

Portland Friends Newsletter

PAGE 1

FOURTH 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



"There is no elegant solution to a poorly defined problem." — Buckminster Fuller

Advices & Queries

Attend to what love requires of you.

What does Love require of you today?

What does Love require of you at this moment?

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

Upcoming Events

- Apr 20** United Society of Friends Women Spring Gathering, Smith Neck
NEYM "Funding Our Vision" budget day, Mt. Toby Mtg.
EarthRite 2013, Woodfords Church, 4-7pm
- Apr 26-28** JHYM Retreat, Framingham, MA
- Apr 27** "Called to Ministering" gathering, Wellesley Mtg.
Climate Revival, Boston
- May 4** All-Maine Gathering, South China, ME
- May 10-12** JYM Retreat, Woolman Hill
- May 28** David Zarembka peacemaking event, First Parish Church, 7pm
- Jun 21-26** Quaker Spring, Woolman Hill
- Aug 3-8** New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
- Oct 5-6** Portland Friends Meeting Retreat

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: Liz Maier
274 Black Point Rd.
Scarborough, ME
04074

Send address change
details to **Tony Scillipoti**
tscillipoti@maine.rr.com

**New address
for mail!**

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

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting, April 7, 2013

Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 18 members and attenders present, during which Co-Clerk Sarah Cushman read the following extract from the *NEYM Faith and Practice Preliminary Revised Advices and Queries*, "Attend to what love requires of you...What does Love require of you today?...What does Love require of you at this moment?"

1. We found the minutes of our March meeting to be in good order.

2. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are three months or one quarter into the budget year, and in good shape. Income for March was \$4,473, which included donations of \$3,220. Expenses were \$2,585 so that we have a positive balance of \$1,888 for the month. **The balance for the year is \$4,499.** once again, Friends were thanked for regular contributions and urged to continue them. Friends accepted the report with appreciation..

3. Ministry and Counsel, Stephanie Richards reported.

Anna Barnett has been found clear for membership, and her Clearness Committee and Ministry and Counsel recommend that Friends approve her membership in Portland Friends Meeting. Friends warmly approved.

The Committee is preparing memorial minutes for Margaret Raymond and Mag Wine. See Lyn Ballou or Stephanie Richards if you are interested in helping.

Nominating Committee is forming an Events Committee to oversee and organize events such as memorial services. See Chris Beach if you are interested.

Stephanie read the Committee's draft State of Society report for 2012 prepared largely by Arthur Fink and Nathan Broaddus. She solicited comments on the topics and whether the wording clearly expresses it. Friends received the report with warm praise. It was suggested that we add mention of the Friendly Suppers in the paragraph on community. The draft, as so amended, will be published in the newsletter for further comments, to be brought forward for final approval at Meeting for Business in May.

Ministry and Counsel is planning for worship in the summer and would like to hear thoughts concerning whether to hold 5 p.m. worship and potluck, continue worship on Sunday mornings, or provide services at both times. After discussion of various options, the importance of sharing a meal together, our history with these services and our 8 a.m. worship, and child care, it was decided that the issue will be addressed in the next newsletter and people outside the room today will have an opportunity to express their feelings. Ministry and Counsel will consider it further and bring a report back to Meeting for Business in May.

4. Youth Religious Education. Lise Wagner thanked Friends for their attendance and contributions last week at the Easter Breakfast. The children will be deciding how to divide the \$868 raised between 4 charities they have selected.

The committee has also been working on having a standard process regarding child abuse and prevention as it impacts our volunteers. In short, Quakers need to accept background checks and provide references from this community if they are working with our children. The committee has developed a volunteer interest form which will help them get to know our volunteers better and ensure the safety of our children.

5. Peace and Social Concerns Jennifer Frick reported that Doug McCown, Becky Steele, Jim Maier and Rob Levin spoke with Senator Susan Collins about what she could do about gun violence.

