

Portland Friends Newsletter

PAGE 1

SEVENTH & EIGHTH MONTHS 2011

First Day schedule

Meeting for Worship

8am and 5pm through Sep 5,
followed by potluck 6:15pm

Religious Education

on summer break until Sep 25

Friends to contact

Co-Clerks

Tom Antonik 879-0241
Muriel Allen 874-9523

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 780-0349
58 Hillis Street
Portland 04103

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940
14 Drew Road
South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 883-0573

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940
Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Beth Bussiere-Nichols
939-8247

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor 774-2578
David Spector 518-9723

Religious Education Coordinators

Adults:
Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Children:

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698
Clerk: Lyn Ballou 865-3888

Use of the Meetinghouse

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
mbwalsh@mainlyaccess.com

New address!



Home is where one starts from. —T.S. Eliot

Query Seven—Home and Family

Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life? Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustment? Should conflicts or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from your meeting and from the larger community?

Query Eight—Care of Children

Do children receive the loving care of your meeting? Does the meeting nurture their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Are you an example to your children in your faithfulness to the ideals you profess? Do you promote your children's moral and spiritual development by loving oversight of their education, recreation, and social activity? Do you listen to children, recognizing that the Spirit may lead them along paths you have not foreseen? Do you assist them to assume their rightful responsibilities in the home, the meeting, and the community?

Upcoming Events

Preble St. Soup Kitchen fourth Friday every month. Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762
Local clergy Peace Vigil Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Monument Square, Portland

- Aug 5-11** NEYM 350th anniversary celebration and Sessions
- Aug 6** Greater Brunswick Peace Fair, 10am-4pm, Brunswick Mall
- Aug 13** Youngish Adults potluck and pool party, 5-8pm, North Yarmouth
- Sep 11** Summer Schedule ends; Meeting for Business 9am, Worship 10:30am
- Sep 16-18** Junior Yearly Meeting Elementary retreat, Woolman Hill
- Sep 25** Religious Ed reopens. Adults 9am; intergenerational singing 10am; youth programs 10:45-11:45; Tug of Peace & Apple Picking, noon
- Sep 25** "Completing the Future" program, Durham Meeting, 1pm
- Sep 30-Oct 2** Junior High Yearly Meeting retreat, Portland
- Oct 23** Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, Windham
- Oct 29-30** "Being Salt & Light" symposium, Portland

There are members and attenders who need rides to Meeting and other support during times of difficulty. If you need or can provide rides, food, or your silent presence at home meetings for worship, please leave a message for Shannon O'Connor, 774-2578.

Newsletter Contributions

Please mail items to:
Anna Barnett
835 Congress St., Apt. 2
Portland, ME 04102

**OR email items
to Anna Barnett**
abarnett@gmail.com
Phone: 523-0314

**Send address change
details to Tony Scilipoti**
tscilipoti@maine.rr.com

Deadline for receiving newsletter items: Friday after business meeting or sooner!

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting July 31, 2011

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on July 31, 2011 at 7 p.m., with 13 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Tom Antonik read the 7th and 8th Queries from Faith and Practice concerning Home and Family and Care of Children. They begin, "Do you make your home a place of friendliness?" and "Do children receive the loving care of your Meeting?"

1. We found the minutes of our June meeting to be in good order.

2. Clerk's Comments. Clerk Tom Antonik reflected that today's meeting gave rise to thoughts of how we sometimes look at the summer business meeting as less important, yet we should give perhaps more prayerful discernment to this meeting in the midst of the distractions of the precious Maine summer. The experience of a photographer Tom had read about underlined for him the need to look deeply and freshly at the world around us.

3. Treasurer's Report. Tom Tracy reported for Treasurer Kathy Beach that we are 58% of the way through the year. Income for June and July were \$3403.33 and \$3870.33; expenses were \$8713.77 and \$7742.16, leaving negative balances for June and July of -\$5310.44 and -\$3871.83. The total year-to-date deficit is \$6909.38. Tom attributed most of this deficit to having paid the full Yearly Meeting contribution of \$12,000. The contribution is based on our membership. Concern was raised about the depletion of the accounts for scholarships for Friends activities for children and adults, meaning that nothing is available at this time for the fall. Friends approved the report.

4. Ministry and Counsel. Kate Potter reported that Ministry and Counsel has no special report this month, but is hard at work on their regular duties. Friends accepted the report.

5. Quarterly Meeting Report. Muriel Allen reported that the theme "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" was highly successful. The Meeting for Business changed quarterly meeting back to Saturday, as the experiment with Sunday had not improved attendance. The January meeting was eliminated due to frequent bad weather, and there will still be an all Maine meeting in April or May every other year. Next Quarterly Meeting is in Windham on October 23, the fourth Sunday, the last Sunday meeting.

