

# Portland Friends Newsletter

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THIRD 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

### **Visit our website**

[PortlandFriendsMeeting.org](http://PortlandFriendsMeeting.org)

### **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**

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](mailto:mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com)



*Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best. — Henry Van Dyke*

## **Query Three—Meeting Business**

Are meeting for business held in a spirit of worship and prayerful search for the way of Truth? Are all members encouraged to use their talents in the service of the meeting? Do you undertake your proper share of the work and financial support of the meeting?

## **Upcoming Events**

- Mar 11** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45
- Mar 23** Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm; Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762
- Mar 24** Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy, 10am, Waterville, ME
- Mar 25** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45.
- Mar 31** Friends School of Portland auction and brunch, 10am-2pm
- Mar 31** NEYM's "Integrity in a Time of Change," Wellesley, MA
- April 1** Meeting for Business, 9am
- April 3** Panel on faith and marriage equality, 7pm, South Portland
- April 6** Good Friday "Earth Stations" event, 4-5:30pm, Deering Oaks Park
- April 8** Easter Breakfast, 9am
- July 1-7** Friends General Conference Gathering, Kingston, RI
- Aug 1-22** Trip to Kenya and Kakamega orphanage; Sukie Rice, 865-3768
- 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](mailto:abarnett@gmail.com)  
Phone: 523-0314

**Send address change  
details to Tony Scillipoti**  
[tscllipoti@maine.rr.com](mailto:tscllipoti@maine.rr.com)

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

## **Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting March 4, 2012**

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on March 4, 2012 at 9 a.m., with 25 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Muriel Allen read the third Query from Faith and Practice concerning Meetings for Business. It begins, "Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship and prayerful search for the Way of Truth . . . ?"

1. **Clerk's Comments.** Co-Clerk Muriel Allen expressed her gratitude for the queries and their lofty goals which challenge us, and particularly this month's query in regard to Meetings for the Conduct of Business. She reviewed with us the Clerk's role in providing a spiritually safe environment, and asked our continued assistance with this.

2. **Minutes of our February meeting.** Under paragraph 9 we add thanks to Jennifer Frick. Under 10 we change "focused on" art walks to "inspired by" art walks. In all other respects, Friends accepted the February minutes.

3. **Treasurer's Report.** Sue Nelson reported for Treasurer Kathy Beach. Income for February was \$2,258.33, and expenses were \$1,852.41, resulting in a positive balance of \$405.92 for the month. Friends approved the report.

4. **Approval of Budget for 2012.** Tom Tracy reviewed the proposed budget, noting that the proposed contributions are slightly higher than those of last year. At the same time, we usually do not spend all allocated amounts, so that the year end result is balanced.

The issue remaining on the budget discussion from February was sending surplus money from 2011 to the Preble Street Resource Center, which has been done under the guidance of Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Friends approved the 2012 budget, which contains a line for Preble Street Soup Kitchen.

Tom Tracy also reported on the status of pledging for 2012. Although the number of pledges has remained similar, the amounts pledged for 2012 are down from 2011. Some Friends expressed concern about the amount and detail of discussion of pledges in this economic climate. It was noted that we all contribute in many ways, financially, spiritually, with talents and services.

The Clerk thanked Friends for their concern and suggested that we refer this issue to Ministry and Counsel to ponder and bring recommendations to our next meeting for business in April. Friends approved the suggestion.

5. **Ministry and Counsel.** Kate Potter reported for Ministry and Counsel that the Committee continues to discern and work on issues surrounding the spiritual life of our community. The Memorial Minute for Richard Bowman is in its final stages. Ruth and her children are reviewing it now. The Committee will recommend a final draft for approval at the April Meeting for Business.

Kate then distributed and read the proposed State of the Society Report for 2011, and expressed appreciation for the time and creative energy given by all members of Ministry and Counsel, especially Roger Roy, Stephanie Richards, Tom Antonik and Dee Kelsey, to the shaping of the Bowman Memorial Minute and of the annual State of Society report. She requested discussion of themes in the report, and suggested that detailed wordsmithing comments be given outside Meeting for Business to Kate or Dee Kelsey.

