

# Portland Friends Newsletter

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SECOND MONTH 2013

## First Day schedule

### Meeting for Worship

Sundays 10:30am

### 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

Anne Harwood 666-8179

Sarah Cushman 841-7186

#### 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

Stephanie Richards 829-4082

Lyn Ballou 865-3888

#### Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor 774-2578

Morgan Grumbach 671-6872

#### 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)



*"Contemplative prayer is silence, the 'symbol of the world to come' or 'silent love.' Words in this kind of prayer are not speeches; they are like kindling that feeds the fire of love. In this silence, unbearable to the 'outer' man, the Father speaks to us his incarnate Word, who suffered, died, and rose; in this silence the Spirit of adoption enables us to share in the prayer of Jesus." — St. John of the Cross*

### Advices & Queries

"You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?"

Do you allow the Inward Teacher to work in you? Are you teachable?

*(From revised Ch. 11, New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, preliminarily accepted)*

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 11** Day of Reflection for Wabanaki Truth & Reconciliation Commission  
**Mar 1-3** JYM/JHYM 6th Grade Retreat, Westport, MA  
**Mar 9** Memorial service for Nathan Calhoun Stewart, 3pm  
**Mar 16-19** FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend: "Climate and Conflict"  
**Mar 23** Mid-Year Gathering of New England Yearly Meeting, PFM 9:30am-7pm  
"Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God's Purposes"  
**April 5** Falmouth Quarter Committee for Planning and Revitalization, Brunswick

### Monthly Events:

**1st Fri/Sat:** Art Walk Friday, art play Saturday 10am-noon. Kathy Beach, 233-2065

**1st Sunday:** Meeting for Business, 9am

**2nd Saturday:** Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm Marnie Grumbach, 749-9666

**2nd & 4th Sun:** Singing & Religious Ed: Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45am

**4th Friday:** Preble Street Soup Kitchen, 3:30-7pm. Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762

*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

[tscillipoti@maine.rr.com](mailto:tscillipoti@maine.rr.com)

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

## Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting February 3, 2013

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on February 3, 2013 at 9 a.m., with 25 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Sarah Cushman read the following queries: "You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God? Do you allow the Inward Teacher to work in you? Are you teachable?" (from the General Advices and Queries which received preliminary approval this past summer).

1. Clerk's Comments. Co-Clerk Sarah Cushman spoke about her study and prayer on the process of Co-Clerking the Meeting for Business and grappling with the fundamental needs of Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business. She described her appreciation for all the Friends and others who have documented Quaker Business Meeting process, kept it grounded in Spirit, and also recognized how "corporate discernment of the will of God is a risky and imperfect proposition". She read several passages from other sources, including the affirmation that, "In [any] given matter there is a way [to be found] that is in harmony with Spirit's plan."

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

3. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are one month into the budget year. Income for January was \$4,993. Expenses were \$2,764 so that we have a positive balance of \$2,229. Friends accepted the report.

<b>Treasurer's Report at a glance:</b> 1 month = 8% of the year Total income: \$4,993 (7% of budget) Total expenses: \$2,764 (4% of budget) Budget surplus: \$2,229
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4. Ministry and Counsel, Stephanie Richards reported. There has been a request for the transfer of the membership of Cathy Whitmire to Whidby Island Meeting, and for the transfer of membership of Roberta Barbalace to Berea, Kentucky Meeting. Friends approved these requests.

Several Clearness Committees have been requested or are already meeting.

The State of Society Report is being drafted. Year-end committee reports should be sent to one of Ministry and Counsel co-clerks (Stephanie Richards and Lyn Ballou) or to Arthur Fink.

There will be a memorial service for Sue Calhoun's son Nathan on March 9 at 3 o'clock at the Meetinghouse.

The committee has been aware that many in our community are not familiar with some aspects of Quaker process and history. Some examples of this might be the purpose and use of Clearness Committees and the practice of standing aside. We are reviewing and discussing ways to make this type of information more available to our community.

The committee is also working on creating a hospitality team, perhaps with the assistance of Nominating Committee.

