

# Portland Friends Newsletter

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SEVENTH AND EIGHTH MONTHS 2012

## **First Day schedule**

### **Meeting for Worship**

Through Sep 2: Sundays 5pm  
From Sep 9: Sundays 10:30am

### **Religious Education**

2nd & 4th Sundays from  
Sep 23: 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 &  
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](mailto:mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com)



*We must make our homes centers of compassion and forgive endlessly. —Mother Teresa*

### **Query Seven—Home and Family**

Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? Is worship a daily part of your personal and family life? Do you recognize marriage as a sacred, loving, and permanent relationship requiring mutual consideration and adjustment? Should conflicts or crisis threaten the stability of the home, are you open to seeking all necessary help, both from your meeting and from the larger community?

### **Query Eight—Care of Children**

Do children receive the loving care of your meeting? Does the meeting nurture their religious life and give them an understanding of the principles and practices of Friends? Are you an example to your children in your faithfulness to the ideals you profess? Do you promote your children's moral and spiritual development by loving oversight of their education, recreation, and social activity? Do you listen to children, recognizing that the Spirit may lead them along paths you have not foreseen? Do you assist them to assume their rightful responsibilities in the home, the meeting, and the community?

## **Upcoming Events**

- Aug 19** Meeting for Worship with Mahoosuc Mountain Worship group, 5pm
- Aug 24** Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm; Aiayn Foster, 766-9762
- Sep 9** SUMMER SCHEDULE ENDS  
Meeting for Business, 9am  
Meeting for Worship, 10:30am
- Sep 23** Religious Education/First Day School begins
- Sep 29-30** PFM Retreat, Friends Camp, China, ME
- Oct 13** Friends of Kakamega 10th anniversary, 7-9pm, Presumpscot School

*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 Scilipoti**  
[tscilipoti@maine.rr.com](mailto:tscilipoti@maine.rr.com)

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

# Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting

July 29, 2012

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on July 29, 2012 at 7:10 p.m., with 19 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Muriel Allen read the seventh and eighth Queries from *Faith and Practice* concerning Home and Family and Care of Children. They begin, "Do you make your home a place of friendliness?" and "Do children receive the loving care of the Meeting?"

**Clerk's Comments** Co-Clerk Muriel Allen asked us to remember those who quietly support us at home, freeing us to give more of ourselves to this community.

**1. Review of June minutes.** We found the minutes of our June meeting to be in good order.

**2. Treasurer's Report/Financial Oversight.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are seven months, or 58% into the budget year. Income for June was \$4,013, and for July \$6,693. Expenses for June were \$13,461, and for July \$7,310. Income year to date is \$31,030 (43% of the total budgeted for the year) and expenses year to date are \$39,608 (54% of the total budgeted for the year), resulting in a shortfall of \$8,579.

### Treasurer's Report at a glance:

- Income for June: \$4,013.
- Income for July: \$6,693.
- Income YTD: \$31,030 = 43% of total year's budget
- Expenses for June: \$13,461.
- Expenses for July: \$7,310.
- Expenses YTD: \$39,608 = 54% of total year's budget

The Financial Oversight Committee has met several times to consider the task given them earlier in the year in regard to making appeals for donations and efforts to spread giving over the entire year to avoid end-of-year crises. They have determined not to change the fiscal year at this time and are working instead on a revised schedule for pledging and budgeting. They have asked the Clerks to announce on each Sunday when Meeting for Business has been held a summary of the current income and expenses, and how they compare to the amounts budgeted for the year. The Committee will also publicize these figures in the newsletter. They will be working on simpler and clearer visuals regarding financial information. The Committee seeks to carry out its fiscal responsibilities in a manner respectful of individuals' personal circumstances but also mindful of the community's needs.

In September (tentatively September 23), Financial Oversight and Adult Religious Education Committees will sponsor a presentation of stewardship and financial matters. This presentation will be followed by a threshing session after Meeting for Worship a few weeks later (tentatively October 14) regarding how our budget relates to our values and testimonies.

Under the proposed new schedule, individuals would make pledges and Clerks of Committees would be asked to submit proposed budgets for the following fiscal year 2013 by either September or October 2012. Financial Oversight Committee could then have a budget to discuss by December. After discussion, it was decided that a request will be made at October Meeting for Business for pledges and committee budget requests by early November.

**3. Ministry and Counsel.** Christine Fletcher reported that Ministry and Counsel is setting up a Clearness Committee in response to the request of Shannon O'Connor and David Spector to be married under the care of the Meeting. The Committee has asked the Clerks to seek greeters from among Meeting attenders as well as from members of Ministry and Counsel. Friends should keep the dates of September 29-30 open for the upcoming all-Meeting Retreat at Friends Camp in China, Maine.

