

Portland Friends Newsletter

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THIRD 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

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



*"Think you're escaping and run into yourself.
Longest way round is the shortest way home." — James Joyce*

Advices & Queries

The power of God is not used to compel us to Truth: therefore, let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable.

Appreciate the value of doubt and questioning.

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

Upcoming Events

March 10 Clerking workshop, Durham Friends Meeting

March 15-17 JHYM and Young Friends retreats

March 17 Discussion on FCNL policy review, noon

March 22 Joe Crookston concert, 7pm, Durham Friends Meeting

March 23 NEYM Mid-Year Gathering (REGISTRATION IS FULL)

March 31 Easter Breakfast, noon

June 21-26 Quaker Spring, Woolman Hill

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

Email items to Anna Barnett
abarnett@gmail.com
Phone: 523-0314

Postal mail: Anna is away and still making arrangements for mail.
Please call 523-0314

Send address change details to Tony Scilipoti
tscilipoti@maine.rr.com

Transition alert!

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

Portland Friends Meeting for Business March 3, 2013

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 27 members and attenders present. During the silence co-clerk Anne Harwood read from the Revised Advices. Advice #2 reads: The power of God is not used to compel us to Truth: therefore, let us renounce for ourselves the power of any person over any other and, compelling no one, seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable. And Advice #3 reads: Appreciate the value of doubt and questioning.

2. The Minutes of February 3, 2013 Meeting for Business were accepted.

3. Treasurer's Report. Sue Nelson reported on behalf of Kathy Beach that two months, or 17%, into the year, our income for the year to date is \$8404, or 12% of budget. Expenses for the year to date are \$5794, or 8% of budget, leaving us with a balance of \$2610. The report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report at a glance:
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2 month = 17% of the year

Total income: \$8,404 (12% of budget)

Total expenses: \$5,794 (8% of budget)
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Budget surplus: \$2,610

4. Lyn Ballou reported for Ministry and Counsel:

a) St Petersburg, Florida, Monthly Meeting has contacted us in response to Doug McCown and Becky Steele's request to transfer their membership from St Petersburg meeting in Florida to Portland Friends Meeting. Their request was greeted with joy and acceptance.

b) Friends were reminded of two upcoming memorial services. First, a Meeting for Worship for Mag Wine will be held at the Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church at 2 p.m. today. Second, there will be a service Portland Friends meeting house next Saturday, March 9, at 3 p.m. for Nathan Calhoun Stewart, son of Sue Calhoun.

c) Ministry and Counsel continue Clearness Committees for marriage and for membership. The committee is happy to recommend that we take under the care of the Meeting the marriage of Peter Raszmann and Jennifer Frick on July 20. Friends approved this heartily. Friends have already received notification of the wedding of David Spector and Shannon O'Connor on May 25.

d) Clearness Committees can serve many purposes. Friends were told of an excellent article regarding clearness committees in the February Newsletter. Ministry and Counsel hope to continue outreach to members and attenders on various aspects of Quaker practice, and Friends were asked to tell Ministry and Counsel about topics of interest. Friends were reminded that there are excellent folders in the Library with detailed accounts of Quaker practice in the matter of membership and other Quaker processes.

e) Ministry and Counsel has asked Nominating Committee to consider forming an Events Committee to facilitate gatherings at the Meetinghouse and relieve the Co-Clerks of some of these responsibilities. Envisioned is a small core group that would assemble a list of people able to park cars, bring food, and clean up. The core group would line up assistance for any particular event and perform any training necessary. Friends to whom this speaks were asked to see someone from Nominating Committee.

5. Jennifer Frick reported for Peace and Social Concerns

a) They had a planning meeting for those who went to lobby the legislature, during which Aayin Foster held them in the light. The committee would like to know if others are interested in the spiritual practice of holding in the light during actions carried out by others. This does not require the approval of business meeting, but the notion of spiritual support for people doing worldly actions was felt to be appropriate. PFM has been doing a similar practice for the Friends' School. A revival of the traditional Quaker practice of oversight committees and spiritual support for travel and leadings nurtures our spiritual centering. An announcement in the newsletter or at rise of meeting asking for spiritual support would open this to the wider meeting and give opportunities to all, including people less able to take physical part in activities.

b) P&SC will hold another 'Awakening the Dreamer' workshop, most probably in the fall.

c) P&SC asked what the protocol was for signing on to an event or a request for support of positions as representing the meeting when time does not allow consultation with the wider meeting. The suggested solution was that the committee can endorse an action on behalf of itself but not of the meeting, and should let the wider meeting know as soon as possible thereafter.

d) The deadline for input into FCNL's revision of their policy statement is in April, and there will be a meeting on March 17th at PFM at rise of meeting to discuss policy statement revisions. Friends were encouraged to review the existing policy statement online before offering feedback. The meeting with FCNL about lobbying was very rich and informative.