It was suggested that we add the creation of the website, and the adult education classes and other activities on leadings and on climate change. Also mentioned was our support of the Friends School of Portland and the tender issues carried there about a new Head of School and a potential new location. The Committee will bring a final State of Society draft to April Meeting for Business.

6. **Report from Andy and Dorothy Grannell on their preparation for the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya.** Dorothy and Andy Grannell gave us an idea of the many activities engaged in by her and Andy to prepare for their trip to Africa in April, and their work upon return. These include reading, watching, study, attending workshops, participating in online worship sharing and trip coordination, and getting to know their travel companions.

The conference will address not only world problems such as hunger, climate change, torture and war, but also issues dividing Quakers from each other. Both Andy and Dorothy are excited about their newly expanded world view, which in turn will be shared with us. For more details, see the newsletter.

The Grannells are grateful for the Meeting's support. We thanked them for their work and look forward to hearing from them on their return. They will be debriefing with their travel companions here in May.

7. **April 28 Quarterly Meeting--at Portland Friends Meeting.** We need representatives and someone to coordinate the lunch. Please see Muriel Allen or Anne Harwood. Kate Potter was approved as a representative. There will be details of time and program in the newsletter.

8. **Easter Breakfast.** Anne Payson, Youth Religious Education Coordinator, reported the breakfast will be held April 8 at 9 a.m. The children have decided at their Meeting for Business to raise funds for three organizations--the Right Sharing of World Resources, the Coastal Humane Society and the Preble Street Resource Center. Friends are encouraged to attend and, if possible, donate.

9. **Friends Committee on National Legislation.** Becky Steele reported that the deadline for any priorities on legislation from this Meeting is April 17. If we are interested in contributing input, we should consider this at April Meeting for Business. She also recommended getting to know and use the FCNL website. Tom Foote volunteered to explore forming an interest group to bring the matter to April Meeting for Business.

We closed in silent worship at 10:28 a.m. with 30 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on April 1, 2012, God willing.

*Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk*

## **Please review the Covenant for Civil Discourse from the Maine Council of Churches**

*Religious groups are asked to sign onto the covenant and ask local candidates to agree to it. Maine Council of Churches will post the list of supporting congregations and candidates on their website. At the time of the June primary they will publicize those who are in support of the Covenant.*

*Discussion of the covenant will be on the agenda at PFM's Meeting for Business next month.*



## **Seeking Common Ground Working for the Common Good**

**December 18, 2009**

### **A COVENANT FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We, the Board of Directors of the Maine Council of Churches, believe a flourishing democracy requires rigorous public debate that includes freedom of expression for all points of view. For such debate to serve the ends of democracy and the common good, we believe it must be rooted in an environment of mutual respect and honesty. It seems, however, that Americans' communications around political campaigns and issues have become meaner, more deceitful and more disrespectful. This trend has increased partisanship and helped to create confusion, division and discord among the electorate. There is a growing tendency toward violence and civil disruption.

Most faith traditions urge every person to treat other people as they would want to be treated, making no exceptions for behavior in public debate. The faith tradition shared by Maine Council of Churches' members teaches that we seek to "speak the truth in love" and, rooted in these ideals, we want to reverse this unhealthy trend in American society, starting locally here in Maine. To that end, we have adopted the following Covenant of Civil Discourse with one another and have agreed to hold one another accountable to these principles.

Further, we encourage and invite our member denominations and other faith communities to join us in this Covenant and to encourage their own local faith communities and individual members to do so as well, particularly those individual members of their traditions and local faith communities who are also public servants or candidates for public office and those who volunteer or work for campaigns.

Further, we encourage and invite all Maine public servants, elected officials and candidates for public office to sign the voluntary Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices (21-A M.R.S.A. Para. 1101(2)) and we ask representatives of issue-based campaigns in Maine at every level to join publicly in this Covenant for Civil Discourse, as a means to serving the people of Maine, our democracy and the larger goals of building a society of justice, sustainability, compassion and peace.

