

Portland Friends Newsletter

PAGE 1

SIXTH MONTH 2013

First Day schedule

Meeting for Worship

Sundays:

10:30am thru June 16
Summer sched. from June 23,
9am and 5pm
followed by potluck at 6:30pm

Visit our website

PortlandFriendsMeeting.org

Friends to contact

Co-Clerks

Anne Harwood 666-8179
Sarah Cushman 841-7186

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 780-0349
60 Shadagee Road, #2
Saco, ME 04072

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



"Mind that which is eternal, which gathers your hearts together up to the Lord, and lets you see that ye are written in one another's heart." — George Fox

Advices & Queries

5. No one human being or group has the full measure of the Light. Seek to understand the experience of those whose theology and practices differ from your own. Take opportunities to enter into prayer and work with the wider community of faith. Find ways to articulate your own faith so that it may be shared with others.

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

Upcoming Events

- Jun 14-16** Young Adult Friends retreat, Monadnock Meeting
June 15 **Pride Parade**, Monument Square, noon
Jun 21-26 Quaker Spring, Woolman Hill
June 23 **Summer worship schedule begins, 9am and 5pm**
June 28-30 Young Friends Seniors Retreat, Monadnock Meeting
July 6 Wedding Sarah Jane Eliot and Rita Clifford, 1pm (RSVP by Jun 15)
July 20 Wedding of Jennifer Frick & Peter Raszmann, 4:30pm
July 21 **Summer Meeting for Business, after potluck supper**
July 27 Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, "Sow it Forward," Durham
July 28 Meeting for Worship at Quaker Ridge, 10:30am, followed by picnic
Aug 3-8 New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
Oct 5-6 PFM Retreat: "Integrating Your Spiritual Life in the Wider Community"

Monthly Events:

- 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

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

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting

June 2, 2013

Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 19 members and attenders present, during which Co-Clerk Anne Harwood read the Advice No. 5 from the *NEYM Faith and Practice Preliminary Revised Advices and Queries*. It reads, "No one human being or group has the full measure of the Light. Seek to understand the experience of those whose theology and practices differ from your own. Take opportunities to enter into prayer and work with the wider community of faith. Find ways to articulate your own faith so that it may be shared with others."

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

2. Treasurer's Report. Sue Nelson reported for Treasurer Kathy Beach that we are five months or 42% into the budget year. Income for May was \$3,038 and expenses were \$7,284, so that we have a negative balance of \$-4,246 for the month. The Treasurer has paid for youth scholarships to Friends Camp, Yearly Meeting and other summer activities, and an amount toward the Yearly Meeting Equalization Fund.

Treasurer's report at a glance

(Note: correction to minutes received June 7 --Ed.)

Year-to-date expenses: \$25,566

Donations and income: \$20,064

Deficit: \$5,503

Lise Wagner read a moving letter from a parent indicating how important the youth scholarships are.

Friends were encouraged to contribute what they can in view of the deficit.

3. Ministry and Counsel, Stephanie Richards reported.

The Committee has found clear for membership Margie Schoeller, and for junior membership, her sons Jackson Schoeller Perkins and Nathaniel Schoeller Perkins. Friends warmly approved these memberships.

Ministry and Counsel is pleased to announce that the membership of Kirk Read has been transferred from Lewiston Friends Meeting to Portland Friends Meeting. We accepted the transfer with pleasure.

The summer Meeting for Business has been scheduled for July 21 following the potluck supper.

A question was raised about whether notices of weddings are getting to those who are not on the e-group. We will put notices of these in the newsletter and ask the Communications Committee to explore other ways to get the word out.

4. Review of Proposal to NEYM Regarding Disbursal of Legacy Funds.

Following discussion at May Meeting for Business, a group has worked on the issue of what if any recommendation we might want to make to Yearly Meeting concerning the approximately \$1.2 million gained from the sale of the New England Friends Home. Co-Clerk Anne Harwood reported for the group that a recommendation was sent to meet the May 15 deadline. It had been read at the rise of Meeting on May 12 and revised per suggestions at that time. A copy of the proposal was distributed and is attached to these minutes.

Highlights of the report include:

- a. Use some of these funds to incentivize giving to NEYM by individuals, foundations and granting organizations. One model might be to match a percentage of major gifts, another to make an incentive gift to NEYM from Legacy Funds when individuals name NEYM in their estate plans.
- b. Use a portion of the legacy money to transition NEYM to a solvent and sustainable financial basis.
- c. Use the largest portion of the legacy money to create a loan fund for capital projects following the model of the Friends Meetinghouse Fund. These loans could help programs like the Friends School of Portland and Friends Camp borrow funds at a good interest rate to acquire and pay for new land and build new buildings, while generating interest income for NEYM and ensuring return of capital to the Legacy Fund for other future loans. A loan of \$250,000 for the Friends School's new school was suggested.