Minutes, March 3, 2013, continued

6. Events organized by different committees need a way of coordinating the dates so that they do not schedule events on the same date during the planning process. The online calendar helps but is not fully effective. A list for committee clerks to consult would be helpful.
7. Midyear Gathering of NEYM, March 22 & 23: Dorothy Grannell asked the meeting to hold her and the planning committee in the light. There is a limit to the physical capacity of the meeting-house, and some people have complained of feeling excluded when the list was full. On the day of the meeting there may be more people wanting to be in the building than is practical, and the committee wants to be able to handle that tenderly. Thanks were expressed to those offering overnight hospitality.
8. People interested in attending the planning meeting in April for All-Meeting Day in May were asked to contact Dorothy Grannell.
9. Other Business: Andy Grannell is ready to pick up the archives from the binder and they will be in the library shortly. Andy offered to show interested parties how to best use them. They will be added to in future.
10. We were asked to ensure that triclosan products are not put into our waste system because it is bad for our septic system.

We closed in silent worship purposing to meet again for the purpose of Business on April 7, 2013 at 9:00am

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Doughty, Co-Recording Clerk

Mid-Year Gathering registration is full (no drop-ins, please!)

Registration is now full for NEYM's Mid-Year Gathering on March 23 at PFM. We are at the capacity limit for the meetinghouse. If you have not registered for the gathering, please do not drop in on the day of the event.

We are joyful that there has been such an enthusiastic response to this Gathering. It's particularly exciting to see that some three quarters of our registrants are from Northern New England, and a number have never attended NEYM Annual Sessions. We also feel sadness that not all who wish to come are able to. If you were unable to register, we invite you to add your name to the wait list. While we anticipate being able to invite only a few additional Friends in response to cancellations, adding your name will help us gauge interest for future events.

Join the wait list at: www.tinyURL.com/MidYearWait

Also, Dorothy Grannell has written materials from the Gathering that can be used at home. 878-8698



Remembering Mag Wine

Friend Mary-Agnes (Mag) Wine died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday morning, February 17, 2013. A lovely memorial service was held on Sunday afternoon, March 3. Those who may not have been able to attend the service but wish to share memories or send condolences to her family can do so in a couple ways. You can read about Mag's life and leave a message at: <http://advantageportland.com/index.php/obituaries/246-mary-agnes-mag-wine.html>

Alternatively, cards can be sent to Mag's daughter Gail Wine, and she will share them with the family. The address is 106 Alden Road, Concord MA 01742.

Clerking workshop in Durham, March 10

Friends are welcome to attend a clerking workshop at Durham Meeting on the afternoon of March 10. , following Meeting for Worship and a potluck lunch. The workshop is offered by Margaret Cooley, clerk of New England Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel Committee and former clerk of Mt. Toby (MA) Monthly Meeting. You are also welcome to join in semi-programmed worship at Durham from 10:25 to 11:30, and unprogrammed worship or Adult Religious Ed is offered at 9:30. The workshop is open to all, with an attention to Presiding Committee clerks, or those who wish to become clerks. More info: pastor Daphne Clements, 207-353-6354.

Discussion of FCNL policy, March 17

This year the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker lobbying organization, is reviewing and revising its policies -- a once-a-decade process. On March 17 at rise of meeting, Peace and Social Concerns Committee will host a discussion about FCNL policy aimed at providing feedback and discernment from PFM into the process. Jennifer Frick encourages Friends to visit the FCNL website: www.fcnl.org to learn more about their current efforts.



Easter Breakfast, March 31

Please come to the First Day School's wonderful Easter Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, March 31 from 9:00-10:20 AM. Enjoy a delicious assortment of food and help support the childrens' fundraising efforts for Friends of Kakamega, Preble Street Resource Center, Right Sharing of World Resources, and others. The children are collecting socks for Preble Street Resource Center. Please bring white mens' socks, all sizes welcome.

Ripple effects from PFM lobbying

On February 2, 2013, the Peace and Social Concerns committee sponsored a four-hour Lobbying Training Workshop. Panelists included Jim Cason from Friends Committee on National Legislation, Dick Wagner, a former Maine State Representative, and Leslie Manning, president of the Maine Council of Churches. The panelists shared a wealth of useful information about the workings of the legislatures, and prepared the workshop attenders for practice lobbying visits. The attenders then divided up into interest groups that first prepped for, then had a visit with a "legislator,"(one of the three panelists.) The group as a whole then gave positive feedback/suggestions about the interest group's presentation. Attended by over 40 people from inside and outside of Meeting; evaluation forms were numerous and overwhelmingly positive about the day's event.



