

Portland Friends Newsletter

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NINTH MONTH 2011

First Day schedule

Meeting for Worship

8am and 10:30am Sunday

Religious Education

2nd & 4th Sundays:
adults, 9am; singing, 10am;
youth, 10:45am

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

Jane Mullen 761-5856

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com



Every transformation of humanity has rested upon deep stirrings and intuitions, whose rationalized expression takes the form of a new picture of the cosmos and the nature of the human. —Lewis Mumford

Query Nine—Stewardship

Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation? Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation? Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others? Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

Upcoming Events

- Sep 23** Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm; Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762
Sep 25 Religious Ed reopens. Adults 9am; intergenerational singing 10am; youth programs 10:45-11:45
Welcome new members, followed by BYO picnic and games, noon
Sep 27 "The Palestinian Plight" talk, CIEE, Portland, noon
Sep 29-Oct 2 "Practicing Awareness in Nature" retreat, Woolman Hill
Sep 30-Oct 2 Junior High Yearly Meeting retreat, Portland
Oct 1 Deadline to register children for First Day School
Oct 1 NEYM Committee Day, Friends School of Portland
Oct 8 Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm
Oct 15 United Society of Friends Women-NEYM fall gathering
Oct 15 Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy meeting, Waterville, 10am
Oct 15-16 NEYM Young Adult Friends fall retreat, Framingham, MA
Oct 18 "Books as Bridges" talk, Friends School of Portland, 7pm
Oct 23 Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, Windham
Oct 29-30 "Being Salt & Light" symposium, Portland Friends Meeting

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 September 11, 2011

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 33 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Muriel Allen read the Ninth Query from NEYM Faith and Practice, concerning Stewardship, which begins: Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation?

2. **Clerks Comments.** Co-clerk Muriel Allen welcomed us back after the summer and informed the meeting of events during the summer, and of how she was re-energized by the environmental message she took from the Awakening the Dreamer event and how it fed into her vision of a radical Christianity. At different points during meeting for business, different Friends commented how these remarks resonated with them and asked for them to be printed separately in the newsletter.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes July 17th Meeting for Business.** The minutes were approved with no changes.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** Kathy Beach reported that August was a good month financially. Donations of \$4351 took us to 51% of our budget, 67% of the way through the year. The balance is currently -\$4652.31. Tom Tracy commented that contributions for the year are currently at \$29,000. \$20,000 is from people who made pledges at the beginning of the year and the rest from unpledged or excess contributions. Forward projections, assuming continuing contributions, indicate that we will break even this year. It is very helpful that many people have pledged a monthly donation.

5. **Youth Religious Education.** Lyn Ballou on behalf of YRE Committee requested another \$500-\$750 for their Campership/Youth Scholarships budget line (line 31) to cover fall retreats. They have already spent the \$5000 allocated for 2011 and currently have nothing for the fall. The meeting supported this and commented on the value to both the children and ultimately to the meeting of the youth camperships and scholarships. The request to increase line 31 (Youth Scholarships) by \$750 was approved.

YRE will initiate a different schedule and approach for youth religious education programs beginning September 25th to respond to the desire for activities that express faith. The First Day Programs will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from September – early June. Adult Education will meet from 9am-10am. Intergenerational singing will be from 10 to approximately 10:20. Children and teens will be asked to attend worship with their parents from 10:30 to 10:45 am, at the request of parents. When the YRE Coordinator leaves at 10:45 children will go with her to their program locations and will have their programs until 11:45 when they will again join the adults. Dorothy Grannell outlined the children's groups and named their leaders and what the programs would consist of.

The program will be evaluated during December and may change in January.

On the First Sundays of the month there will be no special youth programming for children 7 +

On Third Sundays the children will be doing the Zen of Cooking with volunteer leaders, and will freeze some to offer to people who are housebound or ill. The aim is also to teach children respect for food and its place within Quaker testimonies.

Fifth Sundays of the month will find special programs or events. The first of these will be on October 30th when a special intergenerational event is scheduled as part of the FWCC Salt and Light Event. There will be at least 3 Youth meetings for worship for business during the year to plan special events and service projects. There will be online ways for people to register an interest in volunteering. Details will be in the newsletter.

The whole youth program is integrated, and undergirded by Quaker testimonies as well as Quaker history.

Thanks were expressed to those who have volunteered their time and energies to devise and execute the YRE program.

