

Portland Friends Newsletter

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FIFTH 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

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 &
David Spector 774-2578

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



As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world as in being able to remake ourselves. — Mahatma Gandhi

Query Five—Outreach

Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meetings? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in the spreading the Christian message? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?

Upcoming Events

- May 18** “Discovering Our Mothers’ Stories” workshop w/ Patricia Taub
- May 20** Youth service/baking project, 10:45am
Batimbo Beats benefit, Westbrook Middle School, 3-5pm
- May 25** Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm; Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762
- May 27** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45.
Noon-2pm: potluck, films & discussion of World Conference of Friends
- June 3** Meeting for Business, 9am
- June 9** Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm
- June 10** Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45-11:45.
- June 16** Pride Parade, Monument Square 12:30pm
- 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
- Sep 29-30** PFM Retreat, Friends Camp, China, ME

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 May 6, 2012

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on May 6, 2012 at 9 a.m., with 19 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Muriel Allen read the sixth Query from Faith and Practice concerning Personal Conduct. It begins, "Do you live with simplicity, moderation, and integrity?"

1. Clerk's Comments. Co-Clerk Muriel Allen pointed out that she had read the 6th, rather than the 5th query because it spoke to her recent experiences trying to balance spiritual growth with life's busy-ness. She admitted that she often neglects her spiritual life in the present, by putting it off to the future. Yet we must not forget that the time is now. She quoted from a poem by Mary Oliver celebrating blessed idleness and asking, "Tell me what you would do with your one wild and precious life."

2. Minutes of prior meetings. A correction was made to our December 2011 minutes replacing the name "Francesca" Scoll with "Josephine" Scoll in regard to the children of new member Emily Renschler (paragraph 5, Ministry and Counsel). Friends accepted the April minutes.

3. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that income for April was \$5,085.33, and expenses were \$9,071.83, resulting in a negative balance of \$-3,986.50 for the month. We are one third of the way through the year, with year-to-date income of \$15,845.32 and expenses of \$16,787.00, resulting in a negative year-to-date balance of \$-941.30. Friends accepted the report.

4. Ministry and Counsel. Kate Potter reported for Ministry and Counsel that the Committee is recommending a fall retreat to strengthen the spiritual life and deepen the joyful connections with all generations, members and attenders. The Committee also asks Friends to consider whether to move to 5 o'clock worship in the summer and, if so, when that change should occur, and when we should resume morning worship in the fall.

Kate further reported that the Committee continues to work on written guidelines regarding our response when a stranger comes on First Day who does not know Quaker ways and exhibits disquieting behaviors. The hope is to attach guidelines to the existing Conflict/Abuse Guidelines approved in the late 1990s.

The Committee has developed some carefully considered additions to the Meeting website, mainly in the Frequently Asked Questions section, concerning Quaker history, beliefs, testimonies and practices.

5. Buildings and Grounds. Syl Doughty reviewed information on the conditions at the front of our property, including sewage, water, driveway and the tree. He passed out his written report, which will appear in the newsletter.

The Maine DOT has moved the road a few feet to the other side, which has solved many of our problems, and so far allowed us to keep the tree.

The existing septic tank has been pumped out and we hope that we will be allowed by the City to continue using this system without hooking into the public sewer. We will need to pump it out again in approximately 15 years. About one-third of the tank is under the handicapped ramp. The water line must be replaced. A catch basin has been installed at the street end of the sloping driveway, which means paving the driveway will stabilize runoff and avoid clogging the drain. Syl explained why paving, as opposed to the present gravel, will be beneficial in this situation. The Committee hopes to do the paving and water line at the same time. They are waiting to hear whether the City will require us to hook into the public sewer, or not.

Friends expressed appreciation to Syl and the rest of the Committee for their continuing work on these many challenges.

6. April 28 Quarterly Meeting. Tom Foote described the activities of the day, which included a video and discussion on solitary confinement issues with Leslie Manning of Durham Meeting. There was also discussion of the possibility of rescinding the recording of a former pastor of Windham Meeting, the celebration of an anniversary of the Casco Meeting House on Quaker Ridge, small meetings requesting support, and the future of youth programs at quarterly meeting. Portland Friends enjoyed seeing our former member Glenice Hutchins. Dorothy Grannell will be the new Clerk, and the next Meeting is at Durham on the fourth Saturday in July, hopefully with a picnic and a band.