(OVER)

## COVENANT

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of individual and description of public position if any [i.e., elected official, candidate]  
or name of faith community, campaign or other organization) hereby agree:

1. To act respectfully toward others, including those who oppose me/us in public debate, and to attempt to understand others' point(s) of view. I/we would extend this attitude of respect to all those engaged in civil discourse in America.
2. To refrain from personal attacks, while maintaining the right to vigorously disagree.
3. To refrain from statements which characterize my/our opponents as evil.
4. To refuse to make untrue statements in defense of my/our position.
5. To value honesty, truth, and civility while striving to find workable solutions.
6. To expect that any person, party, campaign or corporation working on my/our behalf or to whom I/we contribute time or money in support, shall follow these same covenantal statements.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If signing for a faith community, campaign or other organization, please tell us the office or position of person signing on its behalf:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print legibly:*

Name of Person Signing: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:**

**Maine Council of Churches, 156 High Street, Portland, ME 04101**

By signing and returning to MCC, you give us permission to publish your name or the name of the signing faith community, campaign or other organization in any public communications about the Covenant, including our website, press releases and other public statements.

Maine Council of Churches ♦ 156 High Street ♦ Portland, Maine 04101 ♦ (207) 772-1918  
E-Mail: [info@mainecouncilofchurches.org](mailto:info@mainecouncilofchurches.org) ♦ [www.mainecouncilofchurches.org](http://www.mainecouncilofchurches.org)



## Preparing for the 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Friends

Andy and Dorothy Grannell have taken their shots, purchased tickets, listened to well traveled Friends (thank you all for the tips). On Easter morning they will leave for the airport as many of you will be getting ready for Easter Breakfast at Portland Friends Meeting. But along the way in preparing for the trip they have made some discoveries and invite you to share in some of what they learned.

Dorothy is enjoying participating in an international online worship sharing group that is using the Salt and Light Study Guide (available [www.saltandlight2012.org](http://www.saltandlight2012.org) and in the meeting house parlor). She meets online weekly with two Friends from Sweden, two from the United Kingdom, one from the Netherlands, and one from Ghana and one other from the U.S. All have had some difficulty with the idea of what it means to be Salt when trying to live the Kingdom of God. All get the brokenness of the world part really well; the challenge is in looking into themselves for that commitment to be truth sayers, healers and light bearers. The process is one of deepening awareness of what will happen at the conference and it has given her 6 new Friends before getting to Nakuru. The Salt and Light 2012 website has many resources including the responses to six queries about global change that came from Friends around the world. If you check it out you can see the university as well as other items relating to the conference.

Dorothy is working with 18 fellow New England travelers through another online group so that everyone completes all the trip requirements and that their travel concerns are met. The delegates and attenders have been asked by Yearly Meeting to provide the opening worship for NEYM sessions in August, 2012 to set the stage for the week and its theme of "Choose Integrity!" The worship will be different, lively and engaging as the group shares its worship experiences, photos and songs from the conference. The actual format won't be determined until after a group meeting here at Portland Friends Meeting in May.

Andy and Dorothy have both done more study of the issues that will be the focus of the conference including climate change, economic justice, equality and how Friends of different biblical and theological perspectives and come together and speak truthfully with one voice. For Andy it is has given the archives project rich meaning as he learns more about Portland Friends over the past 37 years and how we relate to the wider world of Friends in history and practice. For both it has made them realize that they have not kept up with a lot of what is happening across the Quaker world and the religious world in general including what has been discovered relating to the Bible and its interpretation.

Eden Grace (FUM at Kisumu, Kenya) introduced Andy to a way of sharing the power of his computer with scientists studying world health issues. At night he puts his computer on sleep mode and his computer can be used for more power for the researchers to do their work studying malaria, water borne pathogens, and cancers in children. The **World Community Grid** taps individual computers for power thus avoiding the need for huge mainframe computers that these small research organizations cannot afford. Think about investigating this process and joining the power of your computer in fighting disease. (Andy has 67,000 credits – we think they

