

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Tenth Month, 2018

Meeting for Worship: 10:30a Sundays

Adult Religious 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

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Sue Nelson 391-6116
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Treasurer, Operating Account

Sue Nelson (pro tempore)
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Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 749-9706

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Chris Beach 772-2779
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Pastoral Care Coordinator

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Religious Education

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Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

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Use of the Meetinghouse

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“Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.”

— No. 28 of the Advices and Queries from the Quaker Faith and Practice of Britain Yearly Meeting

Calendar

October 12-14 Young Friends Retreat: Nature, Nurture, Nourishment
Mt. Toby Meeting

October 19 5-8:30 High Tide Here, Portland Friends Meeting (details inside)

October 27 9-1:30 Falmouth Quarter Meeting for Discernment (details inside)

November 2-4 Junior Yearly Meeting Retreat: Is God in the Hornet's Nest?
New Haven Meeting

Monthly

First Sunday of the month: 8a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship

2nd and 4th Sundays: 8:45a Adult Religious Education
10:45a First Day School

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



Friends School of Portland's Harvest Fest at Broadturn Farm

Sunday, October 14th, 1-4pm

Join us for tacos, local brews, a contradance, and activities for kids. Also, bring your own instrument for a community singalong! Proceeds support financial assistance at FSP. Purchase tickets in advance at friendsschoolofportland.org



Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business
October 7, 2018

We began in silent worship at 9 a.m. with 25 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Jennifer Frick read No. 28 of the Advices and Queries from the Quaker Faith and Practice of Britain Yearly Meeting:

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

1. **Minutes** The September 2018 minutes were accepted,
2. **Treasurer's Report** Returning Treasurer Kathy Beach presented the Treasurer's report 75% through the year. Here is the summary for the month of September as well as the Year-to-Date:

September:	Year-to-Date:
Income: \$4,348	Income: \$42,737
Expenses: \$3,640	Expenses: \$43,755
aBalance: \$708	Balance: (\$1,018).

Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

3. **Ministry and Counsel.** Dorothy Grannell reported for the committee as follows.

Report on outreach, racial justice, and Faith and Practice revision

Ministry and Counsel looks forward to working with two sub groups, Outreach/welcome and Racial Justice, over the coming months to provide opportunities to help us be more welcoming to new comers and supportive to the whole of our community (see *Report from Ad Hoc Committee below*), as well as having more opportunities to work on the cause of racial justice and towards the elimination of white supremacy.

Three chapters of New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice have been received for our Meeting to consider and to finalize or evaluate this year. The chapter on Membership is ready for final confirmation. Ministry and Counsel will provide an opportunity this year for interested Friends to review and discuss the document and then send a formal recommendation to NEYM. The Committee will ask Pastoral Care Committee to review the new chapter on that topic and share their conclusions with the wider meeting as well as to NEYM. The chapter on Death, Dying and Bereavement is one that also needs review and comment. Ministry and Counsel Committee is seeking a small group of people who would like to review this document together and make preliminary observations about the content. When the next versions of these last two chapters are ready they will be reviewed by the Meeting as a whole. People interested in reviewing the chapter on Death, Dying and Bereavement should contact Dorothy Grannell. All three documents are available on the Yearly Meeting website.

Action on support of Maggie Nelson's application to Legacy Fund

Having received the revision of Maggie Nelson's application to the Legacy Fund of New England Yearly Meeting for a project that will bring visual art together with Faith and Practice through a series of workshops, Ministry and Counsel Committee recommends continuing support for her project. Her timeline and budget more accurately reflect her goals and what she will be able to accomplish in these next 10 months. It is hoped that one of her workshops will be held here or near Portland this year. Her support committee is working closely with her to see that her goals are achieved. The committee asks us to approve a letter of support from Portland Friends Meeting to the Legacy Fund committee.

We approved.

4. **Falmouth Quarter.** Dorothy Grannell reported that the Quarter is ending its Sabbatical year and it is time to decide its future. The Quarter will meet on Saturday October 27 at Windham Friends Church , 374 Gray Rd, Windham from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Friends are asked to bring a bag lunch. Meetings are asked to send at least 3 official representatives to this

(cont-)

(minutes continued from page 2)

4. **Falmouth Quarter (cont)-** meeting and to send the names of the contacts to Dorothy Grannell. All are welcome. The clerk of NEYM will clerk this meeting for discernment and business.