6. Falmouth Quarterly Meeting. Dorothy Grannell, Clerk of the Quarter, reported the All Maine Gathering 2013 and Falmouth Quarterly Meeting will occur on Saturday May 4 from 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at South China Community Church, and activities will commemorate the 150th year of Rufus Jones' birth and consider 'Right Relationships' (the ideas of John Woolman) in local, regional and global communities. It has not yet been decided whether there will be child care or a youth program. Friends interested in these should speak to Dorothy.

The Clerk and members of the Meeting expressed great joy and celebration and gave thanks for the success of the NEYM Mid-Year Gathering, held at the meetinghouse on March 23rd.

7. Other Business. Barbara Rose McIntosh for Earth and Spirit Committee announced an Earth Right invitation from the Chaplaincy of Maine for an event on April 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Woodfords Church.

8. Announcements and Reminders. York County Community College's 2nd Annual "Religious Maine" student field trip will be held on Saturday, April 13 and the group of approximately 25 students will again be visiting Portland Friends Meeting as part of the tour. We're the first stop, at 9:15 am and the visit will consist of approximately 45 minutes of some sharing from our representatives about the Friends' history in the area, beliefs and ethics, style of worship, etc., some Q&A and, perhaps, a brief tour of the facility. Co-clerk Sarah Cushman will be available and Anne Harwood could be as well, but we're looking for one more Friend who is local and would be interested in representing the Meeting. Please let the Clerks know if you could do this.

Currently we are asking people to review their contact information on the paper directory posted down the hallway of the meetinghouse and make legible notes of any needed corrections or put a check next to their information if it is correct.

We closed in silent worship at a.m. with 29 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on May 5, 2013, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

State of Society Report 2013

Portland Friends Meeting is alive and well, filled with spiritual richness, embracing community, significant activism, personal support, and more. Our purpose in this report is not just to enumerate all these signs of life, but to also share that which is new, experimental, particularly significant, or has required special discernment.

Portland Friends Meeting is filled with youthful energy. We have a burgeoning First Day School and an active teen program. Our youth programs are central to the health and wealth of our Meeting, and are also important in attracting new attenders and members. We are grateful to many members and attenders, and to our few paid staff, for bringing such vitality and commitment to nurturing all of our young people. Our young people are an inspiration, and bring wonderful spirit to our Meetings for Worship!

Our young adult friends, loosely defined, continue to hold regular pot luck gatherings, which foster friendships and community beyond the Meetinghouse. Friendly Suppers, where small groups gather for a meal at each other's homes, is another way we have encouraged people to gather and get to know one another.

Community was further fostered this year with a Portland Friends Meeting overnight retreat, on the theme, "Deepening Our Connections Through Worship and Play". None of us, we learned, are too old to play! We had not had a retreat for several years, and going forward, we hope to continue to have retreats on a more regular basis.

The center of our spiritual life, of course, is Meeting for Worship. Our Meeting for Worship is well attended, deeply grounded, and usually has a healthy balance of silent and vocal ministry. We have found it helpful to ask near the end of meeting for the names of people who should be held in the Light, so that we can all hold them in our prayers. Many people facing disease or other difficulty in their families are held, but we also hold those who want to celebrate significant openings in their lives.

Our spiritual wealth does not blind us to the material and spiritual needs in our broader community. Meeting members who help out at social service agencies have offered moving testimony about the challenges of providing even basic food, shelter and medical care to all in our metropolitan area. We were reminded of this by one visitor who seemed less interested in our spiritual practice than in the possibility of getting food, and perhaps money, at our meetings for worship.

The individual witness of members of our community enriches us all. Two members who attended the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya organized a series of programs on the theme "Salt and Light" that helped us all appreciate the complex issues that were to be considered at that event. Some members of our community joined with Friends United Meeting in their 40 Days of Prayer. Others organized a bicycle caravan to New England Yearly Meeting – both as a fun adventure and a serious witness about how we live on this earth. Friends worked at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen, and at other service and relief agencies in greater Portland.