Andy Grannell reported he has learned our proposal has already been received favorably at Yearly Meeting.

Friends accepted the report with appreciation.

Continued on next page

Minutes of Portland Friends Meeting, continued

5. Doctrine of Christian Discovery.

Margie Schoeller reported in regard to this doctrine derived from 15th century papal bulls and English charters to support colonization and slavery in areas outside Europe. We have been learning about this doctrine, its effects, and the current repudiation movement during Arla Patch's presentations on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and two Adult Education sessions. We are asked to make a recommendation to New England Yearly Meeting Sessions in August that it repudiate the doctrine. Margie distributed a draft minute to take to Sessions.

Friends raised questions about the history of this doctrine, particularly as it involved Quakers and suggested some clarifying points. Dorothy Grannell reported that rejecting the doctrine will be on the agenda of Yearly Meeting and that we could approve our recommendation at Meeting for Business in July. We decided we are ready now to approve repudiation of the doctrine. The minute, as revised, will be attached to these minutes.

6. Report From Library Committee. Karyl Silken reported.

The library committee continues to be thankful for generous donations of books from Meeting members. When donated books are duplicates of books we already have, they are set aside for other Monthly Meetings or for members to help themselves.

The donations of a computer and printer have made it much easier to keep current our library catalog, which is a printed listing of all the books in the library. It enables members and attenders to look up whether or not we have a certain book, and where in the library it is located. The committee is grateful to former Library Committee member Kristina MacCormick, who continues to catalog and enter into the computer new additions.

Four new books were recently purchased from Friends General Bookstore: *Truce* (a true story of a spontaneous Christmas truce between German and American soldiers during WWI); *Spiritually Healthy Divorce: Navigating Disruption with Insight and Hope*; *Where Should I Stand? A Field Guide for Meeting Clerks*; and *Share the Care: How to Organize a Group to Care for Someone who is Seriously Ill*.

A major addition to the library last October was the set of Archived Records of the Meeting for the years 1974-2011. A set of 18 Committee Resource Notebooks (a colorful set of labeled, 1.5-inch three ring binders) has been housed in the library on a prominent top shelf, so that questions about any Committee's previous work and decisions can be looked up. As a precaution, the contents of each of the 18 notebooks has been scanned, thus should any get permanently misplaced, then they can be readily replaced.

A set of four bound volumes of our Meeting's past Newsletters is also available. The Library Committee greatly appreciates the work of the Archives Committee that served from 2001 to 2012, with most work done last year by Andy Grannell.

Friends expressed thanks to the Committee for their work.

7. Gay Pride Parade, June 15, 2013

Muriel Allen asked whether the Meeting wishes to continue our participation in the parade this year, which carries a \$75 registration fee. Several Friends responded that they will participate and carry our banner. We approved with thankfulness. The parade will be announced at the rise of Meeting in coming weeks.

8. Positions filled. Friends were appointed as follows:

Representatives to Yearly Meeting: Sarah Cushman, Anne Payson, Margie Schoeller, Dorothy Grannell, Andy Grannell

NEYM Nominating Committee: No-one at this time

NEYM Ministry and Counsel: Brad Bussiere-Nichols and Tom Antonik

Representative to July 27 Quarterly Meeting (at Durham): Stephanie Richards, perhaps Jo Linder, Sam Solish and Tom Foote

9. Other Business. Dorothy Grannell has drafted guidelines to help those working during events at the Meetinghouse. It will be posted and she welcomes suggestions. We thanked her for this important work.

We closed in silent worship at 10:25 a.m. with 27 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again after the potluck supper on July 21, 2013, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

Attachments to the Minutes of Portland Friends Meeting

Proposal for the use of the NEYM Legacy Funds

Where is the life of the New England Yearly Meeting and how can the “Legacy” funds best sustain it?

Our experience at Portland Friends Meeting has shown us the value of strong youth programs in deepening the life of our meeting. Back in 1991, we decided to commit resources to our youth, budgeting for a paid youth religious education coordinator and volunteering our efforts to make our First Day School and child care programs strong. This effort breathed new life into our meeting, both in numbers and in energy. New families came and we share in the joy and energy they bring. Eight years ago members of our meeting started the Friends School of Portland, which has broadened us even further. Our investment in youth has brought vibrancy and life to our meeting and community.