7. Retreat Committee. Dee Kelsey reported that the Committee is recommending an overnight retreat on September 29-30, probably at Friends Camp in China, Maine. Input from Friends was sought as to the suitability of the facility. After discussion, Friends approved.

The Committee also pointed out that holding retreats regularly would permit us to reserve facilities well in advance, which would open up our choice of facilities to others which might be more comfortable. We will consider this at our October Meeting for Business.

In the past we have offered help, particularly to families, with the cost of an overnight retreat. The Committee requested that we consider doing this again, which was referred to Financial Oversight.

8. Earth and Spirit. Barbara Rose McIntosh reported that the Committee is requesting we establish a place for members and attenders to leave plants and produce to share. Friends suggested that the Committee go ahead with these plans and publicize details in the newsletter.

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting, *continued*

9. Leadings Committee. Sandi Jensen reported that Arla Patch, a member of this Meeting and attendee at Mahoosic Mountain Worship Group, is working with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the State of Maine. The Commission is addressing Maine's treatment of Native Americans. Arla would like to have Native American women members of the Commission speak to our Meeting, but needs to know if we agree, and what kind of event(s) we might provide. A major part of the Commission work has centered on the past forced removal of Native American children from their families to foster care. Friends expressed enthusiasm for Arla's ideas, and for her ability to facilitate them. Suggestions were made to include the Friends School and other groups, publish Arla's letter in the newsletter, and offer to underwrite the expenses of the visitors. Marlee Turner, Andy Grannell, Arthur Fink, Kate Potter, Jennifer Frick and others offered to work on a planning committee for such an event.

10. Summer Schedule. Co-Clerk Muriel Allen stated she had heard some comments that the 5 o'clock meeting for worship was not convenient. Concern was expressed that it was too late to change this given planning by our child care people in reliance on the previous schedule. After brief discussion, it was decided to retain the 5 o'clock schedule, starting June 24 and ending September 2.

Summer Meeting for Business will be July 29 at 7 p.m. following the potluck. The September Meeting for Business will September 9, followed by the first 10:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship of the Fall.

11. Other Business. We joyfully welcomed back Andrew and Dorothy Grannell from their voyage to Africa to attend the Salt and Light Conference. The Grannells thanked the Meeting for our support. We look forward to coming programs regarding their experiences.

We closed in silent worship at 10:32 a.m. with 30 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on June 3, 2012, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

**Forest Avenue Reconstruction
Updated Status With MDOT & City, May 2012**

1. Sewer Service. There is no sewer service to Forest Avenue. On 19 April 2012, an excavation contractor excavated at the presumed location of a septic tank and found the following. At 5 feet below grade there is a concrete tank approximately 7 feet in outside diameter. Approximately one third of the tank is under the handicapped ramp and the ramp footing concrete is within an inch of the tank. There is a 20 by 22 inch hatch centered on the top of the tank, about one quarter of which was under the footing. To open the hatch, a portion of the footing had to be cut away. The entrance of the sewer pipe from the building into the tank is under the ramp and not visible, although the pipe extension into the tank could be seen. No pipe connection was found to any street sewer. The city sewer supervisor was informed of the date of this excavation but did not attend.

A septic service pumped out the tank. The inside depth of the tank is more than four feet of which more than 3 feet was filled with sewerage. The waste covered the building sewer pipe, which explains why water was found in the pipe when it was videoed last year.

The tank may be older than 1974, or 38 years ago, since there is apparently no PFM record of anything being done to it going that far back. It may or may not have been pumped out before the ramp was built in 1996. If there is increasing usage of the building over time, and assuming it can be retained in service, the tank should be excavated no more than 15 years hence and be pumped out again.

