

Portland Friends Newsletter

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TWELFTH 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



Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that. —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Query Twelve—Peace and Reconciliation

Do you “live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars”? Do you faithfully maintain Friends’ testimony against military preparations and all participation in war, as inconsistent with the teachings and spirit of Christ? Do you strive to increase understanding and use of nonviolent methods of resolving conflicts?

Do you take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? When discouraged, do you remember that Jesus said, “Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears”?

Upcoming Events

- Dec 11** Religious Ed: Adults 9am with our visitor Debbie Humphries, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45. Friends School reception, noon
- Dec 14-16** Maine Council of Churches prayer vigil for a moral budget
- Dec 18** Zen of Cooking for ages 7 and up, 10:45am
- Dec 23** Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm; Aiayn Foster, 766-9762
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve worship: silent meditation 4:30, service 5pm
- Dec 25** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45
- Jan 5-8** NEYM Young Adult Friends retreat: “Led to Action”. New Bedford, MA
- Jan 8** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45
Youth Meeting for Business in Attic, 10:45am
- Jan 14** Workshop on new racial justice curriculum, Wellseley, MA, 9:30-3:30
Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm

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 December 4, 2011

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on December 4, 2011 at 9 a.m., with 19 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which Co-Clerk Tom Antonik read the Twelfth Query from Faith and Practice concerning Peace and Reconciliation. It begins, "Do you 'live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?'"

1. Clerk's Comments. Co-Clerk Tom Antonik noted it was his last Meeting for Business and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve, and especially for the opportunity to see all the members of our community contributing in large and small ways. He remembered an experience of a few years ago where he was to give a speech during the holidays and prayed for inspiration. God's answer was to highlight dust bunnies in his apartment with bright sunlight. Tom viewed this answer as an illustration of how God is present in ordinary moments as well as in the more dramatic experiences of life. For him, the greatest lesson from Clerking has been setting aside his own personal agenda in favor of listening to the spirit of the Meeting.

2. We found the minutes of our November meeting to be in good order.

3. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are eleven months, or 92% into the budget year. Income for November was \$3,653.33, so that year-to-date income stands at \$47,796.63 or 67% of budget. November expenses were \$4,274.02 so that year-to-date expenses are \$60,359.91, or 85% of budget, resulting in a November shortfall of \$-620.69 and year-to date shortfall of \$-12,563.28. Friends accepted the report.

Proposed 2012 budget. In regard to the proposed 2012 budget, Tom Tracy for Financial Oversight Committee characterized it as conservative because of experience over the past two years. Kathy pointed out differences from the 2011 budget:-- that we will be paying off more of the expenses of renovating our kitchen, expecting a lower amount of donations, raising rental income and taking slightly more out of our endowment income. The Clerk reminded any committee clerks who have not made their requests for the 2012 budget to Financial Oversight to do so immediately.

Friends discussed aspects of the proposed budget, as well as the support of this Meeting for endeavors outside our operating budget such as the charities supported by the Easter Breakfast, the Friends School, the Salt and Light conference and many more. A request was made to raise the amount of scholarship money for adults in line 32. A question was raised about the possible impact of further expenses for our water and sewer connection upon the operating budget. At the moment, the street widening project is on hold for the winter. The Clerk pointed out it is expected that any need for funds for these connections will be taken care of out of the Barbie Potter endowment and, if necessary, fundraising targeted at the project.

The draft budget was then referred back to Financial Oversight to consider and present again at Meeting for Business in January 2012. Friends thanked the Committee for their careful attention to balancing our needs against our abilities in these difficult times.

Closing the 2011 gap. The committee urges Friends to donate promptly and generously to cover the large gap before December 31, the end of 2011 budget year. They also encourage members and attenders to adopt regular periodic giving through automatic bank account payments or monthly and quarterly pledges.

4. Nominating Committee. Chris Beach presented a written report for the Committee and thanked the many people who are continuing in their service for the Meeting. He then named people starting in new positions in 2012, and highlighted the areas where there are still needs. These will be filled by sign-ups and personal contact by Nominating Committee members. After discussion, corrections and additions, Friends approved the report.

5. Ministry and Counsel. Kate Potter reported on our new website and thanked all who contributed to creating and maintaining it. They are Jenny Doughty, Rich Nagel, Sarah Cushman, Arthur Fink, Tony Scilipoti, Brad Bussiere-Nichols and others. Co-Clerk Muriel Allen is finding that calls of inquiry about the Meeting have stopped since the website became available.

Ministry and Counsel Committee has received the transfer of membership of Emily Renschler and her two children from Solebury Meeting in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and recommend the transfer to this Meeting. Her son William Scoll attends the Friends School. There is also a daughter Francesca. Friends approved the transfer of membership of Emily Renschler, William Scoll and Francesca Scoll to Portland Friends Meeting.