When Dorothy and Andy return they will share the conference around New England through photos, discussion, worship and song. They hope that the meeting will hold them in the Light as they fly to New York and then Istanbul. After two days in Istanbul they go on to Kenya. First they fly to Kakamega and Eldoret, then drive to the conference in Nakuru and finally to Amboseli for a short safari and another Kenyan yearly meeting gathering. They will return on April 29<sup>th</sup> without layovers. Please also hold them in the Light - but don't call until May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Dorothy and Andy's Salt and Light resource list



### **Global Change including Climate Change**

- Vermeer's Hat, Timothy Brooks ( how change in the 1500's is like what we are going through today)
- Eaarth by Bill McKibben
- Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy, Peter Brown and Geoffrey Garver
- A Peace of Africa, David Zarembika
- The Challenge for Africa, Wangari Maathai
- Mistakes Were Made But Not By Me, Carol Taveris and Elliot Aronson (human tendency to deflect responsibility – ethics today)

### **Changing Beliefs**

- **\*\*Friends Journal**, January, 2012 Robin Mohr's article on Convergent Friends
- The Great Emergence, Phyllis Tickle
- The Heart of Christianity, Marcus J. Borg

### **Bible Translations**

- The Poverty and Justice Bible
- The Message (Bible in contemporary language)

### **Videos/Films and TV Shows**

- Frontline Series on PBS, "From Jesus to Christ" This 2 part series and half hour introduction may be watched online and includes recent Biblical research
- "Echo, An Elephant to Remember" (2010) on Nature on MPBN
- "Constantine's Sword" ( 2007) James Carroll Free Speech TV
- Independent Lens "Have You Heard from Johannesburg" (2012) MPBN/WCBB
- "Taking Root: The vision of Wangari Maathai" (2009) MPBN
- "How to Start a Revolution" (2009) Gene Sharp Documentary – how to live nonviolently, CRNT
- "Slavery by another Name" Documentary Labor laws in south that created new form of slavery including incarcerations. MPBN

***What are you doing to care for the Earth?***

***What would you like to know more about?***

### **Adult Religious Education seeks input for environment 'resource bank'**

Adult Religious Education classes have been focusing on environmental issues and global climate change, as initiated at NEYM last summer and as the focus of the upcoming international Quaker conference in Kenya in April. At the March 11 class we will be brainstorming to create a comprehensive list of the resources and actions our members and attenders have taken or know of, with the hope that we can establish a system for more direct sharing of information and efforts on household projects, a kind of barter bank and resource bank for our community. If you are unable to attend this class but have resources to share, please send them to Sandi Jensen ([sandijensen60@gmail.com](mailto:sandijensen60@gmail.com)) or Brad Bussiere-Nichols ([pfmbrad@gmail.com](mailto:pfmbrad@gmail.com)), and we will add them to the list.

Examples of what you might do/know about/want to know more about:

- I do composting and grow a vegetable garden—willing to share information and plants.
- I want to know more about solar electricity or hot water from someone who has installed it on their home.
- I am a member of the Portland Food Coop, and know about the local permaculture organization.

These do not have to only be about food/agriculture or energy. Other relevant areas of interest could be clean air and water, Casco Bay, fisheries, wildlife diversity, invasive species, public transportation or car alternatives, tar sands pipeline in Maine, and so much more. The more we put in this list, the closer and more involved we will become as a community.

## New Head of School at FSP



Friends School of Portland is pleased to announce that Jenny Rowe, current Director of The Community School in Tamworth, New Hampshire, will be the next Head of School, beginning in summer 2012. Jenny will follow James Grumbach, who is retiring at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

The Friends School Search Committee and Board of Directors have found in Jenny a deeply committed and community-minded leader who can build on the success of the school's first six years. Jenny has extensive experience with strategic planning, admissions and development, and looks forward to helping Friends School continue to grow and flourish.

A practicing Quaker, Jenny firmly believes "that we all have something to teach and something to learn." She has served as a teacher at a variety of schools throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, and Central America since the early 1980s, instructing elementary and middle school students in Spanish, German, English, Music, and Social Studies. From 1999 to 2005, Jenny served as Director of Monteverde Friends School, a bilingual Quaker K-12 school in Costa Rica. Most recently, from 2005 through the present, Jenny has been the Director of The Community School, a grade 6-12 school in Tamworth, New Hampshire.