Schedule of Meeting of October 27, 2018

9 - 9:30 am welcome and coffee

9:30 - 10:15 am Worship

Break

10:30 Noon Discernment — Should Falmouth Quarter Continue. If so in what format?

Current suggestions

A. Meet in fall and spring for worship and conduct of business related to tasks of a quarterly meeting. Clerking and recording to be rotated among those called to these tasks.

Basic Quarterly Meeting tasks

Support of monthly meetings

Laying down or supporting new meetings

Support of those who are recorded as having gifts of ministry or who are recommended for recording.

Receiving State of Society Reports, statistics and Memorial Minutes for relay to NEYM

B. Merge with another nearby quarter (Nearby quarters include Vassalboro and Dover.)

C. Disband with meetings seeking admission to other quarters individually

D. Other options brought forward from representatives

A discussion followed concerning the place of quarterly meeting with our monthly Meeting and others, and its historic functions. Since Portland Friends Meeting is large, many of us are not aware of the quarterly meeting and feel little need for it. Smaller meetings, on the other hand, find quarterly meetings an important part of their community. Historically, quarterly meetings have helped supplement yearly meetings which are far away and meet only annually.

A suggestion was made that we and Durham could rotate being a virtual quarter and take questions really needing local consideration such as the ending of a monthly meeting. Other tasks such as review of memorial minutes could go directly from monthly meeting to yearly meeting. This is in fact what we have been doing. It was also pointed out that the place of quarters within the yearly meeting is being discussed at that level.

We appointed Dorothy Grannell, Ann Dodd-Collins and Kathy Beach as representatives to the Quarterly Meeting on October 27.

5. **Cemetery Committee** Andy Grannell reported for the Committee as follows:

There are photographs of all of the stones on line. The cemetery is securely funded and its grounds are well tended—thank you, Ed Robinson. The committee has clear policies and rules about types of burials permitted. The committee has been approached to add options to methods of interment and has, with the help of Jane Mullen, a professional in the field, explored these issues.

Currently our burial ground offers two (possibly 3) options for the placement of human remains:

The interment of intact human remains within a casket, which is placed within a burial vault

The interment of cremated remains within an urn, which is placed directly in the earth

The scattering of cremated remains upon the burial ground

PFM Burial Ground: Proposed Recommendation

The Committee recommends that these two interment options be approved as well:

The interment of intact human remains within a casket, without the use of a burial vault

The interment of intact human remains within a shroud, without the use of a casket or vault

We have had requests that these additional methods be permitted.

(cont-)

5. **Cemetery Committee** (cont-)

Burials: Background Information

In considering these options, it may be helpful to know that:

Neither the State of Maine nor the City of Portland requires intact human remains to be interred within a casket

Neither the State of Maine nor the City of Portland requires a casket to be interred within a burial vault

Burial vaults provide support for the earth upon a grave, following the natural breakdown of the casket and human remains interred within the grave. This support minimizes changes in grade of the surface of the cemetery, allowing for ease of maintenance.

From an environmental perspective, commonly used caskets and vaults are harmful both in terms of the toxic materials their use introduces into the earth, and the energy used to produce and transport concrete vaults.

Pros & Cons

Con: In a grave where remains are interred within a casket but without a vault, changes to the grade of the earth will result over time. The meeting may or may not wish to add soil to refill the resulting dip in the earth.

Pro: The newly proposed options will allow those for whom simplicity is important to simplify the disposition of their remains.

Pro: The newly proposed options will allow those for whom stewardship of the earth is important to reduce the impact that the disposition of their remains has on the earth.