6. New England Yearly Meeting Representatives. Friends approved the nomination of Lise Wagner, Beth Bussiere-Nichols, Dorothy Grannell and Andrew Grannell as representatives to Yearly Meeting.

7. Youth Religious Education Committee. Ellen Belknap reported that the Committee has completed its survey of members and attenders regarding the youth program and made some adjustments in timing and content of activities for the fall. The Committee has been consulting with Adult Education and Ministry and Counsel committees, and has been trying to balance the needs of the program with the volunteer resources available.

Ellen summarized the fall schedule, which provides that youth programs will continue on the second and fourth Sundays (although activities will not commence in September until the fourth Sunday), with on-site service projects on 3rd Sundays, and special projects on 5th Sundays. Activities will start at 10 a.m. with intergenerational singing. Children will stay for the first 15 minutes of Meeting for Worship and then participate in classes and projects till 11:45. If people come earlier (Adult Education will be at 9), there will be quiet activities in the basement supervised by the Youth Religious Education Coordinator. The groupings of children have been reduced from 4 to 3.

The Committee has tried to provide more hands-on activities, and more intergenerational contacts. Lise Wagner described the civil rights curriculum she is developing for the young Friends. There will also be youth Business Meetings.

Friends raised several questions and praised the inclusive, thorough process. Others praised the hands-on, intergenerational aspects of the plan. The Youth Religious Education Coordinator described the positive response of the meeting community to the survey opportunity to sign up for help with service projects, cooking, drama and other activities. The Clerk remarked on the thorough and tender work done by the Committee and others, and asked Friends to sit with it for a little while and see if we are ready to approve it. After worship, Friends approved proceeding with the proposal.

8. Recommendation on Leadings Committee/Barbie Potter Bequest. Chris Beach distributed Recommendations for Use of Barbie Potter's Bequest, the document considered at Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business in June. He focused on Part C, Recommendations Concerning the Funding of Leadings. He also discussed how this committee's work might interface with Clearness Committees. Leadings could come from more than one person per year, or from groups of persons, such as committees. The Clerks welcomed how this proposal would nurture the gifts of members and attenders of this Meeting, and support activities important to Barbie Potter during her life. Friends approved the proposal.

9. Letter to Nancy Wanderer. The Clerks shared the letter of thanks to Nancy Wanderer for serving as the Personal Representative of Barbie Potter's estate.

10. Funds for Scholarships for Youth and Adult Friends Activities. Friends requested that this matter be put on the agenda for September because funds have been depleted and retreats start in September. Youth Religious Education Committee will work with Financial Oversight Committee to estimate the amount of money needed, and how to fund the requests. Friends approved continuing to approve requests in the interim.

We closed in silent worship at 8:35 p.m. with 20 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on September 11, 2011, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

Late Summer, 1996

by Barbie Potter

I wonder still at the waves of energy
that passed between us
your leaning lightly in my direction
that morning in late summer.
Walking the labyrinth, my focus inward,
I gave merely glance to
purple asters and the occasional paintbrush
when suddenly I remembered
to look and there you were,
my black-eyed Susan.
What was it about you
that stilled me on my spiral path?
Was it your lost blossoms or
the survivor petals, limp and bending
with the season?
The imperfections of age made you vulnerable,
no longer able to stun with Beltane's beauty,
and yet I felt you smiling.
Perhaps what passed between us
was the joy of recognition, of delight
between equals, neither one an object.
We who inhabit the grace of age
as well as its losses
sometimes find in the other, ourselves,
fragile and immense with discovery
that never ends.



Summer bounty. Photos: Muriel Allen

BRUNSWICK'S 7TH ANNUAL
Peace Fair

Saturday, August 6, 2011

10 am until 4 pm on the Brunswick Mall

Family fun – playful and serious reflection on these three strands of Peacemaking:

Supporting Sustainable Initiatives

Giving energy and resources to projects that inspire our hopes for a cooperative and caring society.



Being Peaceful

Living our lives from a place of peace.

Speaking Out Clearly

Voicing our concerns when we see injustice, imbalance of power and failure of leadership.



PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick — www.peaceworksbrunswickme.org

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
CHARLOTTE AGELL

Activities include: Welcome/PeaceMaker Award (10am), Conversation Cafe (11-2), live music (2:30-4pm), Walking Meditation, reading of Dr. Seuss's *Butter Battle Book*, arts and writing activities, 30 nonprofits who will stamp your Peace Fair passport as you learn about ways to take action, and a nuclear weapons demonstration (safe but noisy) sent by Ben & Jerry.

Details: <http://www.peaceworksbrunswickme.org/peace%20fair%202011.html>

If you can offer last-minute help, contact Rosalie Tyler Paul, gaia@gwi.net or 371-2077.

