

Portland Friends Newsletter

SECOND MONTH 2012

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

Muriel Allen 874-9523
Anne Harwood 666-8179

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

Adults: Brad Bussiere-Nichols
772-1774
Youth: Shuli Bonham 619-4787

Youth RE Coordinator

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Jane Mullen 761-5856

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com



Civilization is the encouragement of differences.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948)

Query Two – Meeting for Worship

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are you faithful and punctual in attendance? Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Do all other activities of your meeting find their inspiration in worship, and do they, in turn, help to uphold the worshipping group?

Upcoming Events

- Feb 11** Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm
- Feb 12** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45
- Feb 24** Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm; Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762
- Feb 26** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45.
- Mar 1** Screening of *The Prep School Negro*, Friends School
- Mar 3** Workshop on environmental Transition movement thinking with Steve Chase and Katy Locke at Durham Meeting 9:45 am – 4:00
- Mar 4** Meeting for Business, 9am
- Mar 19** Deadline for donations to the Friends School silent auction
- Mar 31** 6th annual Auction and Brunch at the Friends School of Portland, 10-2 on Mackworth Island
- Mar 31** NEYM's "Living with Integrity in a Time of Change," Wellesley, MA
- July 1-7** Friends General Conference Gathering, Kingston, RI
- Aug 4-8** New England Yearly Meeting, Smithfield, RI

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

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

Send address

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

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting
February 5th 2012

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 28 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Anne Harwood read the Second Query from NEYM *Faith and Practice*, concerning Meeting for Worship, which begins: Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance?
2. **Clerks Comments:** Co-clerk Anne Harwood commented that it was a special gift to her to be asked to be co-clerk, as if she had been called home, and a great pleasure to see all the faces in the room. She reminded us that she had trouble hearing, especially jokes, when people often drop their voices.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes January 8th Meeting for Business.** A spelling correction was made for Marnie Grumbach's name, but otherwise the minutes were approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Tom Tracy reported that the total income for January was \$4008.32. Total expenses were \$3666, leaving a net income of \$342 for the month of January.
5. **Financial Oversight. 2012 Budget** Tom Tracy reported a few small changes to the proposed budget expenses of \$72,170, requiring total donations of \$56,570 to balance the budget. Contributions to NEYM were left the same, having been increased annually for some time. The needed donations for 2012 are slightly lower than last year, as we did not totally spend all the budget lines. Thirty-three people have pledged \$21,370 so far, which is less than last year's final pledges from 49 people for \$36,970. Tom asked people who have not pledged before to consider pledging this year. There were no objections to the proposed budget.

The committee proposed to use last year's surplus to pay for the archive project and to split the remainder between endowment replenishment and the Wayside Soup Kitchen. We were reminded that the Wayside Food Program has separated itself from the Preble Street soup kitchen, and now takes food to people who cannot transport themselves to the soup kitchen. We had originally discussed donating to Preble Street, where some of our members volunteer monthly. It was pointed out that our commitment had been to the soup kitchen and that any donation to the Wayside program should be considered as a separate issue. We referred the issue back to Peace and Social Concerns to allow them to consider whether to increase our commitment by donating to the Wayside Food Program as well or split our existing commitment two ways. In the meantime the meeting approved leaving our donation to the Preble Street soup kitchen as it is.

6. **Representative for NEYM Nominating Committee.** Muriel Allen asked for a volunteer to NEYM Nominating Committee as there is now a vacancy. She clarified that most work is done through email but there is some traveling involved. Hal Burnham was our previous representative. The work of the Nominating Committee is as vital in keeping the work of NEYM going as it is in our own meeting.

Nominating Committee. Chris Beach reported for Nominating Committee. The full details follow these minutes. The meeting was asked to approve seven new nominations, which are marked by bullet points on the list. The meeting approved all the new nominations. Current members of Nominating Committee are continuing to serve and will be joined by Stefanie Fairchild. Chris Beach and Elizabeth Szatkowski have now served for ten years.