The next day, three P&SC members, plus Nathan Broaddus and Rob Levin, gathered to prepare for pre-arranged lobbying visits the following day to Senators Collins and King and Rep. Chellie Pingree's offices in Portland. Each visit had a different specific focus. Subsequent to the group's visit to Chellie Pingree's office, Kyle Moulton, her field representative that the group met with, sent [us] a copy of the letter going from her office (and also being signed by Rep. Michael Michaud) to Secretary of State John Kerry, requesting action on measures necessary to attain a reversal to the Tar Sands pipeline initiative as it now stands. It felt like a wonderful ripple effect was in action.

Ministry & Counsel Corner

My weekends are so busy, why should I attend Meeting for Business?

Like any organization, the Meeting has to attend to the running of the Meeting: plan budgets, discuss policy, be updated on the status of projects. We attend to those tasks by holding a Meeting for Worship for the conduct of Business, also known as “Meeting for Business”. What makes Quaker conduct of business unique is that it is done in the expectation that the Spirit is present and helps guide our discussion and decisions. Glasgow Meeting describes Meeting for Business as “...an exercise in attentiveness, in listening to the promptings of the Spirit. The overriding need is to discern the will of God in the meeting, and business meetings should be conducted with that fundamental aim in mind.”

In this spirit, Meeting for Business is opened and closed with silence. Often a passage from Faith and Practice or some other passage will be read, which can help foster a gathered and worshipful atmosphere in which to conduct Business. The Clerk then begins moving through the items on the agenda.

Committee clerks are usually the persons who present the work of their committee, and some committees present at every Meeting for Business. The Financial Oversight committee will give an update on the Meeting finances. Ministry and Counsel will give an update on its work. It is here that you will *first* hear recommendations for membership, or recommendation for marriage under the care of the Meeting! You might hear about issues around the care of the Meetinghouse from Buildings and Grounds, or a report on the youth programs from Youth Religious Education, or about actions being taken by Peace and Social Concerns.

Not only will you have the opportunity to hear about the work, but also to participate in decisions to be made. There will sometimes be discussion of issues, with Friends contributing information or asking questions in a brief (ideally) and civil fashion. In general, Friends are encouraged to speak only once on any one issue, and to personally discern if a point or question is Spirit-led. There is no need to restate an opinion already made, and agreement with a point is often affirmed with another Friend saying “That Friend speaks my mind”. At times there may be a call to silence during a discussion; this silence allows Friends to take time to consider a topic in a worship-centered manner. Because we do not make decisions by majority vote, or even by consensus, the Clerk has the task of discerning if there is a sense of unity among Friends, and then articulating that decision. (In a future column, we will discuss more on the Quaker process of decision making, the role of the Spirit, and getting to unity).

So, why attend Meeting for Business? This is a place where we bring Quaker practice into action! Here you will get to see what issues our committees and community are addressing. You will get to see what type of work our different committees are doing. For newcomers especially, this can be a setting where you can better get to know who people are, since the gathering is generally smaller than Meeting for Worship. If Meeting for Worship is the heart and soul of our spiritual community, Meeting for Business is the nervous system.

Want to learn more? Check out Glasgow Meeting’s online explanation of Meeting for Business at <http://www.qjs.net/~daruma/business.html>, or check out our materials on Quaker process in the library. Better yet, please join us on the First Sunday of the month at 9 am!

Kenyans Mobilize for Active Nonviolence Ahead of Elections

As fears of violence grow ahead of Kenya’s election on Monday, March 4, thousands of people in the country are mobilizing to avoid a repeat of the post-election violence that shook Kenya in 2007 and left 1,200 dead and hundreds of thousands displaced. In a coordinated, grassroots effort, Quakers from Kenya, the United States, and Britain have been equipping Kenyans to nonviolently demand justice and build a mass nonviolent witness for peaceful, transparent, free and fair elections. Read more about it at www.kenyanelections2013.org

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

Address Service Requested



Please recycle this newsletter.

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Notices

NEYM seeks Information Management Assistant

The Information Management Assistant will work remotely 8 hours/week to support the work of the New England Yearly Meeting office. A qualified applicant will possess strong computer and communication skills, with administrative and clerical experience.

Job description: <http://neym.org/jobs/info-asst/NEYM-Info-Management.pdf>

Please submit a resume and cover letter to neym@neym.org by March 29.

Questions: New England Yearly Meeting Office, 508-754-6760 neym@neym.org



Ilan and Lesley looking for a “home base”

Do you have a living space available -- a portion of your house, a mother-in-law apartment or guest cottage? Could you use a little extra money and two very handy people around part time? Attenders Lesley and Ian are adventurers and frequent travelers -- their bus “Bettie” runs on waste vegetable oil -- seeking a unique living situation. For example: “we pay a modest monthly rent, and then pay more (or have a pre-agreed work arrangement) for the months we are actually living on site. When we leave our space for a few months, we wouldn’t object to that space and our furniture being used as a guest room or sublet.”

Contact Lesley (860-460-0034) or Ian (603-205-1587).

Email: bettiethebus@gmail.com