

Portland Friends Newsletter

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ELEVENTH 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

Dee Kelsey 773-0464
Kate Potter 761-1648

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
Anne Payson (incoming) 781-2501

Co-clerks: Lyn Ballou 865-3888
Ellen Belknap 761-6657

Use of the Meetinghouse

Jane Mullen 761-5856

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com



Years ago I recognized my kinship with all living things, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on the earth. I said then and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free. — Eugene V. Debs

Query Eleven—Social Responsibility

Queries – Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of all persons to justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all? Do you fulfill all civic obligations which are not contrary to divine leadings? Do you give spiritual and material support to those who suffer for conscience's sake?

Upcoming Events

- Nov 13** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45
Nov 18-20 NEYM Young Adults Retreat, Portland
Nov 20 **Love Your Meetinghouse Day**, noon
Nov 25 Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm; Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762
Nov 27 Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45
Dec 4 Meeting for Business
Dec 4 Advent Garden, 4pm
Dec 10 Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm
Dec 11 Friends School of Portland reception, PFM, noon

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 Scillipoti
tscillipoti@maine.rr.com

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

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting November 6, 2011

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 27 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Muriel Allen read the Eleventh Query from NEYM Faith and Practice, concerning Social Responsibility, which begins: Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God?

2. **Clerk's Comments:** Co-clerk Muriel Allen talked about "Showing Up", and referred to her experience of wondering whether to accept the nomination of co-clerk this time last year. At that time she had been advised that 'showing up' was the most important factor, and she had realized that while not charismatic this was true, and that showing up led to many other happy discoveries. She cited her experience of 'showing up' at the recent Salt and Light event as an example of this.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes October 2nd Meeting for Business.** The minutes were accepted with no corrections needed.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** Kathy Beach reported that at 83% into the year we are at 58% of donations and we need to catch up. Two annual payments – the endowment at \$3000 and our insurance of \$1500 were paid this month though. Our expenses were \$8517.76 and our balance -\$5076.42. There have been more expenses this year, but we need to increase donations. In response to a question about income from bequests, she explained that all money donated comes into the operating fund, but bequests are not normally used for normal operating expenses but as determined by the meeting. Many donations are now given on a monthly basis, which is very helpful, but some pledges remain unpaid so far.

5. **Nominating Committee.** Chris Beach reported for Nominating Committee that Anne Harwood is willing to serve with Muriel as Co-Clerk and Nominating is very happy to propose her to the meeting for approval. The meeting heartily approved with energy and joy.

6. **Ministry and Counsel.** Kate Potter reported for Ministry and Counsel. M&C continues with its work, supporting clearness committees and helping discern the way forward for the meeting. The website will be unveiled to the meeting as a whole at December's Meeting for Business.

Guidelines for dealing with people who come requesting help, a meal, a ride or money were discussed, and how they could be responded to in accord with the teachings of Jesus Christ. We will explain that we do not serve meals unless there is a potluck to share. Members of the meeting were asked to refer people who come with these requests to members of Ministry and Counsel, to Brad Bussiere-Nichols or to Dorothy or Andy Grannell, who will listen to them and discern how we are able to help. A Friend commented that it is easy to discern the way when we are not being tested. He added that we are not just a charitable organization but a community, and we share our concerns when we are faced with big needs we can't fill and small ones we can but are not sure we should. Requests such as these are an opportunity for us to form a creative response.

7. **Building and grounds.** Thanks were expressed to Syl Doughty for showing up late at night to turn water on and off to facilitate sewer work on Forest Avenue and its link with the meeting house. We do not at this point know whether we are connected or not. No connection has been found so far. We need to decide what to do about this. A pipe has been installed for water from the road into our property and reconnected. However our pipe is from 1920 and is galvanized iron, and may be corroded inside, accounting for our low water pressure. Building and Grounds plan to hire somebody to replace this pipe in accord with the decision made at last month's Meeting for Business. Thanks were expressed to Brad Bussiere Nichols, who has made several repairs to the building in preparation for winter, and to the people who have cared for the new shrub garden. The locksmith is waiting for a part to repair the back door. Yesterday, our fire alarm went off because of the effects of a storm. We are buying a new cart and a rolling dishcart to facilitate flow in the kitchen; we will be looking at this on Love your Meeting House day on November 20th after the Young Friends leave. The tree has been relieved over winter, until they start putting the sidewalk in outside.

8. **Youth Religious Education.** Lyn Ballou reported for Youth Religious Education that they recommend we hire Anne Payson as our new YRE co-ordinator. She has wide experience of Friends, of this meeting, of education and organizational skills, and brings many of those skills to this vital role. The meeting approved heartily.