Chris pointed out that Nominating Committee remains with the important tasks of adding people to Peace and Social Concerns and Pastoral Oversight, noting that Peace and Social Concerns members are nominated by Nominating while volunteers can simply sign up for Pastoral Oversight. Additions to the details on the list were noted: Al Schryver is co-clerk of the Cemetery Committee, Kate Potter is clerk of Ministry and Counsel and Sandi Jensen is co-clerk of Adult Religious Education, Susan Lavigne is co-clerk of Youth Religious Education.

Jasa Porciello is leaving the Leadings Committee because of other commitments.

7. **Ministry and Counsel.** Kate Potter reported for Ministry and Counsel. The Clearness Committee for Christina Davis found her ready for membership and gladly recommend that she be accepted as a member of PFM. The meeting accepted her and welcomed her warmly.

Ongoing work includes:

- a draft for the State of Society report, to be presented to this monthly meeting next month.
- the final shaping of a Memorial Minute for Richard Bowman.
- a forthcoming description of guidelines this meeting might adopt, regarding our responses to a stranger who publicly asks for money here, on First Days. A committee of five is already formed to assist such a person.

We discussed the question of a meeting-wide Retreat this year, possibly in late September. We have not gathered for a full day or an overnight of fun and stimulation for several years. We have grown larger as a community, and many attenders and their children would like to deepen their sense of belonging. Ministry and Counsel suggest that a planning committee for the retreat be formed soon if meeting for Business approves. Friends approved of the formation of a committee. Brad Bussiere Nichols, Christina Davis and Dee Kelsey volunteered to be part of such a committee. The work involves identifying a site and date, designing a sign-up form, and devising a program. Anybody who feels called to be involved is asked to contact Dee Kelsey.

One final reminder: Ministry and Counsel want to remind Friends that one of the central duties of Ministry & Counsel is to welcome all inquiries about membership and to follow through with applicants on forming their clearness committees. A commitment to being a Quaker is more important in asking for a clearness committee than where one is on a spiritual journey - we are all learners here!

A note was made that churches had been cautioned to be mindful of requests from people who do not attend but who are asking for money. The normal procedure here is

to refer such people to the Special Needs Committee, who have experience in discernment over such requests.

8. **Peace and Social Concerns** – a decision was made by members of Peace and Social Concerns not to organize the Good Friday Peace Vigil on April 6th, but they offered to meeting members a chance to organize it themselves. We were reminded that a permit needed to be obtained and a handout written. Last year there did not seem to be a lot of energy around the event. It was suggested that we revisit this issue next month when people have had a chance to read these minutes and consider the matter. There is still some urgency around the war in Afghanistan and threats of war with Iran, and Quakers may wish to testify that war is not the answer. Andy Grannell offered to organize necessary administrative actions needed. We might consider a different set of actions that would still uphold the Peace Testimony but look different than heretofore.

The Awakening the Dreamer workshop was attended by 30 people, half of them not from our meeting, and was a rich experience. The meeting expressed thanks to Sandi Jensen, Muriel Allen, Jasa Porciello, Karin Wagner and all others who were involved in organizing this.

9. **Other Business - The Leadings Committee** has looked through the first round of grant requests and approved four. These comprise:
- Andy and Dorothy Grannell separately for their work with the Salt and Light Conference
 - Kathy Beach for an art project focused on the art walks to begin in the fall
 - Arla Patch, who attends Mahoosuc Mountains Worship Group and plans a project with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to educate teens about injustice towards Native peoples in Maine.
- The next date for submissions is during April 2012 via Patricia Pyle.

Andy Grannell reported on the progress of the **Archives Committee** in digitally recording and indexing the life of Portland Friends Meeting as recorded in documents including the newsletter and records of retreats. He commented that many 'unknown unknowns' have been revealed during this process. It is hoped that the project will be completed before Andy's departure for Africa on April 8th.

10. **The meeting closed at 10:20am in silent worship**, purposing to meet again on March 4th at 9am, God willing.

Jenny Doughty
Co-recording clerk

We welcomed Christine Davis into membership during February's business meeting .