**4. Peace and Social Concerns.** Jennifer Frick reported we have received a letter requesting that we support a student for 13 years at the Ramallah School on the West Bank. Vassalboro Quarter is leading an effort to raise funds among Maine Meetings. The Committee does not have a clear sense of what amount is being requested, and asks that we advise what amount we might be able to contribute. Andy Grannell and Tracy Booth reviewed the history of the school and its Maine connection, its high educational standards, and its positive effect on Palestinian students. Friends agreed the cause is one we want to support but we need more information on how much is needed and what we can afford. The Committee will bring more information to the next meeting for business.

**5. Yearly Meeting Representatives.** Co-Clerk Muriel Allen requested that we name someone to the New England Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. Volunteers should contact her.

**6. Quarterly Meeting.** Andy Grannell reported on the gathering yesterday at Durham Meeting, which was clerked by the new Clerk of the Quarter, Dorothy Grannell.

After several years of work, it was decided to rescind the recording of Michael Wozich as a public Friends minister in this Quarter. The Quarter contributed funds to the Vassalboro Quarter's efforts in behalf of the Ramallah School, and to Friends United Meeting to support Eden Grace, a member of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, who has been doing important peace and reconciliation work in Kisumu, Kenya.

The October Quarterly Meeting may be moved to Sunday, October 28, 2012, and will be at Windham.

We closed in silent worship at 8:10 p.m. with 21 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on September 9, 2012, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

## Letter from Joanna Hoyt

Dear Friends,

This is Joanna Hoyt writing from St. Francis Farm in upstate New York. I've been away from the Meeting for eleven years now, following a leading PFM helped me identify. I'm still trying to find other people with whom to test leadings and share the process of trying to live faithfully. I enjoy reading the PFM newsletter, and lately I've noticed Friends writing and thinking about some of the concerns I've been working on. If any of you have time and inclination for a long-distance conversation I'd be glad to hear from you.

I'm part of a community that's trying to live a sustainable, Gospel-inspired life as an alternative to the consumer culture. This brings up a lot of issues, including:

**Sustainable living**--We've figured out how to grow food (low-till, organic, vegetables, fruit, meat and dairy, some for ourselves and some stuff to give away), compost, cut firewood and lumber (looking to the health of the woods), use bikes and a cargo tricycle more, live more by gifts given and received instead of by buying and selling. We haven't yet figured out energy generation or grain growing, and I'm working on keeping my work sustainable in terms of my own energy and on moving further in the direction in which I feel called without losing my ability to connect with/be intelligible to people whose lives are still a bit more normal. We're working on sharing our skills with neighbors and learning theirs. I'm excited to hear about the Meeting's DIY Sustainability Projects Survey.

**Class**--My way of life is hard to place on the class spectrum; depending on how they meet me people place me in different class boxes and are surprised when I don't fit. I work and eat and talk with migrant workers and social workers. Often this feels like a gift. Sometimes it feels like not fitting in anywhere. I'm trying to recognize and deal gracefully with my own and others' class-related sore spots. Lately I've heard some PFM Friends talking about trying to step out of the middle-class box...

**Counter-recruiting**--I've been visiting my local high school for the past five years, passing out information about the downsides of enlistment and about alternative opportunities. I am still trying to working out how to present a message about stepping back and thinking critically to kids who are used to being bombarded with sales pitches, also how to talk constructively with the recruiters.

**Faithfulness/Following leadings**--I would value hearing from any others who are spending a lot of their time and energy trying to bring their lives into alignment with a leading; it seems to me that there is something similar about this process as it applies to very different leadings.

There's more information about the life and work out here at [www.stfrancismfarm.org](http://www.stfrancismfarm.org) I can be reached at 136 Wart Road, Lacona NY 13083 or [joannahoyt@yahoo.com](mailto:joannahoyt@yahoo.com)

shalom,

*Joanna*

### **...and from Tracy Booth**

I am so grateful for the many thoughts and prayers that have been sent my way this month from this beloved community. The small split in an arteriole in my heart is healing and I am feeling close to normal. Cardiac Rehab will give me confidence to move ahead in summer fun. Thank you so much for your support. *Tracy Booth*



## Gathering with Mahoosuc Mountain, August 19

On Sunday August 19th the Mahoosuc Mountain Worship Group will be joining us for Worship and Potluck. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the members of this Group which is under the care of Portland Friends Meeting--including one of our newest members, Richard Stratton. Richard transferred to us this year from Hartford Monthly Meeting. The Group usually meets in the library in Bryant Pond, Maine so it is quite a long trip and it has been a long time since we have worshipped together. Please come to welcome them and bring sustaining food to share!

*The Clerks*

**First Day School** starts on Sunday, September 23rd at 10:30 with a fun gathering for all children and teens. Get reconnected with your Friends and play the ever-popular "Big Wind Blows", do face painting, and have yummy snacks. More information about the year's activities will be sent to families this month. For more information contact Anne Payson, 781-2501, [annepayson10@gmail.com](mailto:annepayson10@gmail.com)



## Friends of Kakamega celebrates 10 years!

Saturday, October 13th will be the big 10th Anniversary Celebration of Friends of Kakamega and the USFW-Kakamega Orphans Project. The Anniversary Celebration is currently scheduled for 7 to 9 pm on Saturday, October 13th at Presumpscot School in Portland.