5. Nominating Committee. Chris Beach presented the proposed Nominating Committee for 2013 as Lise Wagner, Brad Bussiere-Nichols, Stefanie Fairchild, Rob Levin, Elizabeth Szatkowski and Chris Beach. Friends approved the nominations.

6. Peace and Social Concerns. Jennifer Frick for the Committee facilitated a report on several items. First, she reviewed the progress of the committee from visioning its interests and mission, to action on several issues at the state level this year.

Next, Tom Tracy described getting involved again with the state Friends Committee on Public Policy, focusing on native American and tribal issues, and criminal justice, in particular.

Jennifer reported that several Friends had gone to the rally protesting the Tar Sands projects. Also that yesterday there was a lobbying workshop here facilitated by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee which was informative and well-attended. It was co-led by Jim Cason of the Washington-based Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Dick Wagner, a Quaker who has recently left the Maine state legislature, and Leslie Manning, a Quaker active in many circles, including the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy and the Maine Council of Churches. One Friend commented on the diversity of people who attended that meeting, and how we could open ourselves to having more people come and see what we do here. Friends expressed appreciation and hope that such events can happen again,

Jim Cason described the Friends Committee on National Legislation policy process, spoke of how impressed he was yesterday with local Friends, the Committee's lobbying work, and how Meetings can participate. He also mentioned upcoming events in Washington of interest to Friends.

Jennifer reported that some Friends will be visiting our Congressional delegation on Monday, and solicited participants, especially younger Friends.

Portland Friends Meeting will be co-sponsoring David Zaremka's visit to First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church on May 28 at 7 p.m. He is from Friends Peace Team.

The Clerk solicited ideas of when and whether threshing sessions on FCNL's call for public policy advice might be appropriate. It was left to the Peace and Social Concerns committee to consider this and make recommendations for a Meeting-wide process. Friends expressed appreciation to the members of the Committee for their work on these issues.

## Minutes, February 3, 2013, *continued*

7. NEYM/FWCC Mid-year Gathering, March 22-23. Dorothy Grannell reported on progress preparing for this event, help needed, and opportunities to visit with Friends from all over the world and share in the spirit of the activities. If you are able to help, see Dorothy.

8. Quarterly Meeting. Dorothy Grannell stated there is a meeting at China Rose restaurant in Brunswick on April 5 at 11:30 in preparation for quarterly meeting and asked anyone interested in helping to attend with her.

9. Pastoral Care. Shannon O'Connor asked for Friends interested in helping to fill out forms provided. Opportunities include cooking, transportation, shopping, gardening, cleaning, pet care, reading aloud, listening, child care, visiting and chatting, sharing worship, phoning to organize an event, and others.

We closed in silent worship at 10:28 a.m. with 29 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on March 3, 2013, God willing.

*Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk*



### Quiet Room

*by Joyce Neill (1915-2011)*

*South Belfast Monthly Meeting, Northern Ireland*

Here, in this room, is the beginning.

Here, in each heart, lies the seed.

The growing Light, burning within the silence,  
Illuminates our varying need.

Invisible, the movement of the Spirit,  
Noiseless, the articulation of the Word.  
Timeless, the gathered moments of the Meeting  
In which we have both seen and heard.

We bring with us our private burdens,  
The known and unknown needs of kin and friend,  
And the world's pain and sorrow and injustice;  
All can be shared, in this room, in the end.

### Ministry & Counsel Corner:

## What is a Clearness Committee?

You may have heard us mention Clearness Committees in Meeting for Business, or in passing conversation. You might be wondering just what a Clearness Committee *is* and how the process works...

Parker Palmer has called Clearness Committees "a communal approach to discernment." A Clearness Committee is formed for someone when they have an issue they are struggling with, a decision they need to make, or are in a transitional period in their life. The purpose of a Clearness Committee is not to offer solutions or counsel, but to listen deeply and to ask honest, open questions. The process first involves making a request for a Clearness Committee to Ministry and Counsel, and stating the purpose of the request. Ministry and Counsel forms the Committee, which then gathers with the person who made the request. The Committee will start with silence, and there will be a statement of the issue that brought them together. Committee members ask open-ended questions intended to help the person be led to a deeper understanding of the issue at hand, and to help that person discern their path.