The Annual Silent Auction & Brunch is one of Friends School of Portland's biggest school-wide endeavors to raise money for the school. Every dollar raised at our Auction is directly allocated to our Tuition Assistance Program. Monday, March 19 is the deadline to receive donations for the silent auction. Donation forms will be available at the Meetinghouse, or on the school's website:

www.friendsschoolofportland.org.

Arla Patch is volunteering on the Communication Committee of the Truth and Reconciliation Act passed last May 2011. Maine is the first state to begin addressing the impact of removing Wabanaki children from their homes and placing them in foster care or boarding schools where many were additionally abused. This practice has gone on since the 1800's.

This is also the first state and tribal government agreement of its kind.

If you would like to thank Gov LePage for his signature and ask for his ongoing support, please write him at: Governor Paul LePage, Office of the Governor, #1 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0001

(Legislation is called the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Act)

Interactive workshop on environmental Transition movement thinking, with Steve Chase and Katy Locke

Sat. March 3, 9:45 am -4:00 pm

Come join this important discussion/planning workshop at Durham Friends Meeting
532 Quaker Meetinghouse Rd., Durham, ME 04222

Free -- bring food to share for lunch

RSVP: Wendy, 207-777-1980 or schlotterbeck@roadrunner.com

The Pastoral Care Committee is looking for more Friends willing to drive Friends to Meeting. The more volunteers we have, the more flexible we can be. If you have an interest in this important and much appreciated form of service, please contact Shannon O'Connor, 332-1868. Thank you!
Shannon

- Sue Nelson has acknowledgement letters for tax purposes for those who made donations to the meeting in 2011. Please approach her in person at the meeting, email her, or give her a ring if you want a written acknowledgment.

-- Please consider pledging to give throughout the year. Any amount helps us meet our financial goal and supports the meeting. Forms can be found in the meetinghouse lobby. Tom Tracy reports progress with pledges received so far, but more pledges will ensure a steady flow of donations and allow the meeting to plan accordingly. Please return pledge forms to Tom in person or via email or snail mail.

-- If you feel called to help organize a simple Good Friday (April 6th) Peace Vigil at Monument Square this year, please contact Andy Grannell. We are trying to discern whether there is energy within the meeting to hold a vigil in some form.

-- If you feel called to help organize a meeting-wide retreat in September, please contact Dee Kelsey.

2012 Individual & Committee Responsibilities at PFM as of February 5, 2012

Co-Clerks of Meeting	Muriel Allen & <i>Anne Harwood</i>
Co-Recording Clerks (Bus. Meeting)....	Lyn Ballou & Jenny Doughty
Recorder (Meeting's official records) ...	Lise Wagner
Treasurer (Operating Account)	Kathy Beach
Treasurer (Contributions)	Sue Nelson
Treasurer (Special Funds)	Sara Jane Elliot
Reviewer of Financial Records	Beth King
Special Needs Fund	Chris Beach & Elizabeth Szatkowski
Youth Religious Ed. Coordinator.....	<i>Anne Payson</i>
Nursery Religious Ed. Coordinator....	Aja Stephan
Meetinghouse Use Coordinator	Jane Mullen (back-up person: Patricia Pyle)
PFM's Nominees to FSP Board.....	_____
E-group Coordinator	Mary Beth Walsh (back-up person: Patricia Pyle)

Italics = new this year
* = Convener or Clerk of committee
_____ = position yet to be filled

COMMITTEES

Ministry & Counsel (meets 3rd Thursday, 6:30, Back Classroom)

Jenny Doughty ('12)	Lee Ivy ('13)	Jim Maier ('14)
Kate Potter ('12)	<i>Christine Fletcher</i> ('13)	Arthur Fink ('14)
<i>Stephanie Richards</i> ('12)	Dee Kelsey ('13)	<i>Lyn Ballou</i> ('14)

Peace & Social Concerns

* Jennifer Frick, Kiya Smith, Sydney McDowell, Karin Wagner, *Tom Tracy*, Muriel Allen (*ex officio*)

Financial Oversight Committee

*Tom Tracy, Terry Garrett, Rita Clifford, Dorothy Grannell, Kathy Beach (*ex officio*), Sara Jane Elliot (*ex officio*), Sue Nelson (*ex officio*)

Communications Committee

Newsletter: *Anna Barnett, Marion Lundgren, Liz Maier, Tony Scilipoti, H. D. Wagener

Website Development: Tony Scilipoti, Arthur Fink, Darlene Ivy, Rich Nagle

E-group Coordinator: Mary Beth Walsh (back-up: Patricia Pyle).