A plan sketch of the tank and hatch locations with photos of the conditions found has been prepared. There is also a copy of the as-built plans for the street sewer work. This plan shows the location of the 4 inch sewer lateral that was built in the street to the property line, should it need to be accessed in the future. These are some relevant rules and regulations that cover sewers and septic systems in Portland.

State Law	Sewers and Drains	30 MRSA / 4351 et seq.
City Code	Sewers	Ch 24
	Sec 24-34 Pg 24-8	Private Wastewater Disposal System refers to Maine State Dept of Health and Welfare
	Sec 24-36 Pg 24-11	22 MRSA / 42(3) and City Plumbing Code Connection to public sewer may be required, within 12 months of official notice to do so.
	Sec 24-39 Pg 24-12	Connection permit and fee of \$50. (It was stated verbally that there is a connection fee of \$2,000 to the new city street sewer.)

No official notice has been received from the city requiring PFM to be connected to the city sewer. A letter was sent to PFM by the city indicating that sewer charges will begin soon. A letter has been sent to the city by PFM indicating that the existing system is working and pointing out the difficulty in accessing the tank and piping, and that PFM would like to leave it in service. It also indicates that PFM is not on the city sewer system and that it is hoped that PFM will not be billed for sewer services. Any response to that letter will be distributed.

(Continued next page)

Forest Avenue reconstruction update, continued

- ***2. Water Service.** During street reconstruction, the water line was located and its size determined. It runs under the driveway and handicapped ramp. The current building water flow rate is relatively low because the line is a 3/4 inch galvanized steel pipe with normal internal deposition and corrosion which has constricted it to perhaps 1/2 inch.
- A new water line was laid in the street by the PWD during street reconstruction and a new 1 inch copper lateral placed to the ROW with a shutoff valve. PFM extended a new 1 inch copper pipe stub onto the property about 6 feet to avoid future excavation within the public ROW. Efforts are underway to find a suitable contractor to have the remaining pipe replaced. It is hoped that this can be done with trenchless technology that will only require excavation at the building and at the new stub end.
- **3. Tree, Sign, Post & Pin, Fences.** The questions raised with the MDOT about all of these elements, which are partly within the ROW, have been resolved. The MDOT has narrowed the street and sidewalk by at least 4 feet which effectively avoids disturbing all of these elements. By doing this, sufficient root structure remains so that the tree will likely remain unaffected. The sign is in its original visible location and to date there has been no further request from MDOT to move it.
- ***4. Storm Drain, Parking Runoff.** The PFM parking area is composed of compacted gravel. Nevertheless, because the surface is composed of loose gravel, it gets picked up and deposited at the perimeter during winter plowing. Some of this material has to be moved back into the parking lot each spring. The amount of storm water runoff from the compacted gravel is almost as great as that from bituminous paving. There is sufficient slope to the gravel to allow storm water to move gravel toward the street.
- The MDOT has placed a new catch basin with a small paved apron around it off the street at the right hand driveway entrance to catch this runoff. They are concerned about gravel erosion reaching the street and continued erosion requiring periodic cleaning of the catch basin. At a minimum, PFM needs to 'armor' the gravel with stone to mitigate but not eliminate this erosion. This constitutes small round stone packed in the area up grade from the drain.
- Ultimately, it is recommended that the parking area be regraded and stabilized with bituminous paving. This can be done with standard paving or with pervious paving which eliminates most runoff, allowing it to sink into the ground. In the latter type, coarser bituminous paving is placed over a bed of crushed rock, making it more expensive to build. It is also possible to apply both types, using pervious paving in sloped areas near the catch basin to reduce runoff to the street drain.
- ***Will require PFM funds for the work.**

Respectfully submitted by Sylvanus Doughty for Buildings & Grounds Committee

Report from the 6th World Conference of Friends



Sunday, May 27

Adult Religious Ed at 9am, singing from the International Song Book at 10:10am
Meeting potluck at noon, followed by films and discussion of the World Conference of Friends, 12:45-2pm

*We joyfully welcome back Andrew and Dorothy Grannell
from their voyage to Africa!*

Epistle from the 6th World Conference of Friends

24 April 2012

To Friends Everywhere,

We greet you amid the beauty of the Rift Valley, surrounded by the welcoming embrace of Kenyan Friends. From April 17 to 25, 2012 close to 850 men and women from all the streams of Friends, coming from 112 yearly meetings and groups in 51 countries have gathered at Kabarak University near Nakuru to consider the theme "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World."