6. **Building and grounds.** Elizabeth Maier reported for Building and Grounds on the widening of Forest Avenue. Plans show the edge of the sidewalk going through our tree, with no guarantee it can be saved. The sign also has to be moved. The tree is only half a tree and the roots are likely to be damaged by the foundation for the sidewalk. Building and Grounds asked for approval to negotiate with the Department of Transportation over the removal and replacement of the tree. This was approved with the regret for the loss of an old and valued tree and the understanding that it would be missed. However, the human safety issues fulfilled by the building of a sidewalk and bike lane are also important. Syl Doughty and Liz Maier were approved to be our representatives to negotiate issues with the Department of Transportation around the removal of the tree.

Buildings and Grounds were asked to come to the October business meeting with three proposals for the use of the grass circle in front of the meeting house. These plans should include: planting a new tree in the remaining grass area; replacing the grass area with additional parking; a combination of retaining a tree and some natural landscape but increasing the amount of available parking on the meeting house site. The replacement of the old sign will also be considered with these plans.

Aayin Foster offered to work with Earth and Spirit to plan a ceremony of farewell of the old tree and this was approved.

7. **Nominating Committee** proposed for approval a new, five-person Leadings Committee, whose task it will be to weigh on a quarterly basis applications for funding of leadings that arise from within the members and attenders of PFM.

Nominations were:

Patricia Pyle
Muriel Allen
Lise Wagner
Brad Bussiere-Nichols
Jasa Porciello (starting in January)

Those nominations were approved.

Minutes, continued

8. Friends World Committee for Consultation Released Friend Report

Andy and Dorothy Grannell have applied for support for their travels with FWCC Section of the Americas to the Lyman Fund. There will be 18 attending the World Conference in April.

The Falmouth Quarterly Meeting Awakening the Dreamer program attracted 26 participants and a donation of \$350 was made to the FWCC travel fund from that event and part of the sale of books from Richard Bowman Collection.

Valerie Joy and Abel Sibonio will be in Portland from Oct 27th through October 31. Additional smaller events are scheduled for them at Winthrop Friends Meeting on the evening of October 28th.

All the Salt and Light events are designed to be a miniature version of the events that will happen in Africa. Participation will be welcome from other churches in Maine. Overnight hospitality will be needed, and potluck contributions. Help with set-up and clean-up and cooking will be needed. Although the cost breakdown of the program is estimated to be \$40 per participant, we are looking at creative ways to make the program affordable and accessible to anyone who would like to attend.

The meeting indicated its support of the October event.

9. The meeting closed at 10:25am in silent worship, purposing to meet again on October 2nd at 9am, God willing.

Jenny Doughty, Co-Recording Clerk

Clerk's Comments

Welcome back! It's always so wonderful to see people again after the summer! Let me catch you up on what you may have missed here—some fabulous potlucks, some practice in operating the new dishwasher, and the amazing workshop Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream.

I've brought you a book that will give you a glimpse of what we learned. It's called Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken. This book and its author were featured prominently in the presentation. It will be in the library.

But I also want to tell you how this particular dreamer (me) was awakened and how my personal dream was changed—or actually—was re-energized. It happened at Lunch!

I sat beside young presenter Jay O'Hara (considering it my clerkly duty to make him feel welcome). Conversation at our table revolved around various things we were doing to help the environment—recycling and driving fuel-efficient cars. Someone made the assertion that Quakers were already environmentally aware. Jay who had been traveling all around New England making these presentations to other Meetings paused and then said, "I find that most Quakers today are middle-class Americans first and Quakers second."

It was a message that went straight to my heart. Partly because I felt it was true and partly because it put into words something that I had been struggling to name for several years.

The table became quiet. Obviously recycling soda cans and driving a Prius were not enough to solve the environmental issues we were facing. Jay's statement reminded me of a dream I had when I came to worship with you in September 2001.

I knew Quakers were a tolerant people, a kind people, a people committed to peace. I had also heard that Quakers were an active people—a people who had worked to end slavery, to secure the vote for women, to end the Vietnam War. I had hoped to add my voice to yours in "speaking Truth to Power".

I am still searching for a training session in Radical Christianity—the kind of Christianity that would refuse to remove its hat even for a magistrate because there was that of God in everyone. . . the kind of Christianity that would break the law to protect a runaway slave. . . the kind of Christianity that would refuse to fight in a war but would put themselves in the midst of the fray to help the wounded.