Committees often meet twice, sometimes more if needed. Like so many things in Quaker practice, it is not a process to be rushed. There are some processes that have Clearness Committees formed as part of our standard practice: for membership in the Meeting, and for marriage under care of the Meeting. Other reasons for asking for a Clearness Committee might be to discern a leading, or to come to clarity about a life transition. Clearness Committees offer the opportunity to explore in a worshipful, confidential, supportive way.

Want to learn more? You can speak to someone on Ministry and Counsel! You can also check out Parker Palmer's article at <http://www.couragerenewal.org/parker/writings/clearness-committee> or take a look at the Pendle Hill Pamphlet #305, Spiritual Discernment: the Context and Goal of Clearness Committees Among Friends, by Patricia Loring.

In peace, your Ministry and Counsel co-clerks,

*Stephanie Richards and Lyn Ballou*





About the  
**Maine Wabanaki-State  
 Child Welfare Truth  
 & Reconciliation  
 Commission**

The Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Penobscot Indian Nation and State of Maine have signed a mandate to implement a truth and reconciliation commission (TRC). This TRC represents a historic agreement to uncover and acknowledge the truth about what happened to Wabanaki children and families involved with the Maine child welfare system; to create opportunities to heal and learn from the truth; and to collaborate to operate the best child welfare system possible for Wabanaki children and families.

The five Commissioners charged to undertake this work will be sworn in during a public **Seating of the Commission Ceremony** on Tues., Feb. 12, in Hermon.

For more information about the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission, visit our website at [www.mainetribaltrc.org](http://www.mainetribaltrc.org) or find us on Facebook.

Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare  
**Truth & Reconciliation**  
 Commission



Mon., Feb. 11

# Day of Reflection, Meditation and Prayer

Mon., Feb. 11, the day before the Seating of the Commission Ceremony, has been designated as a Day of Reflection, Meditation and Prayer to support the purpose and work of the TRC. To begin this groundbreaking process in a good way, the Commissioners and TRC Convening Group will gather with spiritual leaders to prepare themselves for the work ahead.

The TRC invites people to join them in reflection, meditation or prayer as their own faith and traditions direct them. Consider the opportunity the TRC provides to deepen human respect and compassion in hearing the truth of our shared history. Pray for the healing of deep and ancient wounds. Visualize the possibilities of service-systems built on mutual respect. Call for courage, clarity of purpose and openness. Please pause during your day, in whatever way you are able, to stand in spiritual solidarity with the TRC.

## Ways to Participate

### Day of Reflection, Meditation and Prayer

- At 11 a.m. on Feb. 11, when the Commissioners, TRC Convening Group and spiritual leaders gather, pause quietly by yourself or join together with others to consider the importance of collaboration and relationship-building through this process
- Organize an event in your faith community to support this work
- Ask your local school, civic organization or town government to participate in a moment of silent attention
- Invite media to your event to help spread awareness of the work and purpose of the TRC

## Contact Us

For more information, support or ideas about how you can participate or to share an event you have planned, contact TRC Interim Director Carolyn Morrison at [carolynmorrisontrc@gmail.com](mailto:carolynmorrisontrc@gmail.com) or (207) 896-3042.



## Winter 2013 scrapbook: freezing weather, political heat



### Local Friends to join largest-ever climate protest in Washington - Feb 17

On Jan 26 Friends from Portland, Durham, Cambridge, Western Mass and more braved single-digit temperatures and joined over 1400 people marching in Portland against a proposed pipeline to bring tar sands oil to Casco Bay. Some of these same Quakers are hoping to meet in Washington, DC on Sunday, Feb 17 at the Forward on Climate Rally. This is expected to be the largest climate action in US history, at least 20,000 strong against tar sands and the Keystone XL pipeline to the Gulf Coast. More info: <http://forwardonclimate.org>

Space on a chartered bus is available through the Sierra Club, <http://maine.sierraclub.org>

If you are going down and want to find Friends at the Rally, contact Wendy Schlotterbeck (207-513-9187), an unofficial point person for meeting up with New England Quakers as well as the group EQAT from Philadelphia.