Recording Announcements: 1st Sun, Chris Beach; 2nd Sun, Patricia Pyle; 3rd Sun, Stephanie Richards, 4th Sun, _____; 5th Sun, Christine Fletcher

Buildings & Grounds (meets 3rd Sunday, 9:15, Kitchen)

*Liz Maier, Dorothy Coyle, Syl Doughty, Tom Pulling, H. D. Wagener, Ward Archer, *Will Kessler*, _____, James Grumbach (winter only), Tracy Booth (summer only), Ed Robinson (helping hand)

PFM Resource Committee for FSP

Rita Clifford ('12), Stefanie Fairchild ('12), Kate Potter ('13), Kiya Smith ('13), Chris Beach ('14), Terry Garrett ('14)

Library Committee

*Karyl Sylken, Colleen Crowley, Stephanie Richards, _____

Cemetery Committee

*Ed Robinson, Andy Grannell, Lee Ivy, Al Schryver, Karyl Sylken, _____

Earth & Spirit (meets 3rd Sunday, 9:15, Back Classroom)

*Barbara Rose McIntosh, Mary Brock, John Radebaugh, Ed Robinson, Aaiyn Foster, *Holly Travers*, _____

Pastoral Oversight Committee (meets 3rd Sunday, 9:15, Parlor)

*Shannon O'Connor & *David Spector, Sue Calhoun, Morgan Grumbach, Kristine MacCormick, Al Norton, _____, _____

Hospitality Committee

*Heidi Johnson, Marlee Turner, Sarah Cushman, *Christina Davis*, *Emily Silevinac*

Adult Religious Education Committee

* Brad Bussiere-Nichols, *Sandi Jensen, Andy Grannell,, Elizabeth Szatkowski, Donna Yellen, Emily Silevinac , Sarah Cushman

Youth Religious Education Committee

*Shuli Bonham, *Susan Lavigne, Chris Fitze, Chris Gunderman, Obie Philbrook, Lise Wagner, *Sarah Davis*, Marlee Turner, *Anne Payson* (*ex officio*), Aja Stephan (*ex officio*)

Teams to clean up & close Meetinghouse after Meeting for Worship

1 st First Day of month:	*Chris Beach & Kathy Beach
2 nd First Day of month:	Jen Frick & Peter Raszmann + <i>Brad B-N</i> & Sandi Jensen
3 rd First Day of month:	<i>Marnie Grumbach</i> & <i>Morgan Grumbach</i>
4 th First Day of month:	<i>Marion Lundgren</i> & <i>H. D. Wagener</i>
5 th First Day of month:	Christine Fletcher & Richard Nagel

Leadings

Patricia Pyle, Brad B-N., Lise Wagner, Muriel Allen, Sandi Jensen

Archive Committee (re-born)

Karyl Sylken, *Sandi Jensen*, *Andy Grannell*, *Colleen Crowley*

Nominating Committee (To be reconstituted in February of 2012)

*Chris Be. ('13); Elizabeth Sz. ('12); Rob Le. ('13); Rita Cl. ('12); Kate Po. ('12), Stefanie Fairchild ('13)

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

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Kakamega post

Andy and Dorothy Grannell are planning to visit with Friends in Kakamega before the World Conference of Friends, so if you are supporting a student at the school or orphanage, we will be able to carry letters to them.

Missing folding table

A white folding table used for First Day Classes went missing sometime in late November or early December (no, it is not the one in the attic room). It was in the back classroom on the first floor. It folds in the middle as well as having legs that fold. It may have gone to a family party or been put someplace safe but--alas--it has not returned.

If you borrowed it, please return it. If you put it away for safekeeping, please let Anne Payson or a YRE committee member know where it is.

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

Contact:
Ward Archer
332-1385