Questions were raised about the capacity of the cemetery, and who can be buried here. People from the neighborhood who already own plots here are welcomed, as well as members and attenders of the Meeting. At the moment, it appears capacity will not be exhausted for decades. Adoption of the new methods of burials could expand capacity since they may require less space, and we may be able to fill in the area now reserved for a driveway. One Friend hoped we could forbid the placement of concrete vaults in the grounds, but the ownership rights of those already owning plots may prevent any such limitation on them beyond strong recommendation that it not be done. Another wondered whether we might experience an increase in requests to be buried here if we approve green burials. Our current cemetery policy does allow us to limit new burials to people associated with the meeting and others who own plots.

Appreciation was expressed to the committee for its thorough exploration of pros and cons. Friends recommended that we trust the committee to follow through with the details necessary to implement the spirit of the suggested changes.

We approved adding these two additional methods of burial in our cemetery: (1) The interment of intact human remains within a casket, without the use of a burial vault and (2) The interment of intact human remains within a biodegradable shroud, without the use of a casket or vault.

We asked the committee to notify current plot owners of the new policy to move toward green burials, and to consider the use of a cloth shroud for cremains. We also asked them to return at a later time with more information on any thoughts from plot-owners in the local community.

6. **Ad Hoc Welcome and Outreach Committee.** Tom Tracy reported.

Over the past four months Welcome and Outreach Committee has assembled a substantial list of suggestions and has come up with recommended priority items among them. The committee has grouped them by related committee, including some that would fall to the Welcoming and Outreach Committee if it is approved to continue operations. The list has been posted in the Meeting and electronically.

The committee is recommending that the prioritized suggestions lists be forward to the related committees for consideration - ideally during October so that any priority items that require funding could be identified in time to be included in our 2019 budget deliberations.

6. **Ad Hoc Welcome and Outreach Committee (cont-)** These committees include:

Ministry and Counsel
Hospitality/Events
Building and Grounds
Adult Religious Education
Youth Religious Education
Peace and Social Concerns

We will consider whether to make this Committee a standing committee at next Meeting for Business.

7. **Youth Religious Education Committee.** Luke Hankins reported with regret that Anne Payson has decided to give up her position as Youth Religious Education Coordinator as of the first of the year. The Meeting expressed appreciation and gratitude for all her hard and excellent work over the past several years in this position. Anyone interested in the position, or having suggestions for possible candidates, should contact Luke Hankins.

We closed at 10:25 a.m., with 30 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9:00 on November 4, 2018, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Ballou
Co-Recording Clerk

Tour of Eastern Cemetery and Quaker Burying Ground

Saturday, November 3rd, 11:00 AM - noon

224 Congress Street, at the gate

Join Anne Payson, volunteer tour guide with Spirits Alive, for a tour of historic Eastern Cemetery. This cemetery holds more than 350 years of Portland history and includes a section where early Quakers were buried. Come visit this important Colonial cemetery and learn about some of the colorful characters buried here, and gravestone iconography. Our very own Andy Grannell and Wayne Cobb, who are knowledgeable about this area's Quaker history, will be with us to shed light on the role early Quakers played in Portland's history.

Suggested donation of \$5 goes towards Spirits Alive's on-going gravestone restoration work.

Note: we will be walking throughout the 6-acre site and there is some uneven terrain.

Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists

Our Meeting has two email lists, sometimes referred to as "google groups." The first list is "PFM Life of the Meeting," for items directly related to Portland Friends Meeting business and/or the wider Quaker world. The second is "PFM Wider Community," for any items of interest from the PFM community to share, not necessarily directly related to Quakers, including personal requests or invitations.

To send an announcement to PFM Life of the Meeting, email pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com.

To send an announcement to PFM Wider Community, email pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com.

Please note: the sender of a message will not receive a copy of the message after it has been approved and sent to the list. Most messages are approved within 1-2 hours, all are addressed (usually approved) within 24 hours.

For technical support or for any questions related to the lists please feel free to email pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.



Note: In preparation for this meeting please read the section of NEYM Faith and Practice on Quarterly Meetings in the resource section of www.neym.org

Falmouth Quarter October 27, 2018 Called Meeting for Discernment

The Quarter is ending its Sabbatical year and it is time to decide its future. Falmouth Quarter will meet on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at Windham Friends Church, 374 Gray Rd, Windham from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm for Worship and a Called Meeting for Discernment. Friends are asked to bring a bag lunch.

