Join us!

### This event is sponsored by:

**Pax Christi Maine**  
**Center for Faith and Spirituality at Saint Joseph's College**  
[www.sjcme.edu](http://www.sjcme.edu)  
**Unity of Greater Portland**  
[www.unitygreaterportland.org](http://www.unitygreaterportland.org)

**PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED...SEATING LIMITED**

To Register: call 207-893-1233 X5, Email [unitychurch@roadrunner.com](mailto:unitychurch@roadrunner.com) or online at [www.unitygreaterportland.org](http://www.unitygreaterportland.org)

Cost: \$30 – \$50 lunch included      Registration Deadline: March 3

## **The Early Quakers of Greater Portland, Maine**

(From the author: Hello Friends. For the past two years I have been researching the early history of Quakers in Portland, and in particular the activities of James Winslow, our first Quaker, and his family. I am grateful for the support of the Meeting in this work, which is ongoing. If you or a family member is acquainted with local Quaker history before 1850, please contact me at [wcobb2@gmail.com](mailto:wcobb2@gmail.com).)

### Part 3: The Beginnings of Quakerism in Early Falmouth:

*Reminder from Part 2: Prior to Maine statehood, the Town of Falmouth encompassed all of what is now Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Westbrook and Falmouth.*

The first recorded notice of Quaker organization in old Falmouth came in 1740, when Congregational minister Thomas Smith organized a period of prayer and fasting "on account of the spread of Quakerism." All the ministers from the western part of Maine attended. Was this Quaker "spread" local or more general throughout New England? Rufus Jones, perhaps the most prolific Quaker historian of the early twentieth century, believes that Smith called the fast to protest local, not regional, Quakerism.

Portland historian William Willis wrote that James Winslow "was the first person who joined the Quakers in this town and carried all his family with him." Thus, it would seem that Winslow converted before the period of fasting in 1740. The movement grew: in July, 1742, Rev. Smith in his journal commented on the "many strange Quakers in town." The following year, the English Quaker minister Edmund Peckover visited Falmouth. The likelihood is strong that Peckover would have met James Winslow during his visit; perhaps he provided accommodations for the minister.

When the first regular Quaker meetings began here, they included James Winslow and his son Benjamin as well as four men from Harpswell. They attended meetings that alternated monthly between homes in these distant towns. The challenge of doing so must have been extreme. Given the poor state of roads at that time, one must assume that they traveled over water, sailing a dozen miles or more each way across Casco Bay in all seasons of the year. These eight men, and those who joined them, were clearly passionate in their desire to grow a larger community of Friends from the few seeds they represented.

At a Monthly Meeting in Falmouth in 1752, James Winslow granted the Society of Friends a one-acre parcel of land near his home on the Presumpscot River at Blackstrap on which to place a meeting house and burying ground. No deed has been found for this transaction, which may have been simply a "Friends agreement." The first Quaker meeting house in early Falmouth, and probably the first in Maine, was constructed on that one-acre parcel.

In the same year the Town surveyed for a road past the acre of land to "Winslow's Landing" on the River. It was laid out along the exact route now followed by Washington Avenue Extension, Lambert Road and the portion of Blackstrap Road that lies south of the Presumpscot. The survey called that road "Quaker Lane."

The final mention of James Winslow is found in the Falmouth Monthly Meeting records is dated 1754, when he was 67 years old. Because he requested and received a "certificate to travel to the westerly" from the Meeting, it could be that he took his leave and headed away on a mission, probably with second wife Ruth, to spread the Quaker word.

In February 1768, the growing Quaker community agreed to build a new meeting house with dimensions of 40 by 32 feet "w[ith] one Teer of gallery [a balcony] by subscription," according to Meeting records. Twenty-six subscribers pledged 136 British pounds (some \$300,000 in today's dollars) toward construction. No images have been found of this meeting house, but clues to its appearance may be deduced from another Quaker meeting house built in Dover, New Hampshire in 1768, and which stands to this day. It is a two-story building of the same approximate dimensions, built by brethren with familial and other connections to the Falmouth Friends.

Visible in the early burying ground at Blackstrap are 53 low, unmarked fieldstone markers. Such markers were common in eighteenth-century Quaker communities, where modesty and equality were well-accepted values. The 1717 Quaker Book of Discipline prescribed that "...in each particular burial ground, such uniformity is preserved in respect to the materials, size, form and wording of the stones, as well as in the mode of placing them, as may effectually guard against any distinction being made in that place between the rich and the poor."

*(Next: Quakerism in the late 1700s)*

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Tuesday, February 6, 11:59pm

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