In my experience messages are often reiterated and reinforced. (Either God knows about my short-term memory loss or he just considers me incredibly dense.) A few days later I heard a radio interview with Ralph Nader. He stated that many environmental reforms were enacted during the Nixon Administration. The host asked in disbelief—"The Nixon Administration? —How could that be so?" Nader replied, "The people were in the streets. The government feared the loss of control if they didn't listen to their concerns."

Less than 5 days later I was assigned in my Bible reading Isaiah Chapter 6. A rather well-known passage which says, "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" and Isaiah answers, "Here I am. Send me."

I'm not sure you even need this book on Blessed Unrest. I think you already know about the unrest. It is that disquiet you feel when you see a lack of simplicity in the world, when all around you are wars instead of peace, when you witness the erosion of integrity and the absence of community and equality among nations and people.

I think the blessed part comes when you set to work to do something about that disquiet. I know that some of you have already been on the frontlines of action. I hope that there are others who feel their time for action has come. Will you join me? Won't you help us? There is so much to be done.

--Muriel Allen

Friendly reminders from Youth Religious Education

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

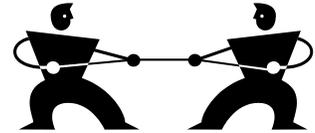
Third Sundays: Nursery 9:00–11:45. YRE 10:30–11:45.
10:30–10:45 Youth attend Meeting for Worship
10:45–11:45 Cooking and service projects for youth

Fourth Sundays: same as second Sundays

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

First Day Opening Picnic, Sep. 25

Join Ministry & Counsel in welcoming new members at the rise of meeting, followed by a picnic in the graveyard – bring your family, your picnic and a blanket or chair. Watermelon and beverages provided. After lunch, stay for games and Tug of Peace.



Please register children online by October 1

Parents are asked to register their children who will be participating in the programs online at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CXSHBALBG>. Paper registration is available for those without internet access.

Telephone numbers and addresses change, as well as allergies etc. Having the database up to date will help us serve the families better and ensure a safe space for children. Parents are reminded that children are not to be left unattended in the building. If children are not participating in a YRE event they are under the supervision of their adult guardian or parent.

Get involved!

There are still ways that adults may be involved with the YRE program. Those who haven't volunteered for the resource list may sign up online at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CYMZ6TDHX>

Or see Dorothy Grannell or Aja Stephan.

Looking for part-time work? Like working with families? Getting to know others at PFM better?

Youth Religious Education Committee is looking for someone to be Religious Education Coordinator in January 2012, continuing the work of Dorothy Grannell and previous Youth Religious Ed Coordinators. Major responsibilities include overseeing First Day School program and events, working with First Day School teachers and families, and promoting relationships with all generations of the Meeting community through intergenerational activities. The position currently pays \$7,500 per year and requires approximately 10 hours per week. For more information contact Lyn Ballou (865-3888 or 838-6717) or Ellen Belknap (761-6657).

Arthur Fink's "Delightfully Distracted" show

Arthur Fink invites everybody in the meeting community to view his new photography show, "Delightfully Distracted in the dance studio". It's hanging in his office/gallery at 145 Newbury Street in Portland (near India Street), and is available for viewing most workday hours. To be sure Arthur will be there, or to schedule weekend or evening viewings, call Arthur at 615-5722 or e-mail him at af@arthurfinkphoto.com

Here's his statement for the show:

I may be best known for my dance images, but I see so much more while working with dancers! This informal show follows my wandering eye as I focus on dancers' clothes, their hair, the objects they bring with them, their design sense, their aliveness, and their presence even when not consciously dancing. I try to directly photograph the energy of dance, the form, the movement, the meaning. But I'm constantly drawn to so many of these delightful distractions. In fact, these aren't "distractions" at all. I believe these are outward indications of a wonderful aliveness, of a very focused practicality, and of a life spent thoroughly in the arts.

You can also view the show online, at www.arthurfinkphoto.com/DelightfullyDistracted/



Farewell, fair maple

Widening of Route 302 commences soon and will somewhat affect our traveling to meeting. Even more important, the roadwork, which will make Route 302 safer for pedestrians and cyclists (adding sidewalk and bike lane), will put our beautiful front maple tree at risk. At meeting for business today, after considering alternatives, we reluctantly agreed that the wisest course is to ask DOT to remove the tree. Each of us is encouraged to say goodbye to the tree now, because the timing of its removal is uncertain. Aaiyn Foster is also planning a community event to express our gratitude for the tree and to bid it farewell.