There's a New Day Coming at PFM

A new First Day program, that is!

NEW First Day Schedule

First Sundays: Nursery available 9:00–11:45. No YRE.

Second Sundays: Nursery 9:00–11:45. YRE 10:00–11:45.

9:00–10:00	Adult Religious Education
10:00–10:20	Singing for ALL (adults and children)
10:30–10:45	Youth attend Meeting for Worship
10:45–11:45	First Day youth programs

Third Sundays: Nursery 9:00–11:45. YRE 10:30–11:45.

10:30–10:45	Youth attend Meeting for Worship
10:45–11:45	Cooking and service projects for youth

Fourth Sundays: same as second Sundays

Fifth Sundays: Nursery 10:30–11:45. Special events TBA.

We heard from parents, children and meeting members – “We want less school, more active learning and playing! More intergenerational opportunities!” Well, its coming. Portland Friends approved a new structure and approach for Youth Religious Education at the business meeting on Sunday, July 31.

What does this mean? We will still meet on the second and fourth Sundays, but our times and schedule will be different. And Adult Religious Ed has graciously agreed to move its time as well. On September 25, Opening Day events will kick off the new schedule with a meeting-wide adventure (see next page).

Meeting for Worship: In the new schedule, youth will worship with adults at the start of the meeting. We hope this will help the meeting settle and be more comfortable for children and adults. At 10:45, the youth will leave with the Youth Religious Education Coordinator.

New groups for kids: Our activity groupings change along with the schedule. Nursery, of course, will remain each week from 9–11:45am for those aged birth to 5 (7 if it is *not* a YRE week). The **Early Elementary Group** (ages 4 ½ to 6 ‘ish’) will meet in the first floor classroom with stories, crafts and games. This will be an introduction to Quaker faith and practice with fun too. A reminder: families, in consultation with the YRE Coordinator, decide which group will work best for their children.

The **Middle Group** (ages 7–13) will meet in the multipurpose room in the basement with a variety of adult resource people. This fall, DRAMA will be the focus, with the kids choosing a play to produce complete with sets and costumes. A December performance is planned. January will begin something different. The topics and activities will be determined in large part by the children: Ecology? Social Investment? Trips to other meetings? Outings? Practicing Testimonies? Creating a Video? Music? We will see what they come up with and look for the right leadership.

Young Friends (14–18, + or –) will meet one Sunday a month for a social outing or event that will be at a time different than Sunday morning. On either the second or fourth Sunday, Young Friends will meet at the 10:45–11:45 time frame to look at the topic of civil rights. Young Friends will determine their schedule and activities together. Look for an outline closer to September.

New and different third Sundays: This fall will find interested children ages 5 and up cooking and baking in the kitchen from 10:45–11:45 am with an adult or two. They will be involved with an internal community service project creating foods either for Meeting events or to freeze. Casseroles and soups will be available to Meeting families and individuals who need assistance when there is illness, injury or a new baby. In January, the service activity may change, but there will still be activities happening on third Sundays. KIVA or Right Sharing of World Resources projects will be researched and shared to determine where some of Easter Breakfast funds should be invested.

More youth business: The Youth Meeting for Business will meet three times this year because the youth will have more business to consider. What service projects do we want to do? What do we want to learn next? Who should our clerk be? What trips do we want to take? Of course, there will still be decisions to make about Easter Breakfast and End of Year. Children will be experiencing Quaker consensus building and Quaker action with the help of some of the adults. Our first Youth Business Meeting will take place as part of Opening Day on September 25.

Worried about activities during Adult Education or Committees, from 9–10 am? Don't be. There will be nursery for the youngest children each week. Those 7 and older may come to the multi-purpose room in the basement from 9 to 10 or 10:30am for reading, art work, puzzles or quiet games. On the second and fourth Sundays, the YRE Coordinator will be there to help with ideas and supervision. On Meeting-for-Business Sundays there will be NO supervised activities for children over 7 and older. On Third Sundays, YRE is seeking adults to supervise in the multi-purpose room. Our Meeting safety policy does not allow for children left alone in unsupervised settings at the Meeting House.

Fifth Sundays: These will usually have a special event either for the whole family or meeting, or special trips or service projects. **NEYM Youth Retreats** will be happening this year too, and the fall will see two hosted right here in Portland Friends Meetinghouse.

Our goal: To provide an interesting, active faith-learning experience for and with our children, one that involves them with the entire meeting community for worship, learning, service and fun. There are many places for adults to plug into the scene. In September we will announce an online registration opportunity for volunteering time and talents and an online youth registration form for First Day attendance. Letters will go out to families in late August with the fall schedule and the adult leadership for each group.