Kate Potter and Jenny Doughty are planning a Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. and welcome others to help them plan and carry out this service.

Minutes, continued

6. Special Recognition of Tom Antonik. Co-Clerk Muriel Allen expressed thanks to Tom for service as Clerk a second time in the following words--

For all you have done
For all you do
Thank you, Tom.
Times two.

For wise discernment
For bursts of glee
Thank you Tom.
From me!

For all your good work
Monthly, Yearly
Thank you, Tom
Clearly.

From youth and elder
The Meeting through
Thank you, Tom.
Times two!



We closed in silent worship at 10:28 a.m. with 27 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on January 8, 2012, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

News from Nominating: Committee Openings

We still have some wonderful opportunities to serve the meeting and get to know others in the meeting in different ways. These include:

- Buildings & Grounds: 1 opening
- Scribing announcements on 4th Sunday: 1 opening
- Pastoral Care: 2 openings
- Adult Religious Education: 2 openings
- Youth Religious Education: 2 openings
- Clean & Close Meeting at rise of meeting: 2 openings each on 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday

Whatever your nature, there is probably an opportunity for you to participate and join in the wonder that is PFM. If you have an interest in a position, please contact Kate Potter, Rob Levin, Rita Clifford, Elizabeth Szatkowski or Chris Beach or speak to the clerk or convenor of the committee that you are interested in or just sign up on the sheets posted in the lobby of the meetinghouse. Other opportunities are listed there, as are brief descriptions of each committee's responsibilities and the gifts and interests sought in those who serve on the committee.

Proposed 2012 budget	
Financial Oversight Committee	
Adult Scholarships for Friends	
Activities	2000
Financial Oversight-payroll svc/ audit	1500
Publications	2000
Peace and Social Concerns	200
Library	200
Ministry and Counsel	150
Earth and Spirit	100
Clerk's Enrichment	1000
Pastoral Oversight	100
Special Needs Fund	3000
Clerk's Fund	100
FSOP Resource Committee	100
Miscellaneous	250
Subtotal Meeting Community	32,850
Meeting Contributions	
New England Yearly Meeting	12,000
Equalization Funds	500
Friends School of Portland	1500
Friends of China Camp	300
AFSC General and Clothing	400
FCNL	400
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting	110
City of Portland--in lieu of taxes	200
Maine Council of Churches	150
Quaker Ridge Building Fund	80
Wayside Soup Kitchen	350
NAACP (formerly MLK Breakfast)	430
College Guild	100
FLGBTQC	150
Subtotal Meeting Contributions	16,670
Total Expenses	71,270
Balance (Income-Expenses)	0

Contributions Needed This Month

We need a total of \$14,000 contributed this month to eliminate Portland Friend Meeting's deficit year to date.

If everyone pays the remainder of their pledged amount we will close more than half of our deficit. So please do this - preferably this week - so that we don't push the process to the end of the year.

To break even we will also need contributions from people who haven't pledged. If you are in a position to contribute, please do.

Please send in your contributions, made out to the Portland Friends Meeting, to:

Sue Nelson
58 Hillis Street
Portland, ME 04103



PFM's new Peace Garden

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Isaiah 32:17

The new shrub and flower garden at the right end of the meeting house has been designed to honor the Friends' Peace Testimony. To reflect this, all of the shrubs and flowers in the garden have been selected to bloom in white, symbolizing peace. An exception are the native to Maine evergreen junipers forming a base and which bear blue berries.

The shrubs will rise in height from the low growing Juniperis 'Bar Harbor' horizontalis in the front to the tall Spiraea 'Snowmound' at the rear. Species have all been selected for height, as well as for fragrance (Philadelphus 'Blizzard' & Azalea 'White Lightning'), long blooming (Potentilla 'Abbotswood'), foliage interest (Spiraea Birchleaf & Azalea Delaware Valley White), and hardiness. Interspersed along the front will be groups of white flowering Allium Neapolitanum bulbs and Hosta 'Patriot' perennials. The plantings are shown on the drawing and chart display in the rear hallway of the meetinghouse, and are drawn to show their mature size.

Twelve shrubs and numerous spring-flowering bulbs were planted in the fall of 2011. In the spring of 2012 the planting will be completed with the addition of seven more shrubs, and additional bulbs and perennials. The exact spring species will be dependent on nursery availability.

One non-white flower specie, the hybrid tea rose Rosa 'Madame A. Meilland' 'Peace', with its light yellow-cream coloration touched with crimson-pink, will be planted in the spring. With its tenderness in our local horticultural Zone 5, it is hoped that a regular maintenance schedule during spring and fall meetinghouse cleanup days will sustain these flowers. This can remind us that Peace has to be nurtured.