We were blessed and challenged a few years ago to receive a large bequest from one of our members. After much discernment, we agreed to use part of that fund to support Friends following their leadings. Grants this past year went to the Salt and Light work, and to a project bringing Friends in touch with art at the First Friday Art Walk. This bequest also supported a Friend's work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to tell the (often hidden) story of how Native Americans have been treated in Maine, and to seek deep healing. Maine is the first state to begin addressing the impact of removing Wabanaki children from their homes and placing them in foster care or boarding schools separated from their cultural heritage.

We also decided to spend a significant amount of the bequest on our building. The new kitchen is visible to us all, but not all improvements are as obvious. Time and money spent researching our septic system and water lines, and working with the city of Portland as they improved our section of Forest Avenue is part of caring for our property. We appreciate the ongoing work done on these issues, so that we do not leave a legacy of deferred maintenance.

We cannot report from Maine without commenting on the legalization of same-gender marriage in the state. Portland Friends Meeting has welcomed the spiritual gifts of all members of our community, and has tried to be as inclusive as possible. Now, all the marriages that we conduct can have legal recognition. In our considerations of this subject, we were reminded to listen carefully to all members of our community, and to hear the cautious concerns that some members carry.

We have also had tenderness around our practices with money. How should we ask members of our community for financial support? How appropriate is it to ask for pledges and how do we best nurture consistent financial engagement in our community? We continue to work on this issue, and value all contributions to our community, monetary and otherwise.

After much study and reflection, Portland Friends Meeting has firmly entered the digital age. We have a new web site (www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org) and our newsletter is now distributed online. This means that the newsletter can easily be longer (no added postage!) and often carries art work, poetry, and announcements of various non-meeting projects that our community is involved with. We have worked to ensure that Friends who are not regularly "plugged in" continue to receive paper copies of our newsletter.

The Friends School of Portland is connected with us via a Meeting committee, as well as many personal ties. We have been thrilled at the growth of this school, which has now purchased property in nearby Cumberland and will be building a new very green home. At the same time, we're aware that the discernment about these decisions and the change in location has been painful for some. We remain supportive and engaged in the Friends School.

While we have lost some very special members in the past year, our Meeting does not feel at all empty. We are filled with young spirit, amazing energy, elders who bring grounded wisdom, and a deep sense of the Spirit among us. We face the coming year with joy for our vibrant community, and with optimism.

Special Spring Retreat for Women of NEYM - April 20

The New England chapter of the United Society of Friends Women meet April 20, 9am-3pm at Smith Neck Meeting, South Dartmouth, MA. Topic: "Live Up to the Light". Speakers: Arla Patch - Maine Truth and Reconciliation Commission Ministry, Margaret Hawthorn – Restorative Ministry following murder of her daughter, and Kate Fisher - Climate Change Ministry. Overnight hospitality available, contact Chris Styan, ricatif1@comcast.net

Usually we organize a program for Sunday afternoon at yearly meeting sessions to give the women's perspective on whatever the theme of the annual session is. Due to the celebration for the ministry of Kevin Lee, who's retiring from his work with our youth this year, that time is not available. Instead we plan to offer the program as our Spring Gathering. The theme of the Yearly Meeting is "Live up to the Light", (Holy obedience). So we have planned an all day retreat with a panel of women who have been obedient to the different ministries they have felt called to do who will share followed by all of us sharing our leadings. There's an optional gathering to prepare for the Saturday retreat through fellowship, singing, and prayer and possibilities of walking to the beach, visiting the oldest meetinghouse at Apponegansett and eating some seafood for those who want to come on Friday or stay over and visit local Friends meetings on Sunday. I look forward to the snow melt and being able to travel south in the spring to see you all.

Marian Baker



*Mid-Year Gathering: "Let the Living Waters Flow"
Thank you to all Portland Friends who took part in
making the event a very special day!*

Photo: Roland Stern

"Called to Ministering" gathering - April 27

If you have a concern for Gospel Ministry, if you sense a calling to being a spiritual nurturer, if you find yourself often called to vocal ministry in worship, or if you hunger for deep Spirit-led fellowship, please come to Wellesley Meetinghouse, Saturday, April 27 at 9:30 am.

A group of us from Salem Quarter gathered in December at Amesbury, at the initiative of Brian Drayton, from Weare (NH) meeting, who shared his concern to gather Friends called to ministering, to provide an opportunity for worship and fellowship.