The colours, songs, movements, rich diversity and joyful spirit of Friends here gathered have inspired and uplifted us all. We have heard Friends from around the world, including several young, prophetic voices, speak on the theme. They gave a wide variety of interpretations of salt and light in a biblical context and also in how we can apply its meaning to life in our world today.

The call that brought us together was to be salt and light as we live out the Kingdom of God. We received this call with a real sense of urgency in these times of natural disasters, violence, global change, and unequal access to basic needs. We have been reminded that we are sometimes too preoccupied with being heavenly to be useful on Earth. We see this as a challenge to not detach ourselves from the wider society in hope that this will bring us closer to God. Rather, we need to be present and engaged in our communities, while remaining attentive to the Still, Small Voice, in order to allow the Spirit to work through us.

'The Religious Society of Friends--the Friends Church-- is about nothing if it is not about transformation' in the words of one of our speakers. As Friends we feel called to try to return to the conviction and simple faith of our Quaker ancestors and their transformed lives, so that we may once again become a prophetic people, speaking to God's purposes in these times.

We first have to look inward, both as individuals and as a religious society. Can we end our internal strife? Can we reach out in love to one another as Jesus commanded? We may not understand liberal/evangelical/programmed/unprogrammed Friends but we are Friends. The diversity of Friends at this conference has provided us with an opportunity to live out our testimonies to equality and truth. Our ability to do so has been put to the test. We found ourselves reluctant to go beyond polite acceptance and avoidance of difference. We are not united in all of our attitudes and beliefs, yet we choose to come together to listen, to share, and to hear things we may find uncomfortable and upsetting. As we choose to seek connection in the midst of our differences, we witness the power of God to bless and heal. We may not always understand each other fully, but we are united in our yearning for transformation. We are united in God.

We live in a broken world. We were moved to realise that so many of us here carry a sense of grief, loss, failure or hurt. We were forced to recognise the brokenness in us and in our Religious Society. A speaker challenged us to consider that brokenness may also be opportunity. We are uncomfortable with feeling brokenness and seeing it around us, yet from it we gain strength, empathy and compassion. Rather than trying to heal our brokenness as quickly as possible, we challenge ourselves - and Friends everywhere - to consider what God's plan could be for a hurting individual, and for a hurting community.

We know that the Kingdom is come and coming. We pray that we may experience the Kingdom of God within ourselves here and now, so that we may live it more fully in transforming this world. In this we anticipate the everlasting Kingdom, in which the world will be made whole.

Here in Kenya, we remember the post-election violence that shook this nation in 2008, and the courageous stance taken by our brothers and sisters. We invite all Friends to join us in prayer for Kenyan Friends who are working even now for the prevention of conflict, and for their whole nation as their elections approach. We pray also for all people facing conflict and violence in the world.

Early on in our time together, we were asked the same question that God asked Elijah on Sinai: "What are you doing here?" In the latter half of the conference we have considered many queries that have come out of our work together in small groups. Each of these queries asks, in one way or another, "What will you do after you leave here?" We bear these queries with us, as they are for all Friends to discern how God is leading.

The inward voice of Christ Jesus is what will answer these questions for us. May we be faithful in listening to that voice once we have returned from this gathering. As Christ leads all of us, we can become the salt of the Earth and the light of our broken world.



The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice was approved on 24 April 2012 at the Sixth World Conference Friends, held at Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya. It is the culmination of the FWCC World Consultation on Global Change which was held in 2010 and 2011. It is being circulated with the Conference Epistle.

In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates nature and we must become careful stewards of all life. Earthcare unites the traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity, and justice. Jesus said "As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me". We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

We have heard of the disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come the life-giving waters. We have heard appeals from peoples of the Arctic, Asia and Pacific. We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying; of land hunger in Africa; of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine and desperate migrations – this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumors of war, job loss, inequality and violence. We fear our neighbors. We waste our children's heritage.