**Tar sands  
pipeline protest**



**Lobby training and lobby day**





JOIN YOUNG ADULTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN WASHINGTON, DC

CLIMATE ACTION:

from **PROTEST**

to **POLICY CHANGE**  
in **2013**

FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend


*March 16 – 19*

New England Quakers are getting organized for the FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend, themed on "Climate and Conflict". PFM's Anna Barnett and the Young Adult Friends Climate Working Group of NEYM (YAFCWG) are helping to round up Friends from New England to attend the event March 16-19. There is a special push to attract younger Friends, but ALL are welcome.

**Travel funding, hosting and/or group accommodations** may be available for YAFs and others needing financial assistance.

Visit <http://fcnl.org/slw> for more info, and talk to Anna ([abarnett@gmail.com](mailto:abarnett@gmail.com), 523-0314)



Learn more, register at  
**fcnl.org/SLW** 

**POLICY BRIEFINGS • LOBBY TRAINING WORKSHOPS • LOBBYING ON THE HILL**

Friends Committee on National Legislation • 245 2nd St, NE • Washington, DC 20002 • (202) 547-6000 • [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)

**Don't forget...**

## **NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING 2013 Mid-Year Gathering**

**Saturday, March 23 | Portland (Maine) Friends Meeting**

**With John Fitzgerald & Simon Lamb, Ireland YM, exploring  
the theme arising from the 6th World Conference of Friends:**

**Let the Living Waters Flow:  
Friends Serving God's Purposes**



**SIGN UP ONLINE to help out Friday or Saturday, or to host visiting Friends:**

<http://www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org/?p=370>, or call Dorothy Grannell (878-8698) or Jeff Hipp (508-754-6760)

## **Falmouth Quarter gets CPR - April 5**

The Falmouth Quarterly Meeting "CPR" (Committee for Planning and Revitalization) will meet at the China Rose Restaurant, Brunswick, on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am to review memorial minutes, State of Society reports and to work on the Falmouth Quarter State of Society report. This will be in preparation for Falmouth Quarterly Business Meeting at the All Maine meeting the first Saturday in May. Anyone who is interested my attend. Contact Dorothy Grannell for more information or a ride. 878-8698

## **Heard about the Youngish Adults Potluck Group?**

The "Youngish Adults" are members and attenders of Meeting who are roughly in their mid-twenties to mid-fifties (with an emphasis on the "ish"! ). We are a diverse mix of Friends who came together with a simple goal: to build stronger relationships by spending time with one another.

Similar to a Friendly Supper group, the Youngish Adults gather monthly for potluck dinners, always held on the second Saturday of the month in the homes of Friends in the Greater Portland area (proudly, we haven't skipped a month since the group formed in late 2009).

We are a no-pressure group. We don't RSVP to attend, nor do we assign food contributions, which means some months end up being mostly desserts -- no one complains!

From 5-7pm we eat, socialize and eat. From 7 to 8pm, we settle in for Worship Sharing, usually focused on a query suggested by the host. On months designated to just adults, we typically have a sitter at a home close to the host (parents using childcare chip in to cover the cost). During the summer and fall months, we try to incorporate family gatherings and/or outings to Friends' homes who live further outside of the city, or we gather for fun activities (bowling, BBQs, etc.).

Any "Youngish" Adult Friends interested in joining us are welcome to join our email list or Facebook Group to receive notices with monthly potluck details. Contact Marnie Grumbach with questions or to join the potluck group mailing list, [mgrumbach1@maine.rr.com](mailto:mgrumbach1@maine.rr.com)



*Artist's representation of no-pressure, all-dessert potluck. Actual potlucks may vary.*

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

**Address Service Requested**



Please recycle this newsletter.

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## Notices

### **Memorial service for Nathan Calhoun Stewart**

The memorial service for Sue Calhoun's son, Nathan Calhoun Stewart, will be on Saturday, March 9th at 3:00 pm. Sue would like to have a reception (collation?) afterwards in the basement. If anyone would like to help, please contact her. 761-4054 [calhousu@hotmail.com](mailto:calhousu@hotmail.com)