Following that sweet time together we wanted to continue this movement and welcome you to join us at a second gathering.

We will follow a simple format:

9:30 AM: Fellowship and beverages/snacks (you are welcome to bring snacks to contribute)

10:00 AM: Introductions, followed by a period of worship, followed by conversation.

12:30: Brown-bag lunch with more conversation, including planning future gatherings (please bring your calendar).

1:30 PM: Close

Older Friends, please encourage younger Friends to attend who might benefit. Younger Friends, please encourage elders whom you respect to come, too! We ask you to please forward this notice to anyone who might feel a nudge to attend.

More info: Beckey Phipps, baphipps@earthlink.net, Kathleen Wooten, kathleen.wooten@comcast.net

EarthRite 2013 - April 20

Saturday April 20, 4 - 7 PM, Memorial Hall, Woodfords Congregational Church: "EarthRite 2013" sponsored by the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine, with invitation extended to Friends and others. PFM Earth and Spirit Committee encourages Friends to attend this event.



Climate Revival 2013

An Ecumenical Festival to
Embolden the Renewal
of Creation

Saturday, April 27, 2013, 10am-4pm
Copley Square, Boston

This event will be led by national and international religious and environmental leaders. Preachers so far include:

- **The Rev. Geoffrey Black**, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ
- **The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori**, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus South Africa and **Bill McKibben**, author and environmentalist will send video messages.

Come together for an inspirational day of preaching, worship, prayers, and music as we celebrate the splendor of Creation, mourn its desecration, and advocate for restoration and renewal.


We will call upon the Holy Spirit as we rise up to stabilize the climate and to create a better future. Churches will have an opportunity to participate in an informational fair about their environmental ministries.

A project of New England Regional Environmental Ministries, a cooperative effort of the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal Church.

www.macucc.org/climaterevival
www.province1.org

 #climaterevival



Share the event via Facebook.
 Scan code or go to:
on.fb.me/VnmKuH



Schedule:

10:00 a.m.: Old South Church, UCC

11:30 am: Lunch (bring your own), info fair, press conference

1:15 pm: Trinity Church, Episcopal

3:00 pm: Climate Justice Rally organized by Better Future Project & the Earth Stewards program

All Maine Gathering inspired by Rufus Jones - May 4

South China Community Church, 246 Village Street, South China, ME 04358

Directions: From Augusta, follow Route 3 East. Once you are in South China, turn left off Route 3 on Village Street just before Border Trust. Follow the road to the right approximately one half mile, the church will be on your left, across from the South China Library. <http://www.southchinacommunitychurch.org/index.html>

This year's gathering commemorates 150th anniversary of Rufus Jones' birth. Considering 'Right Relationships' (e.g. Woolman) in local, regional and global communities. All Maine meetings are urged to attend - and try to carpool. Child Care and Youth Programming MAY be available contact Mark Rains for more information and to request services 293-3967, rains@prexar.com

8:45 Beverages, goodies

9:15 Welcome to AMG and home meeting of Rufus Jones ministry in Maine

9:30-10:30 Meeting for Worship

10:40 'Café' Program: "What if Friends had a booth at the Common Ground Country Fair?" Friends can discuss what this would look like, and we will also have opportunities hear from Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy, the AFSC Wabenaki Project, Camden Conference & Midcoast Peace Center, friends involved with the Ramallah School and Kakamega orphanage project, and to watch the Rufus Jones video "A Luminous Life."

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Worship sharing and affirmation of gathering together

2:15-3:30 Separate FQM and VQM quarterly meetings for worship with concern for business (Falmouth Quarter concerns: State of Society Reports, Memorial Minutes, Planning for July meeting and revitalization of Falmouth Quarter Ministry & Counsel)

And later that same day...

Bean Supper, Windham Friends Meeting, Windham, ME, 5 pm to 6:30 pm. This is a fund raiser for the Meeting and the food pantry.

Durham Friends Meeting potluck 5:30 p.m., with program following.