9. **Report on Salt and Light event.** Dorothy Grannell complimented everybody who showed up for the event and whose efforts ensured that all went smoothly. Abel Sibonio and Valerie Joy presented the programme, focusing on the issue of 'What is salt about?' They were joined by Louise Salinas from FWCC. About 27 Friends from around New England heard about the presenters' experiences in East Africa and around Asia, the realities of life in a refugee camp and working across religious and ethnic differences and through experiences of natural and man-made disasters. \$755 was raised for FWCC. A delicious African meal was provided by East African refugees who live in the Portland area, including our own Ernest and Mathilde Ngendakumana. They shared their worship with us on Saturday evening. 45 people came on Sunday morning, and enjoyed worship and the leftovers. Dorothy thanked everybody for their support of both herself and Andy and of the event itself.

10. **Report on Quarterly Meeting.** Marlee Turner reported that 20 people came to QM at Windham Meeting on October 23rd. The programmed meeting was rich and rewarding in a different way to our custom of extended silences. It was also rewarding to meet so many people from other meetings and listen to the stories and struggles of other meetings. She suggested a notice on the wall with addresses of all Southern Maine meetings to enable people to visit other meetings. The next meeting is April 28th at Durham. The winter meeting has been bypassed because of the probability of weather issues.

11. **Other Business.** Anna Barnett announced that the website address <http://www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org>. It holds archived material, the newsletters, and information about the meeting.

Dorothy Grannell reminded us of the change in First Day School topics in the new year.

12. The meeting closed at 10:10am in silent worship, purposing to meet again on December 4th at 9am, God willing.



Report on Salt & Light Event at Portland Friends Meeting

Abel Sibonio and Valerie Joy, Friends from Australia presented their program relating to the theme of the 6th World Conference of Friends, "Being Salt and Light, Living the Kingdom in a Broken World." They were joined by Louise Salinas, who is a staff member for Friends World Committee on Consultation Section of the Americas. Twenty seven Friends from Meetings around Maine and Boston joined the presenters on Saturday.

Abel and Valerie shared stories from their experiences in East Africa and around Asia. We learned of the hardships of life in a refugee camp and how working together across religious and national differences provided healing and practical necessities of life. Valerie shared the struggles of Friends in the Philippines, New Zealand, Korea, Indonesia and Japan from earthquakes and tsunamis to aging congregations. Again, we saw how through struggle and suffering people, were able overcome differences and work together to solve common problems. Attenders were mainly concerned about understanding the reference to salt in the theme. All were familiar with the concept of being Light in the world. Working in small groups we explored the necessity for salt to preserve, heal and flavor. Historical references to the value of salt in Biblical times as well as in developing nations today helped us gain a wider perspective on the work of the World Conference. We all gained a greater understanding of what it takes to be "salt and light" in our daily lives.

The event raised \$755 for FWCC due to the generosity of those attending the event. Our African meal was prepared by East African refugees who live in the Portland area. We were joined for dinner by members of the local East African worship group. They were able to worship in the Meeting room on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning 45 + people braved the cold, snow and power outages to participate in singing and programmed worship and then Portland's normal unprogrammed worship. Meeting members joined with the presenters in the programmed worship to provide song, queries, scripture and stories. We were all able to enjoy the remains of Saturday's delicious dinner at the pot luck on Sunday.

After visiting with children and staff at Friends School of Portland, our guests traveled on to Providence and led events at Moses Brown School and Providence Monthly Meeting but then the results of the storm canceled their trip to Hartford. They moved onto the Boston area ahead of schedule while still dealing with the results of the early snow storm. The Australian Friends began their New England visit at Winthrop Friends Meeting with a pot luck and discussion.

A very special thank you is offered to all those who participated in the Salt and Light events and to all of those who made the meals, registration, discussion groups, overnight hospitality and clean up go seamlessly. The richness of our experience was due in great measure to the generosity and caring of those who attended the events and provided many services as they were needed.

Love Your Meetinghouse Day is Sunday, Nov 20 at noon

Friends should bring rakes,
gloves, gardening tools, etc.
Or for those who will clean
inside, bring window cleaning
and dusting supplies.



Annual fundraising breakfast, Nov 17 Celebrating Community - 100 Years of Faith in Action

Please join the Maine Council of Churches at our Annual Breakfast on Thursday, November 17th at 8:30 am at the Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport ME. This breakfast event, "Celebrating Community" highlights those whose faith has been instrumental in guiding their work for justice. We will honor outgoing Lewiston Maine Mayor Larry Gilbert for his 40+ years in public service and Lewiston's Trinity Jubilee Center for their leadership and interfaith & community partnerships.

Max Finberg, USDA Director of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, will give a keynote talk, "Toward Ending Hunger in Maine." He will talk about the role of government, churches, businesses, and community groups in developing solutions for sustainable communities for Maine and beyond.

MCC will also be recognized for 100 years of incorporation by Maine Secretary of State, the Honorable Charles E. Summers, Jr.