## Sarah, Rob and Cedar's upcoming trip

March 2012

Dear Portland Friends:

As we may have shared with you individually already, Rob and Cedar and I are planning on leaving May 1<sup>st</sup> on a bicycle journey through Maine, Atlantic Canada and Quebec – and we would love to carry with us the blessing of the Meeting, in whatever form seems most appropriate (perhaps through a Letter of Introduction from PFM and also asking if you would please hold us in the light on our way). This trip has been two years in the making, and we're getting excited that it's only two months away now.

While we are not traveling with a particular concern we do hope to use this special time to see the world at a human pace, meet new people on their own journeys, visit other Friends Meetings, and deeply appreciate what life has to offer. In essence, we feel this is part of what it is for us to practice and live out important aspects of Query #6 from New England Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* on Personal Conduct:

Do you live with simplicity, moderation, and integrity? Are you punctual in keeping promises, careful in speech, just and compassionate in all your dealings with others? Do you take care that your spiritual growth is not sacrificed to busyness but instead integrates your life's activities? Are your recreations consistent with Quaker values; do they refresh your spirit and renew your body and mind?

This journey also marks a number of important milestones in our lives. It will be the tenth anniversary of our marriage and our two-month honeymoon walk from where we previously lived in Baltimore back home to Maine. It's also the tenth anniversary of our arrival to our beloved Portland Friends Meeting and the start of Rob's solo practice in non-profit organization and land conservation law. And to be on the road bicycling will be an especially sweet way for me to celebrate turning 40 this August (and Cedar is thrilled to be turning 5 ½ on the road in late May).

If you'd like more information about our plans for the trip, you can read about it here: <http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/biketrip2012> (The journal is a work in progress!) And please send us your e-mail if you would like to receive periodic updates.

We feel so grateful for our life as members of Portland Friends Meeting - and for our ongoing and deepening connection with you all and the Spirit.

In peace and light,

*Sarah (Cushman) and Rob and Cedar (Levin)*

## Interest group on helping to set FCNL's agenda - March 18

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) are in the process of setting priorities for their next two years of work in Washington DC, and are seeking direction from monthly meetings around the country - but they need input **by mid-April!** Tom Foote invites Friends to an interest group meeting about the FCNL process on Sunday, March 18 at the rise of worship. The group will delve into how we might develop a platform of issues we'd like to see FCNL carry forward in this two-year period. *Tom Foote, 666-8179*

## St. Patrick's Peace Parade in Boston

On March 18th, in South Boston will be the St. Patrick's Alternative Peace Parade <[http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/south\\_boston/2012/03/hold\\_south\\_bostons\\_two\\_st\\_patr.html](http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/south_boston/2012/03/hold_south_bostons_two_st_patr.html)>, organized by Veterans for Peace. Faith groups, gay rights groups, unions, and others will be among those marching. Friends from Cambridge Meeting & North Shore Meeting will be marching in the parade, too.

If you are interested in participating in the parade along with them, please contact John Bach (from Friends Meeting at Cambridge) at [johnmbach@yahoo.com](mailto:johnmbach@yahoo.com) or (970) 209-8346.

## Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy

### Healing and transformative justice, March 24

The next FCMPP meeting will be Saturday, March 24th in the upstairs library meeting room at the Alford Youth Center (Boys and Girls Club) at 126 North Street in Waterville. We'll gather for refreshments around 9:45 a.m., and begin with a brief period of silent worship at 10 a.m. Please bring a bag lunch (feel free to also bring some something to share if you feel so led.) We expect the meeting to come to a close by 2:30 p.m. on the 24th.

Our guest speakers on healing and transformative justice will be Jamie Bissonette Lewey and Keith Harvey. Jamie Bissonette Lewey is not only the Chair of the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission but is also the Director of the Healing Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee, New England. Keith Harvey is the Director of the New England Regional Office of the AFSC. Please see the attachments containing a description of the Healing Justice project and queries about healing and transformative justice.