Peacemaking after Deadly Conflict - May 28 Healing and Reconciliation in Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya

7:00 PM Tuesday, May 28, 2013

First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland, ME

David Zarembka, Coordinator, African Great Lakes Initiative - Friends Peace Teams

Sponsors: Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church, First Parish in Portland, Unitarian Universalist, & Portland Friends Meeting

This event is free and open to the public.

Are revenge, hatred, and another round of violence the only possibilities after deadly conflict? Can healing and reconciliation between enemies occur? This talk will describe how the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is used to bring all sides of a conflict back together. From the AVP program the Rwandans and Burundians have developed another program, Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC), to deal specifically with personal and community trauma. This program, together with listening workshops, mediation, and inter-community dialogue will also be described. What are the difficulties? How successful are they? Can they be used elsewhere? These programs are all supported by the African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams.



Short Biography David Zarembka graduated with a Bachelors Degree *cum laude* in African History from Harvard University and obtained a Masters degree in International and Development Education from the University of Pittsburgh. He has forty-five years of involvement in the Great Lakes region as he first worked in the area in 1964 when he taught Rwandan refugees in what is now Tanzania. Since 1998, he has been the Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams, a Quaker organization that promotes peacemaking activities will local groups in the region. He currently lives in Kenya with his wife Gladys Kamonya. He is the author of *A Peace of Africa* which was published in 2012.



QuakerSpring: Experiencing the Inward Christ Together

Woolman Hill
Deerfield MA
June 21-26, 2013

Our program will be shaped by God's leading
as the week unfolds.

Each day will include:

BIBLE STUDY

WORSHIP

QUIET TIME

EVENING EXPLORATIONS

FELLOWSHIP



"The intent of all speaking [in meeting for worship] is to bring into the Life, and to walk in, and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy [that Life], and to feel God's presence, and that is in the silence, (not the wandering whirling tempestuous part of man or woman)... There is the flock lying down at noon-day, and the feeding of the bread of life, and drinking of the springs of life, when they do not speak words. For words declared are to bring people to [the Life] and [are for] confessing God's goodness and love, as they are moved by the eternal God and his spirit...."

—from *The Works of George Fox*

(Volume IV n.174. Philadelphia: Marcus T.C.Gould. 1831)

Welcoming to Friends of all Branches

Fees by freewill offering (no one should stay away because of limited means)

Children's program/childcare available by advanced request. Deadline June 1st

To learn more and to register go to: www.quakerspring.org

Contact planning group at quakerspring@gmail.com

(or c/o Deborah Haines, 2794 Fort Scott Drive, Arlington VA 22202 703-706-8176.)

Planning group includes Deborah Haines (Baltimore YM), Ann Armstrong, Noah Baker-Merrill, Peter Blood-Patterson & Susan Zeichner (New England YM), Kristin Olsen-Kennedy (North Carolina YM – Conservative),

Susan Bailey, Micah Bales & Susan Smith (Ohio YM), and Ellen Deacon (Philadelphia YM)

in cooperation with the Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting



An opportunity to join with Alternatives to Violence Project Maine

After being interested for some time, I found myself in a position to respond to Tracy Booth's appeal in the newsletter last year to join in AVP's work. I just finished participating in my second workshop at Windham Correctional Center and I am completely humbled by the work. Every facilitator I have met has shared with me how meaningful the work has been in their own life and I am already experiencing that. In a weekend we experience a profound manifestation of the Quaker Testimonies of Community and Equality.

One aspect of AVP that really speaks to my heart is that "the process works by itself". "It has been said that any organization can prosper with great and charismatic leadership, but only a great organization can prosper with ordinary leadership. AVP seeks to develop great leaders, but is not dependent upon them." (From an AVP Manual)

Our Meeting has a number of current and former AVP volunteers and there is a cohort of other dedicated volunteers in Maine. Still, AVP could use more people. AVP is an all-volunteer organization that started in Greenhaven Prison in upstate New York in 1975 when inmates reached out to Quakers in the community to create a program to teach alternatives to violence. This evolved into a series of three experiential workshops, Basic, Advanced and Training for Trainers. Once you have completed the series you can apprentice to become a facilitator; becoming a facilitator is available to all participants. Now international, AVP workshops are offered in jails, prisons, the community and schools. AVP has been part of Peace and Reconciliation processes in Africa and South America. Although Quakers were integral in the origins of AVP it is not a Quaker or faith based organization.