It seems to us that a good use of the Legacy Funds is for NEYM to deepen its life through financial support for programs that provide youth development. But we in NEYM must also be good stewards. We feel strongly that these funds should be used as a catalyst, not to shore up an unsustainable budget, no matter how important the interest.

We should look toward what’s growing and alive, not sustain the moribund. If these funds absolutely must be used to pay for current inadequately funded programs, it should be only for a short, definite term, phasing the support out with the hope and expectation of balancing NEYM’s budget over time.

Creative thinking is necessary to use this money wisely to make NEYM’s budget sustainable and move in a new direction so that NEYM can be not just solvent but growing.

Therefore, Portland Friends Meeting proposes the following use of monies from NEYM’s Friends Home Legacy fund:

- Use some of these funds to incentivize giving to NEYM by individuals, foundations and granting organizations. One model might be to match a percentage of major gifts, another to make an incentive gift to NEYM from Legacy Funds when individuals name NEYM in their estate plans.
- Use a portion of the legacy money to transition NEYM to a solvent and sustainable financial basis.
- Use the largest portion of the legacy money to create a loan fund for capital projects following the model of the Friends Meetinghouse Fund. These loans could help programs like the Friends School of Portland and Friends Camp borrow funds at a good interest rate to acquire and pay for new land and build new buildings, while generating interest income for NEYM and ensuring return of capital to the Legacy Fund for other future loans. To expand on the circumstances of Friends School of Portland, the school (preschool through eighth grade) was founded in 2005, and now nurtures over 80 youth and their families in Quaker education and values. Families mention how their children flourish as students and as people. Many do not want to leave school at the end of the day! This past year one of the first graduates was admitted to SmithCollege. The School also offers numerous programs for the public, such as the Parenting for Peace speaker series, forums on education, and summer programs. FSP has come to be known for its community service, stewardship of Mackworth Island, and welcoming atmosphere for families of many backgrounds.

As it has steadily grown, the School has maintained fiscal solvency, solid teaching practices in the manner of Friends, and strong involvement with both Portland Monthly Meeting and the greater community. In recognition of these achievements, the school has received full accreditation, unusual in a school so newly established. Spurred on by the need to find new space when its lease ends in July 2015, the School recently purchased 21 acres nearby and completed a fundraising feasibility study. It has developed a detailed 5-year pro-forma business plan. In keeping with Quaker values, the school has designed and seeks to build a net-zero energy building that will become a critical piece of the school’s curriculum. The project budget is \$4.5 million. The campaign goal is \$2.67 million. To date it has received more than a million dollars, although the campaign’s quiet phase has only just begun. It will pursue a bank loan for the balance, but of course, the intent is that the amount borrowed and the interest costs be kept to a minimum. The School will be welcoming students to its new home in September 2015.

Portland Monthly Meeting proposes that out of the legacy loan fund Friends School of Portland be provided with a \$250,000 loan at 2% annual interest for five years, with a balloon payment due at the end of 5 years.

Continued on next page

Proposal for the use of the NEYM Legacy Funds, continued

The advantages of this loan would be the following:

NEYM will earn a better rate of return than if it were currently invested in a savings account, and as the loan is paid off, the repaid principal would be available for future worthy causes.

NEYM continues its testimony of serving youth, powerfully leveraging its loan, offering the experience of a Friends education to hundreds, if not thousands, of youth and families in the future.

The costs of the School's bank loan will be reduced, since that loan will be smaller, and interest will be reduced.

Such a loan could establish a spending precedent for NEYM in the future.

Through concrete commitment NEYM will amplify the dedication that the School enjoys from Portland Monthly Meeting, the Board, parents, teachers, and the greater community. This will influence donors and lenders and will deepen the resolve of the School's community.

Over many years, opportunities for New England families to learn about and practice Quaker values and testimonies will be ensured.

New facilities would be open to Friends for events that require greater space than currently available at the Meeting House such as NEYM Mid-Year Meeting and youth retreats.

Minute on Repudiation of the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (Approved by PFM June 2, 2013)

Portland Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends wish to join the groundswell of people of many faiths in repudiating the Doctrine of Christian Discovery. We find the existence of this Doctrine to be contrary to our Testimonies of Equality, Peace, Community and Integrity and inconsistent with our belief that there is that of God in all of us. The Doctrine's very existence and the history of its use as justification for genocide, enslavement, subjugation, appropriation of land and resources and war is a sorrowful, sorrowful fact.