Please join MCC for this special event!

Portland Friends Meeting website now online www.PortlandFriendsMeeting.org

The new website is up! Starting this month, this will be the central spot to find our calendar, newsletter, and other Meeting-related info online.

- The site will serve as **our public face for the larger community** -- a simple guide to who we are, our worship and activities, photos, etc.
- It tells folks from away and from Greater Portland **how to find us**, with directions and contact info.
- The website is the **new place to check up on PFM events**. From the end of November onward, the Meeting calendar will be posted on the website rather than the Yahoo e-group.
- It's also the **new home of the newsletter**, which will be posted electronically here every month.
- You'll find the most current info on **Religious Education and other meeting programs**.
- Instead of going through a single webmaster, **multiple meeting folks can manage this content** directly (including the newsletter editor and Religious Education and meetinghouse coordinators).



You can visit the site at www.PortlandFriendsMeeting.org and have a look around our online abode.

F.A.Q. (Friends Ask Questions): Receiving the newsletter online only

The current PFM Newsletter and an archive of past issues are now available as PDFs on our website, www.PortlandFriendsMeeting.org. If you are satisfied with reading the newsletter online only, you can help the Meeting save paper and printing costs by choosing not to receive a print copy in the mail.

Q: How do I stop receiving the print newsletter?

A: E-mail Tony Scilipoti, tscilipoti@maine.rr.com, and ask him to take you off the mailing list.

Q: Can I sign up to get the newsletter by e-mail?

A: We are not e-mailing out the newsletter PDF, and there is no special e-mail list just for the newsletter. But if you subscribe to the Yahoo e-group for Portland Friends Meeting, we will be posting to the group to notify people when the latest newsletter is available on the website.

Q: How do I view or download the newsletter online?

A: Visit www.PortlandFriendsMeeting.org every month, find the newsletter listed in the sidebar, and click on it. If you got a newsletter notification via the e-group, you can simply click the link in that message.

Q: How do I subscribe to the Yahoo e-group?

Q: I'm having trouble accessing the e-group.

A: E-mail e-group coordinator Mary Beth Walsh, mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com, to subscribe or get help.

Join Us in the Advent Garden

All are invited to join children and families on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 4 pm at Portland Friends Meeting for the annual Advent Garden.

In the midst of the rush of the holiday season, you are invited into a space of silent wonder.

Walk the advent spiral, take light from the Center, place your candle among the fragrant pine. Listen and watch the glow spread.

Light refreshments follow the service.



*Into this climate of fear and apprehension,
Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness
high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.
From "Amazing Peace," by Maya Angelou*

A Quaker Family Activity Calendar

The Quaker Youth Education Committee of New England Yearly Meeting has produced "A Quaker Family Activity Calendar." A sample is posted on the Youth Religious Education Bulletin Board in the basement of our meeting house. These calendars are for sale for \$7.00 by sending an e-mail to Beth Collea at cec Coord@neym.org and requesting one or more.

The motivation behind producing the calendar is to keep the Quaker conversation going at home during the week following First Day programs. Each month features a different testimony with queries and ideas for family discussion and readings. A partial sample from November's calendar page is included here.

November's topic: Simplicity & Frugality

Featured Committee: NEYM Finance Committee - They prepare and balance the Yearly Meeting's budget empowering us to use our money wisely and well according to our priorities.

Queries:

In this time of commercialism, how do you reflect values of simplicity?

In what ways do you and your family reflect on the significance of Jesus' life and his teachings regarding simplicity?

Is your gift giving in line with these values?

Debbie Pryor, Wellesley Friends Meeting

Activities: Try a family spiritual practice each day in December. Try a grace before meals – hold hands and say, "May the love in my heart pass from my hands to yours." Or sing a grace.

Resources:

"Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem," by Maya Angelou

Before and After Christmas: Activities and Ideas – Christmas and Epiphany by Deffie Trafton O'Neal

Silent Night: The Song and Its Story by Margaret Hodges.

The calendar features Friends from around New England, dates and places of Youth Retreats, holidays and names and dates of "weighty Friends" throughout history. You will recognize some of the adults and children in the photos. Looking up the famous Quakers on the internet, in Quaker books or the Yearly Meeting Minute Book is another way to extend learning activities about Friends at home. Check it out downstairs on the bulletin board.



FSP reception at rise of meeting, Dec 11

Want to learn more about Friends School of Portland? Join FSP staff and parents for an informal gathering following Meeting. Snacks provided!