The workshops currently being offered in Maine happen largely on the weekends at Windham Correctional Center with both women and men (separate workshops for each gender). If this interests you and your life has room for it consider if you are lead to be a part of this work. The AVP-USA Website has a link to a 12 minute film "When You Hear Violence" which will give you a very good idea of what AVP is all about. I would be happy to talk with anyone about my beginning journey in this work. Feel free to call or email me if you are interested or visit the AVP-Maine Web Page.

--Margie Schoeller, (207) 838-1342, mjschoel@yahoo.com

Ministry & Counsel Corner

Why do we have First Day School instead of Sunday School?

When I first started attending Quaker Meeting, I was *mightily* confused by terms like First Day School and Third Sunday. I have since learned that early in their history, around 1752, Quakers adopted the Puritan "plain calendar". This calendar denotes the months by number (First Month, Second Month), and days of the week by number. Therefore, any Sunday is a First Day, and to identify one Sunday of the month from another, could be referred to as the First Sunday or the Second Sunday of any given month.

In the Julian and Gregorian calendars, there were months and days named for pagan gods, such as Roman gods Janus for January and Aphrodite for April, and the Norse god Wodan (Odin) for Wednesday and the Roman Saturn for Saturday. Early Friends strongly objected to this use of pagan names, and adopted a numerical system instead.

These days, the use of the plain calendar has lessened in Quaker circles as we have become less concerned about the potential "ungodly" ramifications of calling the months and days by their traditional names. However, the practice persists, as demonstrated by our having First Day School instead of Sunday School.

More Quaker history can be found in many books and pamphlets in our library. Howard Brinton's *Friends for 300 Years* (or updated edition *Friends for 350 Years*) is an authoritative work. Brinton's Pendle Hill pamphlet "How They Became Friends" is a short primer of Quaker history with reflections on Friends in the United States. Take a look!

Stephanie Richards

Summer worship changes?

Ministry and Counsel is considering whether to have worship in the summer be at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck supper, or in the morning (perhaps followed by a potluck lunch). If you have feelings about when to hold worship in the summer, please contact Lyn Ballou (838-6717) or Stephanie Richards (829-4082) or any other member of the committee.

Respect for Other Ways of Doing Things

Arla Patch researched and wrote this essay to send to state and federal representatives.

The Passamaquoddy are being accused of putting glass eels in danger by their harvest. Last year the Passamaquoddy harvested a total of 800 lbs. and the state total was 19,000 lbs.

Everyone in Maine *does* need to be concerned about overfishing the elvers and having them depleted like the sea urchins were. Right now a biologist tells me we don't really know what a safe limit is. The key point is that both the state and the Passamaquoddy tribal citizens want the elver fishery to be sustained.



Uwe Kils, Wikimedia Commons

Passamaquoddy practices are based in conservation. They limit total harvest. But by issuing many licenses, more Passamaquoddy people can benefit from the fishery. (reservation unemployment is 67%) The non-native approach is to limit the licenses and equipment, but not limit the total harvest – a smaller group of people get to make more income.

Which method is more sustainable? Which method benefits more people?

We also can't consider this complex situation without looking at context and history. We came, we infected, we took, and killed, until the original inhabitants of this land experienced a 96% population depletion since first contact. Our assimilation policies have created the most socio-economically distressed peoples in the US and Canada. We need to carry that truth in our consideration of how to relate to Wabanaki people, not out of guilt but out of fairness.

Our agreements and treaties also matter. In the landmark Boldt decision (1974, Washington State) the judge declared that Indians were entitled to 50% of the fish that came to "usual and accustomed places." The overall ruling was that the tribes could manage their own fisheries. It was upheld by the US Supreme Court in 1979. The Passamaquoddy are agreeing to limit their catch this year to 3600 pounds. Why not have the non-native catch limited to the same amount? Surely equal limitations on the overall catch would protect the elver population.