"The Palestinian Plight," Sep 27

Jim Matlack of Midcoast Meeting will be presenting "The Palestinian Plight", based on his recent trip, to the World Affairs Council on September 27 at CIEE, 300 Fore St., Portland from 12 noon to 1. (Free).



Fall courses online

It's fall, so it must be time to learn something new. And the Quaker

Studies program at Beacon Hill Friends House has two online courses this fall.

Does St. Paul deserve his reputation? Is he really responsible for warping the Christian message? Or is he rightly venerated as the first interpreter of Christ (and one of the best?) Or is the truth somewhere in between? Find out. Participate in our four-week online course *Reintroducing St. Paul* starting October 2. Andrew Wright will be co-leading this course and will offer a more advanced course on Paul this winter. If you studied Mark with Andrew you know you want to sign up for this one! *Tuition: \$40*

Do you feel ready for a deeper exploration of what it means to be Quaker and live "in that light and life"? *Getting Rooted*, an online course starting September 25, may be just what you are looking for. Using a writing by Brian Drayton, this five-week course will consider how your Quaker faith can become part of your whole life. Eric Edwards will be leading this course. *Tuition: \$37.50*

More info and registration: <http://www.bhfh.org/qsp/QsplIndex.html>

Oct. 15: YAFs retreat, policy committee meets, and Friendly women gather...

NEYM Young Adult Friends: The Fall YAF retreat is coming up! Here are the details:

When: Saturday Oct. 15 at Noon- Sunday Oct. 16 at Noon.

Where: Framingham Friends Meeting in Framingham, MA

Theme: "Fun and Games Until Somebody Turns 35!"*

This retreat is a chance to have FUN and get to know the YAF community. We will be playing games of all sorts (indoor, outdoor, icebreakers, etc.). We will also have time for meeting in affinity groups, worshiping, eating yummy food, and assembling care-packages for new YAFs.

*If you have turned 35 and still consider yourself a YAF you are welcome to come. This theme title just sounded catchier than "Fun and Games until somebody turns 36ish!" We won't be checking IDs. Promise.

To register: Email YAF coordinator NiaDwynwen Thomas (yf.yafcoord@neym.org), telling her you'd like to come, plus your name, phone number, where you are coming from, if you can offer a ride or if you need one (for the carpool list), and if you have any dietary restrictions our cook should know about. *Registrations preferred by October 7th.*

Cost: The suggested fee of the retreat is \$35, which covers the costs of food, building usage, and materials. The fee is sliding scale (\$0-\$35+). Please let interest, not cost, determine your attendance! Pay with cash or check at the retreat.

Please contact Nia if you have any questions or ideas for activities.

-- NiaDwynwen Thomas, yf.yafcoord@neym.org, (617) 945-0373

Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy: The next committee meeting will be Saturday October 15th, beginning with a period of silent worship at 10 a.m. in the upstairs library meeting room at the Alford Youth Center (Boys and Girls Club) at 126 North Street in Waterville.

Our guest speaker will be Sharon Tomah, the Executive Director of the Wabanaki Mental Health Association, an organization that provides psychological and social services to a Native American population from Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and parts of Washington Counties.

Sharon Tomah's presentation is expected to be an excellent follow-up to Denise Altvater's powerful July 16 talk with FCMPP about her experiences in foster care and the development of the Wabanaki Maine Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation process. (See attached draft minutes.) Among the many things that the committee learned from Denise Altvater when she met with us in July was how closely interwoven racism, substance abuse, mental health, and the criminal justice system often are in Maine.

At the October 15th FCMPP meeting, we'll also have a shared potluck lunch, and hear updates on what is happening in the Maine State Prison and the Maine Department of Corrections.

Please let me know if there are special areas of concern that you have with respect to justice issues in Maine that you believe FCMPP should focus on.

--Sarah Walton, Clerk, FCMPP

215-9944 or sayrah.walton@gmail.com

United Society of Friends Women-NEYM: Our fall gathering will be held October 15 at Concord, NH, Friends Meeting. The speaker will be Ruah Swennerfelt from Burlington, speaking about transition villages. We are looking forward to learning more about this after the NEYM keynote by Steve Chase, who was involved in starting a transition village in New Hampshire. Ruah returned this summer after visiting a number of these villages, both in New England and in several European and Middle Eastern countries. The fall gathering is also an opportunity to experience a brand new meetinghouse which is a certified green building.