Inherent in our belief is the recognition of our common humanity with every person on this earth and we stand as well in support of the 2007 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In considering this history, which includes the participation of early Quakers, we each also seek to understand our own place in a world in which the rights of indigenous and non-Christian people were and still are today being violated.

About the Doctrine of Christian Discovery

The Doctrine of Christian Discovery, or the Doctrine of Discovery, is a legal principle cited in the US as recently as 2005. It arises from a series of Papal Bulls in 1452, 1453 and 1493 as well as a 1496 charter given to John Cabot that served as justification for the African slave trade, murder or subjugation of non-Christian peoples and the appropriation of all "discovered" lands inhabited by non-Christian peoples as well as the resources those lands contained.

Further reading:

doctrineofdiscovery.org

New York Yearly Meeting web page

Newcomb, Steve, 1992, *Five Hundred Years of Injustice: The Legacy of Fifteenth Century Religious Prejudice*.

Rivera-Pagan, Luis N., 1991, "Cross Preceded Sword in 'Discovery' of the Americas," in *Yakima Nation Review*, October 4, 1991.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)



“Marry Me” at the Gay Pride March, June 15

On June 15 Portland Friends Meeting will be represented in the annual Gay Pride March in Portland. The parade line-up begins at 10:00 a.m. on Preble St. and the parade marches at noon. There will be a Festival at 1:00 in the Park.

The theme is: "Marry Me." A Mass Marriage Ceremony will be performed as well.

Ministry and Counsel Corner

What are “Spiritual Direction Groups”?

You may have heard Friends here talk about Spiritual Direction Groups. You might be interested in exploring joining one. Here’s a short history and description of them at Portland Friends Meeting.

When Cathy Whitmire came to this Meeting from Cambridge Meeting in the 1990s, one of the many gifts she offered was the idea of small spiritual journey groups using a protocol from the Shalem Institute in Washington, D.C. Usually groups consist of 4 to 5 people, meeting once a month. At meetings, the group follows the protocol, which layers shared group meditation with individual leadings from the silence, holding individuals in the light, and responding to the leadings. Different groups have evolved different customs about how frequently they meet and how strictly they follow the protocol. All adhere to rules of confidentiality.

Ministry and Counsel has been aware of the groups and facilitated their formation. In particular, Kate Potter faithfully kept track of the groups until recently.

Over the years there have been about a half dozen groups. Sometimes groups have been laid down when members have passed on or been otherwise unable to continue. Two new groups formed within the past couple of years.

I have been a member of two different groups. The first one contained two dear people who are no longer on this earth. I used to think of us as the “decades”, since we had members in their 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s. While we were together, I travelled long distances on my spiritual journey. I learned so much from God and the others in the group. I was supported, even uplifted, during some very difficult personal challenges.

Unfortunately, the group had to disband. But fortunately I am now part of another group. In fact, as I write I think with pleasure of our get-together later today and the spiritual refreshment I know it will bring.

If you are interested in joining a group, speak to me, Lyn Ballou (865-3888 or 838-6717), or any member of Ministry and Counsel.



“In any time or place when prejudice, cruelty, and violence occur ... there’s a theme that runs through: “This person has a fixed identity, and they are *not like me*.” We can kill someone or we can be indifferent to the atrocities perpetrated on them because ‘they’re just hajis,’ or ‘they’re just women,’ or ‘they’re just gay.’ You can fill in the blank with any racial slur, any dehumanized label that’s ever been used for those we consider different.

“There’s a whole other way to look at one another -- and that is to try dropping our fixed ideas and get curious about the possibility that nothing and no one always remains the same. This starts, of course, with getting curious and dropping the limiting stories we’ve created about ourselves. Then we have to stay present with whatever is happening to us. What I find helpful is to think of whatever I am experiencing -- whether it’s sadness, anger, or worry; pleasure, joy, or delight -- as simply the dynamic, fluid energy of life as it is manifesting right now.”

-- Pema Chodron, *Taking the Leap: Freeing Ourselves from Old Habits and Fears*

Scrapbook, May 2013

Love Your Meetinghouse Day...
and a new member

Photos by Brad Bussiere-Nichols



Nathan Broaddus



Emily Silevinac and Dylan

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

Notre Dame Center, Alfred, ME

“Integrating Your Spiritual Life in the Wider Community”

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



Summer Schedule starts June 23

Meeting for Worship,
9am and 5pm
Potluck 6:30pm

Pendle Hill Guest Services job

Pendle Hill, a Quaker retreat and education center right outside of Philadelphia, is looking for a guest services manager.

<http://www.pendlehill.org/employment/350-guest-services-manager>