After WWII, Field Marshal Alan Brooke was asked to lend his name to the rose but declined, saying a more enduring name would be 'Peace'. The Peace rose was given to each delegation at the first meeting of the United Nations, with a note which read:

"We hope the 'Peace' rose will influence men's thoughts for everlasting world peace."

Syl Doughty



Prayer Vigil and Petition for a Moral Budget

The Joint Committee on Appropriations will hold hearings in Room 228 at the State House on Wednesday (12/14), Thursday (12/15) and Friday (12/16) on the Governor's proposed cuts and changes to MaineCare and other programs affecting thousands of Maine children and adults, including many seniors (summary: <http://mainecouncilofchurches.org/Budgetcuts>).

The Maine Council of Churches will be hosting a Prayer Vigil for a Moral Budget on Wednesday Dec. 14 (10am-2pm), Thursday Dec. 15 (12-2pm) and Friday Dec. 16 (12-2pm) at the State House.

You can also sign MCC's Statement of Conscience on the cuts: <http://surveymonkey.com/s/V2TV65K>

If you cannot come to Augusta, please consider joining us in prayer, wherever you are, from Noon to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

More info: <http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/430591/b370dab357/ARCHIVE#>, or call 772-1918

Changes, Changes for First Day Program for Youth ages 7-13

Our plans for the "Middles" ages 7-13 have changed! Here's what IS happening this winter and spring. We will be separating out this group into younger and older groups for the rest of the year. We will use the parlor and the attic room for the older class and the basement area for the younger class.

Here are potential topics for the Elementary Class depending both on interest and leadership:

- Living Peacefully – How do I deal with anger, sorrow, happy times, scary times?
- Tell Me a Story – Stories of Biblical, Quaker and Every Day Heroes
- Dance and Movement – (If we can find the resource person)
- Here are potential topics for the Middle School Class depending on interest and leadership:
- Living Quaker – Interviewing and video taping Living Quakers from our meeting, what does it mean to live Quaker?
- Peace Testimony – history and practice of peace especially in the 20th and 21st centuries.
- Quaker Micro Loans – Using videos, games and research finding out about the project of Right Sharing of World Resources and promoting them for funding at the Easter Breakfast

Youth Religious Education will again support the Easter Breakfast for everyone in the Meeting and we are also looking at a special intergenerational Earth Helping event for Earth Day which falls on April 22nd, 2012.

If you are interested in helping to lead one of these groups for 2 or 4 sessions this winter or spring, please contact either Anne Payson, annepayson10@gmail.com, or Dorothy Grannell, dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com, SOON! A chart of the potential classes and resources is posted on the front bulletin board and the basement bulletin board. A display of resources for the groups will be available after meeting on December 18th along with a chance to ask questions.

The fun begins on January 22, 2012.

PFM Youth Religious Education Program Registration

Please Complete this form if you have a child in our nursery or First Day programs. WHY? For Safety's sake and to contact you if there is a change in our program.

RETURN TO AJA STEPHANS OR ANNE PAYSON. If you completed one this fall 2011 you do not need to do another.

1. Parent or guardian of child being registered and contact information for the child or children

- ✂ Name _____
- ✂ Primary telephone or cell number _____
- ✂ Address _____
- ✂ City _____
- ✂ State _____
- ✂ Zip _____
- ✂ Email Address _____

2. Please enter the full name and birth date for each child you are registering. If there are allergies or medical information of which the class leader should be aware, please include that after the name and *birth date*.

- ✂ First Child _____ Birth Date _____
- ✂ Second Child _____ Birth Date _____
- ✂ Third Child _____ Birth Date _____
- ✂ Fourth Child _____ Birth Date _____
- ✂ Fifth Child _____ Birth Date _____

Allergies? _____

2012 Winter/Spring Youth Religious Education Calendar

Dates and items are subject to change

(YRE = youth religious education, YF = Young Friends. Teens NEYM Retreats in italics)

Dec 27-30 Young Friends Mid Winter retreat Friendly Crossways

Jan 8 Youth Business Meeting in Attic room age 7 and up.

Jan 13-15 JHYM Retreat Westport (God's Yeast – baking bread)

Jan 14-15 Young Friends Dance and Sleepover event at the Meeting house. (This may change to January 7-8. Check with Lise Wagner for updates.)