- Learn more about the school
- Meet and talk to current parents
- Receive admissions information

Questions? Contact Jessica Eller, 781-6321, Jessica@friendsschoolofportland.org



Portland Walks for Peace

On Sunday, September 18th, in an effort to support and bring awareness to International Peace Day, Friends School of Portland and Clark Insurance sponsored "Portland Walks for Peace." Organized by four FSP 8th graders, the walk around Back Cove in Portland was a benefit for Peace One Day, an organization that uses International Peace Day as a platform to provide relief to poor and war-torn countries. The event was a success, with approximately 60 people in attendance and over \$300 raised. Congratulations to the students who came up with this wonderful idea and worked hard to make it a reality!

Friends School of Portland seeks new Head of School

Friends School of Portland will be going through major changes in the next year or two, including probably having to move its location and find a replacement for James Grumbach as the head of school. Please consider whether you know anyone who might serve well in this position and recommend them to any of the search committee members (e.g., Mary Tracy, Jo Linder and Rob Levin).

Position Description: Head of School

In essence, the Head of School role is to facilitate the fulfillment of the mission of the school. Specifically, with the guidance and affirmation of the Board of Trustees, the Head of School will ensure the maintenance of a sound academic program for children in a nurturing climate based on the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends. Particular areas of oversight include the hiring, support, and evaluation of the staff, growing and sustaining the school through its admissions process, and developing a sound financial basis for the future through fundraising efforts that include tuition revenues, grants, and gifts. In a small school, such as ours, the Head of School is also generally available and involved in the day-to-day operation of the school: covering a class, supervising recess, applying band-aids, moving furniture, and taking the recycling to the “silver bullet” are but a few of the roles. The Head of School will also be responsible for responding to the recommendations of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation report and maintaining a systematic, periodic review of the NEASC standards. The following is an incomplete list of areas of oversight and involvement by major category:

School Curriculum & Community:

1. Employ Friends' best practices in the educational setting and instill those practices in the daily life of the school. Specifically, support education about the spiritual dimension of life and employ corporate decision making with both efforts grounded in meeting for worship.
2. Maintain the relationship with local monthly meetings, especially with Portland Friends Meeting.
3. Review and revise as necessary the Community and Employee Handbooks.
4. With the Director of Studies, provide support for continuing curriculum review.
5. Maintain a collaborative relationship with the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.
6. Support the infant/toddler program for staff children.
7. Support the FSP Parents Association, including regular meetings with the leadership.

Staff Support & Assessment:

1. Guide the support and assessment procedure for the faculty and staff. Visit classes and provide written notes of observations.
2. Assess the staffing needs for the implementation of the academic and administrative functions of the school and, if necessary, recommend changes to the Board.
3. Provide opportunities for professional growth and support for the staff.
4. Continue to evaluate the roles of the Administrative Group in order to delineate individual roles and responsibilities.
5. Convene weekly meetings with the Administrative Group and individual administrators.

Financial & Budgetary:

1. Assist in the creation of good accounting practices and a budgetary system of reports that tracks current spending with predicted budgets.
2. With the assistance of the Finance Committee and Finance Coordinator, construct an annual budget and a projection three years out from the current year.

Enrollment:

1. With the admissions coordinator and teaching faculty, maintain the system that provides contacts with prospective families from the time of inquiry through enrollment.
2. Continue to support strategies to increase retention of current families.
3. Work with the admissions and marketing coordinators to plan and promote admissions events.
4. Continue to monitor the implications of the financial aid policy on the long-term financial health of the school.
5. Continue to find ways to increase the racial and cultural diversity of the school community, including faculty, staff and Board of Directors.

Development:

1. Meet with potential major donors.
2. Continue to support the Parenting for Peace speaker series.
3. Continue to monitor the content and structure of the website.
4. Help refine the system for tracking and acknowledging gifts from donors.
5. Help develop a calendar to guide development events.
6. Help develop an annual giving report.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

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Address Service Requested

Want to help us **save paper and mailing costs**? Email Toni Scilipoti to receive this newsletter **online only**. See inside for details!



Please recycle this newsletter.

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Committee openings

Thanks to everyone who has contributed in 2011 by serving on a committee or in an individual position of responsibility. All of you have helped Portland Friends be as wonderful as it is. For 2012, there remain openings on many committees, and we hope that many of you will find one that draws you in. Please find the sheets for signing up in the entrance hallway. Sheets on the left side of the listings are open for you to volunteer for any opening you feel called to fill. For openings on the right side of the listings, please speak with anyone on Nominating if you have an interest in filling an opening.

Free piano

Susan Lavigne has a lovely Kohler & Campbell console piano available for the cost of moving. Very compact and perfect for apartment and/or small spaces. Please e-mail Susan and Quinn at quinnyunyi@yahoo.com or call 775-0626 for more information.



Cooking break

There will be no cooking activity on November 20 due to the NEYM Young Friends Retreat and Love Your Meeting House Day. The cooking activity will resume on the third Sunday in December.

Early Meeting for Worship is being held every Sunday at 8am.

Contact:
Ward Archer
332-1385