By the state not allowing the Passamaquoddy to harvest as they see fit, it is denying court decisions, treaties and Passamaquoddy sovereignty *and* it ignores environmentally sound fishing practices. Sovereignty means that these indigenous peoples are a recognized nation within the United States and have the right to self-governance. There is more than one way to protect the elver population. Why don't we start by working *with* the tribes, coming up with best practices together instead of taking away rights they've had, and then blaming and arresting them. The Passamaquoddy were fishing in these waters for thousands of years before we showed up.

In 1998 Gov. Angus King signed a measure awarding the tribe special licensing provisions for lobster, elvers and several other saltwater species. Last month the legislature removed that Passamaquoddy exception. Did the state change the laws on the catch and tightly restrict the Passamaquoddy because the price of elvers has sky rocketed? It now brings in \$2000+ a pound. If they were truly concerned about the elver population, why didn't they meet with the Passamaquoddy and create a plan together? Crafting sustainable fishing strategies for the elvers deserves the wisdom of Native peoples as well as state biologists.

Does the state only respect native sovereignty as long as they are quiet and poor? But once native peoples claim their resources, we no longer respect their sovereignty?

Why doesn't the state adopt the Passamaquoddy total catch policy?

This is a treaty the colonialists made with New England native peoples in 1693:

"Saving unto the said Indians their own grounds, and free liberty for hunting, fishing, fowling, and all other their lawful liberties and privileges as on the eleventh day of August, in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and ninety-three."

Arguably these treaties refer to vast quantities of coastal land where the Tribes were without contact living "unmolested" on the land. I can find no Treaty where any Wabanaki Tribe ever abrogated these Aboriginal rights. It doesn't matter that these treaties were signed a long time ago. This is the foundation we stand on today. The very least the state and federal government could have done, with respect, in a nation to nation relationship, is sit down with the Passamaquoddy tribal leaders, look at the problem of elver depletion and together come up with best practices that serve aboriginal rights, state's interests, and protect the fishery. Ignoring native practices and rights, creating a flawed law and then arresting Passamaquoddy fisherman isn't our best moment.

Arla Patch

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

Address Service Requested



Please recycle this newsletter.

.....

Notices

Save the date for the Portland Friends Meeting retreat:

October 5-6

Want to be on the retreat planning committee? Contact Lyn Ballou.

Kitchen requests

It was noted at the midyear gathering that the kitchen needs a few items. If you can donate these, please call Liz Maier, 883-5420

- Two 20 quart soup pots
- Two broiler pans
- About 20 teaspoons
- About 20 good dinner plates (any pattern)

Welcome Hannah!

Christine and Rich have had their baby, a girl named Hannah. Congratulations!

Caregiver job opening

Good pay, 20 hours/week, weekdays roughly 10 AM - 2 PM (with some fluctuations), good company and conversation. Position is open now. Much needed: a caring, intuitive person with good interpersonal skills to provide assistance and support for an individual with MS (Multiple Sclerosis). Tasks include driving person for errands & appointments, some light cooking & housecleaning, supporting healthy nutrition and habits. Must have own vehicle; reimbursed for all mileage on the job. The past two caregivers have been Quakers, and the family would love to have another. To learn more, please contact Jessica Eller (761-6508) or Tom Antonik (807-1442).

Intentional Quakers seek housemate

Leslie Manning and Kristna Evans are the vanguard of a group of New England Friends who are planning for a Quaker intentional community. They've taken the first step by renting a five-bedroom house in Bath, ME, and now they are looking for a Friend or friend of a Friend to share their home.

Large, beautiful bedroom with hardwood floors, four windows, and a view of the Kennebec River. Share bathroom, kitchen, dining room, living room, deck, and large yard with two Friends, plus visiting Friends at times. Dog and cat in residence. Rent is \$500/mo plus heat.

Questions about the room, the intentional community, or coming to visit: kristna@verizon.net, leslieam55@gmail.com, or 978-390-4607