Although all are welcome, Meetings are asked to send at least 3 official representatives to this meeting who are prepared following discussion of the issues in their home meeting, and to send the names of the contacts to Dorothy Grannell stemp41@gmail.com or 207-233-6587. By October 25.

The Clerk of NEYM, Fritz Weiss, will clerk this meeting for discernment and business.

Schedule of the Day

9 - 9:30 am: Welcome and coffee

9:30 - 10:15 am: Worship

Break

10:30 am - Noon: Discernment

Should Falmouth Quarter Continue? If so in what format?

Current suggestions

A. Meet in fall and spring for worship and conduct of business related to tasks of a quarterly meeting. Clerking and recording to be rotated among those called to these tasks.

Basic Quarterly Meeting tasks as stated in NEYM Faith and Practice, 1985

- Support of monthly meetings
- Supporting new meetings or laying meetings down
- Support of those who are recorded as having gifts of ministry or who are recommended for recording and rescinding recordings of gifts of ministry
- Receiving State of Society Reports, Statistics and Memorial Minutes for relay to NEYM

B. Merge with another nearby quarter.

C. Appeal to NEYM Ministry & Counsel for assistance in carrying out Quarterly Meeting tasks and aid in making the transition to a different format as discerned.

D. Disband quarter with meetings seeking admission to other quarters individually

Other options brought forward from representatives at this meeting.

Please Note: Members for a planning committee will need to step forward at this meeting for any option that is discerned.

Noon - 12:30: Bag Lunch

12:30 - 1 but no later than 1:30: Business

Fall Business - Dependent on Discernment

Next Steps

Determine Planning Group

All Maine Gathering

Budget

Meeting Dates



Friends School of Portland Open House!

Tour our beautiful Passive House school, meet our teachers, look around the 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 [click here to RSVP \(https://friendsschool.wufoo.com/forms/rsvp-form/\)](https://friendsschool.wufoo.com/forms/rsvp-form/) or [email Jen McNally](mailto:jen@friendsschoolportland.org), Admissions Director (jen@friendsschoolportland.org).

Chief Polin Memorial Site Dedicated in Westbrook

On September 29 I was honored to be present at the dedication of a memorial site in Westbrook honoring the life of Chief Polin, known as the leader of a tribe of Wabanaki Indians who roamed the Presumpscot River from salt water up to Sebago Lake and all the way to Fryeburg in the early and mid-1700s. About 75 people witnessed the dedication, including a number of Indigenous people, three of whom were speakers.

In 1739, Polin traveled by foot to Boston to ask the Governor of Massachusetts to make the settlers put fish passageways in the first (lower) Presumpscot dam so his tribe could continue to fish for salmon on the river. He said the Presumpscot “is the river which I belong to,” demonstrating his people’s kinship to this place and their dependence on the river and the land. But despite the governor’s written decree to install fish passage on the dam, there was no way to enforce the rule on what was then the frontier. Dam owners, including Col. Thomas Westbrook (for whom the present city was named), failed to heed that order, which sealed the river for more than 250 years to salmon, alewives and other anadromous species that had thrived in the Presumpscot for millenia.



Friends of the Presumpscot River President Mike Shaughnessy unveiled the memorial, placed on land he has donated near the river where Polin and his people fished and planted corn, beans and squash. The memorial includes a massive stone marker with a plaque bearing Polin’s name, along with four additional granite slabs to signify the four native tribes still active in Maine. Also present are informational signs that describe Polin’s and the river’s history. All attending were encouraged to pick up small, water-sculpted stones that were gathered and set them at the base of the monument to mark that they were there. This is expected to begin an ongoing tradition that future visitors will follow.

The short trail leading to the site, located just south of 105 Conant Road, Westbrook, has been added to the Portland Trails system. It includes a connector trail leading to the River and then to the center of town. How ironic that the Chief Polin, once seemingly defeated by Colonel Westbrook, is now honored at a site within the city that bears his name! And what a tribute to Polin that the Friends of the Presumpscot are pursuing modification and removal of dams that will enable re-establishment of native fish species. —Wayne Cobb



Hey you! Yeah, you!