This will be an evening event in Portland, with Dorothy Selebwa, Director of the Project and Florence Wasna (who oversees the Homebased Program) here to celebrate with us.

Dorothy and Florence will have other speaking engagements in Southern Maine, Bar Harbor and Dover NH over the next week or so. Then she will be in Washington, DC before flying home. Final details will be available at the end of August. But we wanted you to save the date of the big birthday bash – October 13th.



If you would like to help work on one of these events, please contact Tracy Booth at [TDBooth@earthlink.net](mailto:TDBooth@earthlink.net) as I will be in Kenya until late August.

We are looking forward to Dorothy's visit with much excitement.

Mirembe,

*Sukie Rice for Friends of Kakamega*



## Alternatives to Violence Project

### Seeking new facilitators to train in the fall

Thirty-five years ago Quakers in New York began a project with inmates at Green Haven Prison which created workshops aimed at the awareness and reduction of violence. Alternatives to Violence Project has expanded to 44 states in the U.S.A. and over 40 countries internationally, bringing people together in many formats to ease community violence, reach for reconciliation, and foster communication. This program is not religious but it is essentially spiritual and embodies the Friends ethos in its fibers.

In Maine, AVP has a fifteen year history of working within the Corrections system at Bolduc, Maine State Prison, Cumberland County Jail, Windham Correctional and Bangor Prerelease Center. Presently we are working in Windham and Maine State Prison. We are looking for new people who will be trained to facilitate the three levels of workshops and who will make it possible to reach more incarcerated men and women.

Last month in a men's workshop a young inmate said in his summation of the workshop, " I never thought there was good in anybody, but now I see there is. I never thought there was any way out, but now I can see up." There is hallowed ground in every workshop and it is a privilege to walk with the participants through the experiential workshops where I never fail to see something new in my own life that is helpful.

In our Meeting Kate Potter, Jenny Doughty, and I are active facilitators and we would love to speak with you about the program. We are recruiting participants for fall training and we hope you will consider this as an opportunity to witness to the Light in others.

*Tracy Booth 846-5173*



# Portland Friends Meeting Retreat Committee invites you to a Retreat for Friends of all Ages:

Deepening Our Connections Through Worship & Play

September 29th-30th, 2012

Friends Camp, 729 Lakeview Drive, South China, ME ([www.friendscamp.org](http://www.friendscamp.org))

**Registration Form** (please print clearly)

Names of adult(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address with zip code:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Children, with ages: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ride needed? \_\_\_\_\_ Ride offered \_\_\_\_\_ for how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle ONE:

Need bathroom in same building

Bathroom can be in separate location

Family Housing (for parents with children)

Dietary needs: Vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten free? \_\_\_\_\_

Other special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Continue on back if additional space needed.

Cost is \$75 per person (Children under 6 free, ages 7-12 \$50). Scholarships are available.

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee

\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to Equalization Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Request

Please enclose your check made out to Portland Friends Meeting and send to Friends Camp Retreat, 97 Alba St., Portland, ME 04103. **Please register before September 20th.** For more information contact Brad Bussiere-Nichols (756-5586 or [pfbmad@gmail.com](mailto:pfbmad@gmail.com)).

**Portland Friends Meeting**  
1837 Forest Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103

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Please recycle this newsletter.

**Painters wanted**

Buildings and Grounds is looking for a few good painters to refresh the walls in the downstairs before the fall classes begin. It is fun and gratifying to see the change.

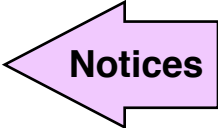
Anyone who can work daytime or night the week of August 20th please contact Tracy Booth, 846-5173

**Quaker Builders**

Thinking of doing some building or remodeling? Brad Bussiere-Nichols is a cabinetmaker and builder. 756-5586

**Faith-based organizing**

Leslie Manning of Durham Meeting is engaged in an assessment of whether there is support for a congregational or faith-based organizing effort in Maine, and is seeking to interview faith leaders. Contact her if you are interested in being interviewed in August or September (for about an hour) on the needs of our faith community. These may include spiritual, physical or public policy needs.  
[leslieam55@gmail.com](mailto:leslieam55@gmail.com)



**Coon cat**

Anyone interested in a lovely, house-trained, three-year-old Coon Cat who needs a new home, please give Andy or Dorothy Grannell a call: 878-8698

**Calling all artists and creative Quakers!**

Beginning this fall, you're invited to join Kathy Beach for Portland's First Friday Art Walks. Be inspired that evening, and follow-up with time to work on an art project of your choice at the Meetinghouse the first Saturday of every month, September 2012 through May 2013. We will meet at 9:00 am downstairs in the Meetinghouse and work until noon. Please contact Kathy Beach if you have any questions, 741-2940.



**Summer Schedule through September 2**  
Meeting for Worship 5pm  
Potluck 6:30pm