Those needing overnight hospitality Saturday night on the way there should contact Marian Baker, mkbaker@gsinet.net

--Marian Baker, USFW



Parenting for Peace
presents

Books as Bridges

Children's Literature and Anti-Racism Education

October 18, 2011
7:00 pm
Mackworth Island



Please join us for a presentation and discussion with Anne Sibley O'Brien, author-illustrator and anti-racist educator, and Krista Aronson, psychology professor and director of the Story Book Project. Free and open to the public.

Seats are limited and pre-registration is encouraged.
Come early to browse our book sale!



Workshop for Educators

Mirrors & Lenses: Racial Identity Formation in the Classroom

3:30 pm, October 18, 2011
Friends School of Portland

Join Anne Sibley O'Brien in a discussion of racial identity formation, unconscious bias, and contemporary realities of racism. Learn a new set of tools for facilitating critical conversations with students.

Registration and fee required.

To register online: <http://p4pfall2011.eventbrite.com/>

For more information:

www.friendsschoolofportland.org
207-781-6321 • info@friendsschoolofportland.org
1 Mackworth Island • Falmouth, Maine • 04105

To register online:

<http://booksasbridges.eventbrite.com/>

Made possible in part with grants from
the Maine Humanities Council and Fox
Intercultural Consulting Services.





Salt & Light Comes to Portland, October 29 and 30

This two-day symposium is a way for Portland Friends to take part in the conversation on "Being Salt and Light," the theme of the 2012 Sixth World Conference of Friends next April. A donation is requested but NOT required. Registration will begin online soon at <http://www.fwccamericas.org/> Scroll down until you find Portland, ME.

Schedule of events

Saturday, Oct 29

- 9:30am On-site registration
 - Coffee, juice etc at registration
- 10:00 am Welcome , Introductions – Andy Grannell
 - Opening worship and song
- 10 :30 - 11:15 Valerie Joy and Abel Sibonio presentations
- 11:15 – 12:15 pm Small Group consideration of morning queries
 - (Need 4 group hosts to read the query, be recorder)
- 12:15 -12:30 report out
- 12:30 – 1:15 PM Light Lunch - Soup and Bread
- 1:15 pm Re-gather in Worship Room
 - Introduce FWCC Representative
 - What is FWCC? What does it do?
 - Why Salt & Light programs and the World Conference
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm Second presentation
- 2:30 – 2:45 Break
- 2:45 – 3:45 Small Groups work on Queries
- 3:45 – 4:30 Groups report out and presenters sum up
- 4:30 pm Brief worship and song
- 5 pm African Dinner
- 6 pm Depart.

Sunday, October 30

- 8 – 9 am Early Silent Worship
- 9:00 – 9:30 am Singing with International Song book
- 9:30 – 10:25 Intergenerational Programmed Worship
 - Opening Query from salt & Light discussion
 - Salt and Light Scripture readings in Kirundi and English
 - Children's Message
 - Adult Message brought by guests from Australia
- 10:30 – 11:30pm Unprogrammed Worship after the manner of Friends

What is asked from Portland Friends (It is A LOT!)

- Overnight hospitality for guests from Australia and an FWCC representative (4 nights each!)
- Assist as a small group leader or programmed worship participant
- Saturday night hospitality for guests coming to program from across NE
- Assistance with meals, set up, cooking and clean up
- Pot Luck on Sunday

There will be sign-up lists in the foyer beginning on September 25. Better yet, you can volunteer online!

Volunteer online for Salt & Light event at:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22D4MHA98PS>

Portland Friends Meeting

1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

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Meetinghouse messages

Jane Mullen, our new Meetinghouse Coordinator, asks each committee and group to contact her and say when it wants to use a space in the meetinghouse. Jane assures us that she is NOT telepathic, and thus needs everyone's help to avoid double-booking and miss-booking space.

Jane Mullen, 761-5856, jmmaine@aol.com,

"Close Buy" fundraiser

James Grumbach invites everyone to join the Friends School's in its main fall fundraiser by going to its website www.friendsschoolofportland.org and clicking on "Close Buy Catalogue" to purchase local products and support the school.



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

Contact:
Ward Archer
332-1385