All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems – by greed not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar.

Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

- We are called to see what love can do: to aid the widow and orphan, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.
- We are called to teach our children right relationship, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?" (Job 38.4)
- We are called to do justice to all, to repair the damage, and to walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.
- We are called to be patterns and examples, in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice, as difficult and decisive as the 19th century abolition of slavery

We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us -- where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives and hearts to the Light to guide us in each small step.

Bwana asifiwe. Apu Dios Awqui. Gracias Jesús. Jubilé. Salaam aleikum. Migwetch. Tikkun olam. Alleluia!



Sustainability survey from Adult Religious Ed Help build our transition community!

Adult Religious Education wants to know about sustainability/green efforts within the Portland Friends Meeting. Please take our two-question online survey - you can either share what you have done or what you'd like to learn more about. Participating in the survey does not commit you to anything. The goal is to show the diversity and breath of what our local community is doing. We hope to share what we have done and create an opportunity to coordinate future efforts.

Take the quick survey this week: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dGRLUVBsSWs0eFdGbThYcGpSc0VBdUE6MQ#gid=0>

In the past few months the Adult Religious Education classes have been exploring our relationship to the earth, and the current dilemmas and coming crises of climate change, which are intricately tied in with economic and energy crises. We've shared what we as individuals have done, as well as what we are thinking about doing, as our part in addressing climate change. To build our own small "transition community" we want to include more people from our meeting -- whether you can come to class or not -- and find ways we can work together more on household projects or lifestyle changes. The committee will collate the results of the survey and publish it for everyone who wishes to learn more and connect with others in the Meeting about specific projects. We hope to create a variety of ways to share our personal experiences and resources, or link people with similar interests together in small groups.

Emily Silevinac

Anna and the YAFs plan bike ride to NEYM Sessions - join us!

The Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group is starting to gather Quakers for an all-ages bike ride to NEYM Sessions this August in Smithfield, RI. It's a **joyful experiment** with one way of living more simply - and a way to **act together** as Friends.

You'll be hearing more about this in coming months, including a soon-to-be website with more info and signup. If this adventure speaks to you, even if you're not sure you can actually do it, please get in touch and do some dreaming and planning with me. During the week before sessions I'll be riding from Portland to Boston, where I'll join a mass two-day ride from Boston to Smithfield with Friends from all over New England. You can come with me from Portland or meet us with your bike in Boston. Or be there to cheer us on when we arrive at Bryant University! Or something in between... the possibilities are many.



Anna Barnett, abarnett@gmail.com, 523-0314



Sharing the summer crop

Earth & Spirit Committee will be setting up a table for sharing the extra vegetables and fruit that come from our gardens. Look for the table in the Meetinghouse when we start our summer schedule (June 24th). Any plants or seedlings that you would like to share can be placed on the rim of the back patio that is close to the Meetinghouse and somewhat shady. We suggest that if the plants are still there after one week, they be taken back or composted. Happy Gardening!

Arla Patch working with Maine Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Arla Patch, a member of PFM and attender the Mahoosuc Mountains Worship Group, has been given a grant from our Leadings Committee to work with the newly formed Maine Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Her long-held concern for Native peoples has become a leading to assist in the TRC in whatever way she can, to help bring their history and personal stories into the public eye. The TRC is specifically focusing on the “taking” of Indian children from their homes to be placed in foster care or boarding schools, and how that has affected the individuals and families as well as the whole tribal culture. If you go to this website <http://www.mainetribaltrc.org/> and find at the left WATCH MORE VIDEO ABOUT THE TRC, you can see a video of a talk at UNE explaining how the TRC was developed and what they are doing. These are the people Arla is working with.