Jan 22 YRE and YF classes

Jan 27-29 JYM retreat at Wellesley Meeting "Umption in my Gumption"

Feb 10 YF Social Event

Feb 10-12 NEYM YF Retreat Wellesley, Diversity

Feb 12 YRE classes

Feb 26 YRE & YF classes

Mar 2-4 JYM and JHYM retreat at Westport – Bodyworks (6th grade only)

Mar 9 YF Social Event

Mar 11 YRE classes

Mar 16-18 JHYM Retreat Wellesley Meeting "Present Moment, Wonderful Moment"

Mar 25 YRE & YF classes Possible Business Meeting if needed??

Mar30-Apr 1 YF Retreat Sexuality & Relationships, Westport

Apr 8 EASTER BREAKFAST

Apr 13 YF Social Event

Apr 22 YRE & YF classes (Earth Day and end of April Vacation)

May 4-6 JHYM Retreat – Framingham Meeting "We all need more Kindness in this World"

May 4-6 YF Retreat "Rest & Relaxation" Hartford Meeting.

May 11 YF Social Event

May 11-13 JYM retreat Woolman Hill "How to spot a Quaker!"

May 13 YRE & YF classes

May 27 YRE & YF classes (Memorial Day Weekend)

Jun 8 YF social event???

Jun 10 Final Class and YRE END OF YEAR CELEBRATION (No sleepover this year). Post-Meeting picnic and games and/or Play.

From our leaving Youth Religious Ed coordinator -- Thank You!

Dear Portland Friends;

To all the children, parents, meeting members and volunteers: Thank You! You have made my time as Youth Religious Education Coordinator a pleasure and a rich spiritual journey.

The Youth Religious Education Committee holds the religious faith development of our children in the Light. They work hard to discern what needs to be done to ensure that our children are safe, cared for and that they have every opportunity to grow in the Light. It has been a privilege to be charged with seeing that the discernment comes to fruition. Please hold Anne Payson in the Light as you have held me.

Blessings on you all,

Dorothy Grannell



LED-TO ACTION

New England Young Adult Friends Mid-Winter Retreat, Jan 5-8

Why? To explore the connection between our spirituality and our actions...we will also eat, hang out and worship together.

Who? Quaker types age 18-35ish

When? 7pm Thursday, Jan 5, to noon Sunday, Jan 8, 2012

Where? New Bedford Monthly Meeting, New Bedford, MA (just blocks away from the bus station!)

How much? \$0-\$18 sliding scale - please pay what you can

Registration and more info: Nia Thomas, nia@neym.org, (617) 945-0373

New Racial Justice Curriculum for Young Friends: Training Workshop and Networking Opportunity, Jan 14

with Lisa Graustein, Wellesley Friends Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 9:30am-3:30pm, Coffee & tea at 9am
26 Benvenue Street, Wellesley, MA

Lisa Graustein has put together a Racial Justice Curriculum to be used with Young Friends groups and is looking for people to teach it this spring.

In this free workshop, Lisa will orient and train RE teachers and other adults to use the curriculum with their YF groups. The curriculum is flexible, designed for 10, 45-minute sessions or 5, 90-minute sessions and for small or large groups. It gives Young Friends experience in:

- exploring their own racial and ethnic identity;
- developing tools for understanding how race, white privilege and racism impact our daily lives;
- learning some of the racial history of NEYM Friends;
- exploring issues of race and racism among Friends or within their geographic community; and
- developing skills for interrupting racism in their daily lives.

The workshop will be an experiential walk-through of the curriculum, covering most of the key activities. It will also be a chance to meet other youth workers and share ideas, resources, and build community. The curriculum will be available on-line and anyone teaching it will have the chance to be in touch with others teaching the curriculum or addressing similar issues with Young Friends.

Please bring a brown bag lunch and any books, films, or other resources that you can recommend on this topic for our resources table.

This is a free workshop, but please let us know you will be joining us so we may plan accordingly.

To Register, email Beth Collea, at recoord@neym.org.

Hospitality available upon request. Please make your request by Jan. 10th.

Sponsored by the Quaker Youth Education Committee of NEYM

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

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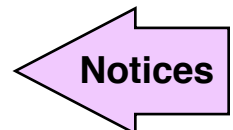
Please recycle this newsletter.

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Dec 14 - Margaret Raymond turns 99

Birthday cards would be wonderful: 78 Scott Dyer Rd. Rm. 008, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107.

Margaret would also love visits over the holidays. She lives not far from the center of Cape Elizabeth, in a lovely setting along the marsh; so you get to enjoy both Margaret and the place.



iPod found

An iPod was found under leaves in the cemetery. Is it yours? Contact Muriel Allen, 874-9523

Keys at last

Those with keys for the front door to the meetinghouse should find that they also work in the back door. If for some reason, your key does not work for the back door, please let Liz Maier know.

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

Contact:
Ward Archer
332-1385