We will also have updates on 1) the developments in this legislative session, 2) the Maine Indian State-Tribal Commission and the Maine Tribal-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation process; and 3) support for the Wabanaki Health and Wellness Center. Please let me know if there are other items that you wish to add to the agenda.

## Panel discussion on faith and marriage equality - April 3

### Religious Coalition Against Discrimination: For LGBT Equality and Justice in Maine

"A rabbi, a priest, and a minister . . . .":

**How People of Faith Support Marriage Equality**

Tuesday, April 3, 7:00 p.m. Panel with Follow-up Q & A

Informal conversations and refreshments

Congregation Bet Ha'am, 81 Westbrook Street, South Portland, ME

#### PANELISTS

Rabbi Carolyn Braun, Temple Beth El

Fr. Ben Shambaugh, Dean, Cathedral Church of St. Luke (Episcopal)

Rev. Don Rudalevige, United Methodist Minister, District Superintendent, Retired

#### MODERATOR

Rabbi Jared Saks, Congregation Bet Ha'am

more information at: [www.rcadmaine.org](http://www.rcadmaine.org)







FRIENDS SCHOOL  
OF PORTLAND



# auction & brunch

**free!**

no tickets · **brunch** appetizers · **jazz** performance

**childcare**

interactive **children's concert** at 1pm ·  
face **painting** · ages 2 yrs and up

**silent  
auction**

**vacation** getaways · **sporting** events ·  
**spa** treatments · restaurant **gift**  
certificates · original **artwork**



march 31, 2012 · 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
mackworth island · falmouth, me



# Integrity In A Time Of Change

## A NEYM Mid-Year Gathering

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012,

St. Andrew's Church, Wellesley, MA

**Melting ice caps, deepening inequality, over-busied lives, and shrinking Meetings -- these things are connected. The world is telling us we are on an unsustainable course and we need to turn to the living spirit to find a new path.**

*What story of the future do you feel led to live? How will Friends in New England allow for that fire to capture and move us? How are we to rightly order our lives? What will we do together to bring this about?*

We invite you to join Friends from all over New England for a day of reflection, connecting and working together. We invite you to bring your passion, despair, questioning, skills, experience and open heart to bear as we seek to follow in holy obedience the call to be transformed and to take concrete action in the world.

### **How did we get here?**

For several years around NEYM's Jubilee the spirit has been moving Friends to open to a revitalization of our Society. We have named the call to strengthen our ability to love and build our community, to name, cultivate and exercise gifts of ministry, eldership and leadership, and to undertake clear leadings for witness.

We have changed ourselves already: we have shifted our habits at our Annual Sessions to listen more deeply, and have gathered in listening discernment to hear the call. Our March 31, 2012 gathering will continue that work. We know that something is wrong, and we have a vague idea of what we should be doing. It is time for us to clarify for ourselves what our core purpose is, and take concrete steps to make that life and power real in the world.

### **Process**

This event will combine an Awakening the Dreamer workshop facilitated by Steve Chase of Putney MM, Sarah Moon of Sandwich MM and Katy Locke with facilitated Open Space, a self-organizing practice for groups to tackle complex problems. Come prepared for an opening, to find new life, and to commit with one another to risks of bold action. If you have participated in Awakening the Dreamer before, please join us and deepen our experience with one another. We urge Friends to attend the full program so that we can get the most out of our limited time together.

Bring the questions and ideas you wish to explore, stories of your experience, leadings, and action within your own Meetings and lives. We have faith that together we have all the tools we need.

### **Children's Program**

Sessions Committee invites you and your family to attend the first Mid-Year Gathering. This is a new effort to help bridge between two yearly meetings with related themes. There will be an exciting theme-related program for High School, Junior High, 3rd – 5th graders, and Kindergarten – 2nd Grade groups. Pre-schoolers will also have environmental activities part of the day as well as a chance for play and story time, with good childcare available for younger children.