September 25 — Opening Day for Youth Religious Education

Note the NEW First Day schedule (previous page)



10:45 — Youth Meeting for Business. After leaving Meeting for Worship, all the youth will gather together with their adult leaders in the basement room. A brief Meeting for Business will take place to nominate Youth Meeting clerk and recording clerk, explain the new approach to Religious Ed, and gather ideas for activities, trips and service. Youth will then meet in their individual groups with their adult leaders.

Noon — Tug of Peace to open the year. We did not have an opportunity to do the Tug of Peace in June, so this will give us all a chance to pull together for the new education program. After the peace pull, we will share a picnic lunch and depart for apple picking.

Afternoon — Apple Picking Trip for families and all interested adults and children. Some of our apples will be used for fall cooking projects. We will be making desserts and main dishes to have available for meeting members and attenders who have need for them. This cooking project will be our first Youth Service project. Volunteer drivers may be needed. Details are still being worked out (suggestions for friendly orchards welcome). Look for more info next newsletter! *Contact: Dorothy Grannell 878-8698*

Save the date!



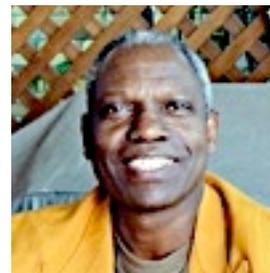
October 29-30, 2011 Portland Friends Meeting

Over the coming year, Friends around the globe will be connected through exploring a common theme, “Being Salt and Light,” in preparation for the 2012 Sixth World Conference of Friends next April. You are invited to join the conversation now. Attend this two-day symposium right here in Portland and be part of the World Conference! Our guest speakers will be:

Valerie Joy, *Australia Yearly Meeting.* Valerie is the Executive Secretary of FWCC's Asia-West Pacific Section. Her international experience of Quakers worldwide has shaped her service to God. Valerie will share some of the special aspects of the lives, projects, difficulties and triumphs, in the context of “Being Salt and Light,” of Friends in Asia and the West Pacific.



Abel Sibonio, *Australia Yearly Meeting.* A pastor originally from Burundi YM, Abel will talk about the “broken world” of life in refugee camps in Tanzania. He will share why he and his family migrated to Australia and how his Quaker experience has carried him through the difficulties of becoming established in a new country.



Valerie and Abel will provide opportunities to relate their experiences to current issues of “brokenness” that Friends are facing in their communities. We hope Friends will take away something that is relevant—both practically and spiritually to our lives today.

Talk to Andy and Dorothy Grannell to find out how you can be involved.

Registration coming soon! Check www.fwccamericas.org for updates. For World Conference information go to <http://saltandlight2012.org>

Pride March



Breaking Bread
(gluten-free options available)



Tracy Booth (Photo: Muriel Allen)



Photo: Brad Bussiere-Nichols

Facilitators Sarah Moon and Jay O'Hara



Awakening the Dreamer seminar
Photos: Brad Bussiere-Nichols



Maine Council of Churches update

MCC continues to monitor the treatment of prisoners in the Special Management Unit (solitary confinement) at Warren and is encouraged by the response of the Department of Corrections to the recommendations of the workgroup convened by the Legislature, which took a comprehensive look at conditions and practices and recommended significant changes to the current system. We will continue to make this a priority.

Another issue we are engaged in is welcoming New Mainers. Two projects are underway, the first with the Center for Preventing Hate, is to hold community conversations with Muslims and the second, called "Who is my neighbor?" will provide resources and dialogue with Mainers of Hispanic descent to make our communities and congregations more welcoming and supportive. Both projects are planned for Spring of 2012 in a variety of locations statewide.

Completing the Future: Some thoughts on Dying

September 25

At Durham Meeting, Marion Kane (Durham Friend) will present her story about living with dying. We will have copies of the booklet "5 Wishes" available to help Friends discern their own end-of-life health-care choices.

Everyone is welcome to join us for Worship Meeting at 10:25am, followed by pot-luck and forum.

Sunday September 25th at 1:00 (after pot-luck)

Durham Friends Meeting
532 Quaker Meeting House Rd
Durham, ME 04222

207-353-6354

<http://www.durhamfriendsmeeting.org>

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

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Please recycle this newsletter.

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Notices

Early Meeting for Worship is being held every Sunday at 8am - no change for summer schedule.

Contact:
Ward Archer
332-1385



Job opening: Youth Religious Education Coordinator
Portland Friends Meeting is seeking a new Youth Religious Education Coordinator to start in January 2012. This is a paid part-time position. Please contact Ellen Belknap (761-6657) or Lyn Ballou (865-3888) for details.

Food for Somalians

John Radebaugh advises Friends who want to contribute to food relief in Somalia that they can donate to the World Food Program USA, 1819 L Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036.
<http://www.wfpusa.org>



**Summer Schedule
continues through
September 5**

Meeting for Worship 5pm
Potluck 6:15pm