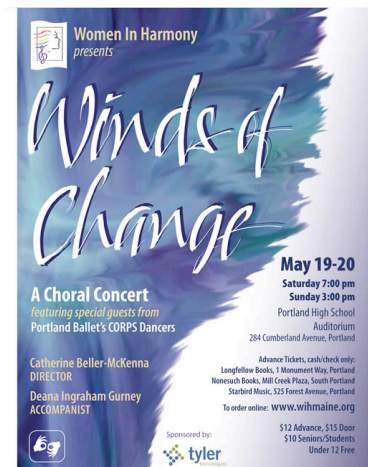
She has volunteered for the communications committee and has done a lot of work already that is helping them get the word out and move forward. Here is a link to an article that appeared in the Lewiston Sun Times on the front page of the Perspectives section on Easter Sunday: <http://www.sunjournal.com/news/columns-analysis/2012/04/08/arla-patch-maine-takes-step-reconcile-past-takings/1172810>.

Arla is also working with the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy. She has written an update letter to the Meeting on her involvement so far and you can see it at the Meeting House or in the “Files” section of our Yahoo Group site. She will continue to keep us updated on her ongoing work with the TRC.

As was discussed in Meeting for Business on Sunday May 6, 2012, we hope PFM will support and sponsor a talk by the leaders of the TRC somewhere in Portland in the fall. The goal would be to make it widely available, so we would invite the Quarterly meetings, Friends School of Portland community, other private schools, Maine Council of Churches and other interested organizations. If you have any relevant suggestions, information, or would like to work on a planning committee with Arla for this event, please contact anyone on the Leadings Committee: Sandi Jensen, Brad Bussiere-Nichols, Muriel Allen, Patricia Pyle or Lise Wagner.

Women in Harmony concerts, May 19-20

PFM's Sandi Jensen will be performing with Women in Harmony in their spring concert, Winds of Change.
Saturday, May 19, 2012 - 7 pm
Sunday, May 20, 2012 - 3 pm
Portland High School, 284 Cumberland Ave, Portland, ME
Info and tickets: www.wihmaine.org



Writing workshop with Patricia Taub, May 18

“Discovering our Mothers’ Stories”

In honor of Mother’s Day, the Maine Writers and Publishers Association offers a prose workshop with PFM’s Patricia Taub.

Saturday, May 18, 1-4pm in the Glickman Library at USM in Portland.

Fee: \$65 MWPA members, \$115 non-members.

As adult daughters, many of us struggle with our relationships to our mothers. We can be attached to mother/daughter stories carved from wounded memories, but which fail to take into account the objective reality of our mothers’ lives. Our struggles can last for decades, and persist even after our mothers have died.

In this workshop, participants will be guided through short writing exercises that help them see their mothers as they saw themselves, through the lens of the culture of their times, and especially through the lens of the family each grew up in. Discovering a new “mother story” can empower a daughter to make peace with her mother, or with her memory.

Appropriate for daughters of all ages, whether their mothers are living or deceased. Please bring a photo of your mother and/or a small memento of her.

Burundian drumming celebration to benefit immigrant garden projects - May 20

The Batimbo Beats, a group of Burundians trained in the sacred drum dances of their native country, will perform at Westbrook Middle School's Performing Arts Center on Sunday, May 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. The event, "Celebrating the Planting Season," honors a Burundi tradition to declare the beginning of the farming year. Proceeds from Celebrating the Planting Season will support the International Gardens Project of the Center for African Heritage.

In the nation of Burundi, commonly called the Heart of Africa, Batimbo was a name given to families who had the privilege of being the guardians of the sacred tradition of the drums, which are made from hollowed tree trunks covered with animal skins. The drummers, dressed in bright robes, enter in a dramatic procession balancing the heavy drums on their heads. Their performance includes dance moves, leaps, and call-and-response chanting.

In addition to the Batimbo Beats, a dance troupe with the Rwanda Community Association of Maine will perform. There will be vendor tables with information, and arts and crafts for sale. A discussion of the Center for African Heritage programs and future plans will follow the performances. Admission is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children, at the door.



Pride Parade, June 16

Portland's Gay Pride Parade starts in Monument Square at 12:30pm, Saturday June 16. David Spector and Shannon O'Connor will be among those from PFM who will be participating, carrying the meeting's banner in the parade. Please come and join in the march.



Photo: Easter 2012, Brad Bussiere-Nichols

**Save the date:
All-Meeting Retreat,
Sep 29-30**
PFM's All-Meeting Retreat will be Sep 29-30 (overnight stay) at Friends Camp in China, ME.