Want to try something new and different about climate change!

Be a part of High Tide Here! hightidehere.org

We're tying blue ribbons all over the Maine Coast (and beyond) to mark places threatened by sea level rise.

Come learn about posting ribbons in Portland, or wherever you live, work, or play on the coast.

Friday, October 19

5:00 - 8:30 PM

Join us for screen printing ribbons and a Potluck Supper (Bring food to share!)

Portland Friends Meeting

1837 Forest Avenue, Portland, Maine

(Come when you can, stay as long as you can)

5-5:30 Gathering Time

5:30-6 Information about High Tide Here

6-8 Screen Printing Banners

8-8:30 Potluck Supper

Questions or to RSVP: Email
hightidehere@gmail.com

See our FB and Instagram posts:
#hightidehere

[https://www.facebook.com/events/
973758152799616/](https://www.facebook.com/events/973758152799616/)



"How a Buddhist* Couple Helped a Somali Writer Find Refuge in America" <https://tricycle.org/trikedaily/abdi-buddhism/>



The above link leads to a Buddhist magazine called Tricycle. Back in 2009 I came to know Abdi Iftin a remarkable young man

who was a citizen journalist living in Mogadishu. We remained in contact over time as he fled to Nairobi and ultimately arrived in Maine in 2014 after he won the Diversity Visa Lottery.

*The magazine got in touch with us because in Abdi's book "Call me American" he mentioned that we are Buddhists because he saw a statue of Buddha in our home. This led the editors to reach out to us and ask some questions hoping we would explain what led us to be his sponsors. We enjoyed their questions as writing prompts and forays down memory lane. I try, inadequately but earnestly, to explain that I am actually a Quaker and what Quakers do.

I hope you enjoy. —Sharon McDonnell

"Welcoming the Stranger: Perspectives on Immigration." October 28, 4pm, Maine Jewish Museum, 267 Congress Street

This panel is one of 50 events in the "Making Migration Visible: Traces, Tracks & Pathways" series, sponsored by Maine College of Art. The event is free and open to the public.

"Welcoming the Stranger" will tell the story of migration from several perspectives. Rabbi David Fox Sandmel, Director of Interreligious Engagement at ADL, will open the panel with a reflection from Jewish tradition and history on immigration and welcoming the stranger.

Amy Feinman, ADL Northeast Area Civil Rights Counsel, will focus on ADL's legal challenge to the President's travel ban, (which specifically excludes people from several Muslim majority countries from entering the U.S.) and trace America's history as a nation dedicated to ideals of equality, liberty and justice. Ms. Feinman will also provide an update to legal challenges to the Administration's "zero tolerance" policy, which has separated migrant children from their parents when they cross the border.

The panel will then feature two local activists leading efforts to help immigrants succeed in this region. Pious Ali is the first African-born Muslim elected to Portland's City Council. He works at University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service as Youth and Community Engagement specialist. He will describe his journey as an immigrant from Ghana and his work building the capacity of marginalized members of the community to engage and advocate on behalf of their children in the public schools.

Damas Rugaba, an immigrant from Rwanda, is co-founder of the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center. He will share the Center's work on immigrant economic integration, which includes helping skilled workers find professional jobs, supporting entrepreneurs, and engaging immigrants civically on policies that affect their daily lives.

The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools *Facing our History and Ourselves*



Quaker superintendent Asa C. Tuttle with teachers and students at Ottawa Modoc School, Indian Territory, 1877

Native American organizations are asking churches to join in a Truth and Reconciliation process to bring about healing for Native American families that continue to suffer the consequences of the Indian boarding schools. With support from Pendle Hill (the Cadbury scholarship), Friends Historical Library (the Moore Fellowship), the Native American Rights Fund, and other Friendly sources, Paula Palmer researched the role that Friends played in implementing the federal government's policy of forced assimilation of Native children. For a link to her 50-minute slide presentation and other resources, please see www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research.

Paula Palmer's ministry, "Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples," is under the care of Boulder Friends Meeting. Please contact her at PaulaRpalmer@gmail.com.

Query: What does this history and its impact on Native communities mean for Friends today?



Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, November 6, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