Rouwenna Lamm, the Senior New England Educator for the Alliance for Climate Education, will be the lead staff and resource person for the program. She attends Fresh Pond Meeting in Cambridge. Rouwenna comes with extensive experience in educational and training settings, and access to activities and resources appropriate for a wide age range of children and youth. Experienced NEYM adult leaders are working with Rouwenna to develop and staff the Saturday program. Children will join their parents for meals and the first part of the afternoon Gathering program.

For more information and registration, visit <http://www.neym.org>



## Earth Stations: A Planetary Way of the Cross

Friday, April 6th 4-5:30pm

Portland's Deering Oaks Park, near the bandstand

Some of our Friends attended this event on Good Friday/Earth Day last year and found it a meaningful experience. This year it's being held again with the support of the Sierra Club, Maine Interfaith Power and Light, and the Interfaith Chaplaincy Institute of Maine. The event description:

*Evoking the traditional Good Friday practice of journeying the fourteen Stations of the Cross, this powerful event brings us into a spirit of solemn reflection on behalf of the wounded Earth, and our role in its healing. It has been designed for those concerned for the Earth, regardless of any religious affiliation.*

*Please arrive a little ahead of time as we will begin promptly at 4pm. The event will happen rain or shine, though in the case of severe weather, it will be canceled. Further information: Rev. Kitsy Winthrop 773-7738.*

### Good Friday vigil?

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.



## Please come to the Easter Sunday Breakfast!

April 8, 9:00 - 10:20 AM

Delicious food presented by the First Day School



- Donations will be accepted for Right Sharing of World Resources, a Quaker organization which supports grassroots income-generating projects in the developing world, and encourages economic disciplinship in the United States ([www.rswr.org](http://www.rswr.org)).

Also, they are collecting for:

- Coastal Humane Animal Shelter: dog, cat, and kitten food (Friskies, Purina, Science Diet, Nutro, Pedigree, and dye-free puppy chow)
- Preble Street Resource Center: socks, especially warm socks, in any adult sizes



*From Youth Religious Education:*

Looking for summer activities for your children? Families are encouraged to consider Friends Camp in China, Maine ([www.friendscamp.org](http://www.friendscamp.org)), and the summer day camp program at Friends School of Portland ([www.friendschoolofportland.org](http://www.friendschoolofportland.org)). Applications are available at their web sites. Please note that the Meeting has some scholarship money available for campers in need of financial aid. For more information please contact Anne Payson, YRE Coordinator at [annepayson10@gmail.com](mailto:annepayson10@gmail.com) or 781-2501.

### Photographing from Within, April 13-15

Arthur Fink brings his 'Photographing from Within' workshop to Rowe Conference Center in Western Massachusetts April 13-15. Check out the January newsletter for a description of the workshop, or go to <http://rowecenter.org/events.php?event=92> for more info and registration. Arthur writes: "It will be very much about my own spiritual practice through artistic creation, and I'd love to have fellow Quakers there."

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103

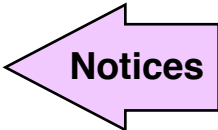
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**Friends United Meeting seeks Communications Manager/Editor**  
For details on this job opportunity see [www.fum.org](http://www.fum.org)

**The Saga of the Folding Table**  
Rose Duran (Meeting cleaning person) located the missing table in its hiding place in the basement. It has stopped wandering and is now kept in the elementary supply closet in the basement. Thank you Rose!

**Annual Kenya trip**  
August 1 - 22: Annual trip to Kenya and the orphanage in Kakamega. Please contact Sukie Rice for information or to reserve a place; all places are usually taken by the end of April, so contacting her sooner than later is wise if you want to go. You can reach Sukie by telephoning 865-3768 or by emailing her at [sukierice@comcast.net](mailto:sukierice@comcast.net).

**Calling all Portland drivers**  
Do you live intown Portland, or drive through Portland on your way to Meeting? Our Friends who no longer drive and need rides to Meeting are currently all in the intown Portland area. If you could leave for worship a few minutes early, even once, and pick up one of our Friends who do not drive it would be wonderful. This is a lovely way to spend a bit of time with some of our older Friends. Contact Shannon O'Connor at 774-2578 or 332-1868 (cell)

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

Contact:  
Ward Archer  
332-1385