Scholarships for Children's Camps and Retreats

Our meeting strongly supports our children in attending Quaker-sponsored summer camps as well as Yearly Meeting retreats and Sessions. If you need financial assistance to help your child attend Friends Camp, Friends School of Portland Summer Programs, retreats, FGC and/or Yearly Meeting Sessions, please do not hesitate to fill out an application. You can pick up the blue forms in the foyer of the meetinghouse. Applications are due by May 20th (or as soon as possible), and can be handed in or sent to Lise Wagner or Anne Payson. For more information, please contact Lise at 772-2537 or lisewagner@gwi.net

Searching for a new NEYM Secretary

From New England Yearly Meeting:

Most of you know by now that our Yearly Meeting secretary, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, has announced that he is leaving that position at the end of this year. A search committee has been formed by Permanent Board to facilitate the process of advertising, accepting applications, doing interviews, and recommending a new candidate for this position.

We would also ask you to take a moment, and consider the members of your Meeting. Is there someone who might have the skills and experience to for this job? If someone comes to mind, please let them know, and encourage them to consider. Sometimes Friends need the encouragement of others recognizing their gifts.

Thanks for your help. More information about the process and the full job description are available on the NEYM website, neym.org/jobs/ym-sec. If you have questions or thoughts, you can correspond with any member of the committee, or the committee as a whole at searchcomm@neym.org

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

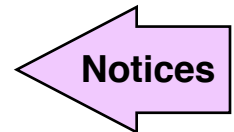
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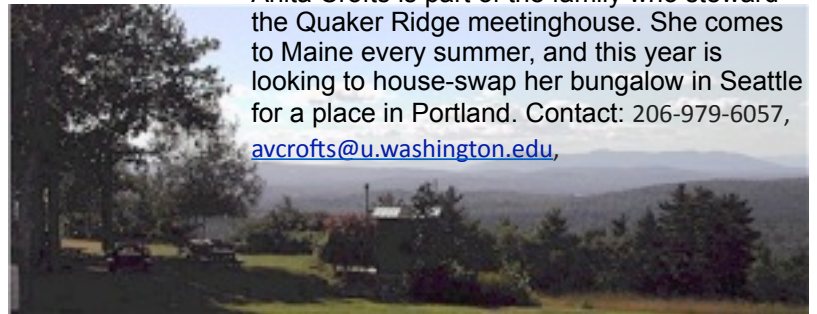
Please recycle this newsletter.



Mind the curb! Be very careful of the new, sharp edged curbs at the entrance to PFM's driveway. We have already lost one tire and perhaps a rim to these new devils. Seriously, it is too easy to cut your tires by turning in too early. Swing wide, your sweet chariot.

House swap with a Seattle Friend?

Anita Crofts is part of the family who steward the Quaker Ridge meetinghouse. She comes to Maine every summer, and this year is looking to house-swap her bungalow in Seattle for a place in Portland. Contact: 206-979-6057, avcrofts@u.washington.edu



Register for Friends General Conference

FGC will be in Rhode Island the first week in July. Early registration is closed, but standard registration is ongoing. There are options for attending for ½ a week. Ride sharing can be arranged when you sign up on the website.

Campbell-Cobbs are ready to spring into Spring. David and Astrea can scrape, paint, hammer and saw, fix stuff etc. Patsea offers a two hour color consult for free with any paint job. Call 741-2505.

Meals for Marian Hall

Marian could use some help with meals because her vision problems make it hard to cook these days. Shannon O'Connor has set up a Doodle schedule if you would like to sign up for any Tuesdays or Fridays through September. You can access it at: <http://www.doodle.com/i9umkmsz67awxna>

Marian is a lacto-ovo-vegetarian; she also eats fish. She does not care for onions, but she likes leeks. She loves salads, especially in the summer. For any day that you sign up to drop of a meal, please call her the day before. Her number is 780-1182.

Thank you in advance to all you wonderful Meeting cooks! Your culinary efforts will be very much appreciated!