

# Portland Friends Newsletter

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Ninth Month 2013

## First Day schedule

### Meeting for Worship

Summer schedule:  
Sundays, 9am and 5pm  
followed by potluck at 6:30pm

### 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 391-6116  
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  
[mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com](mailto:mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com)



*I had to go do it...I think that is the real essence of a leading: you have to go do it...to the extent that it makes you laugh at yourself. I think if you can laugh about the amount of absurdity and the contradiction and the amount of passion that comes through, that to me is a sign of active spiritual life rather than misguided egotism. —John Calvi*

## Advices & Queries

10. Examine your leadings through a process of discernment to determine whether or not they are grounded in the Spirit. Test your discernment with your faith community.

11. Be alert to how 'way opens.' It may be revealed through a door closing.  
*(From revised Ch. 11, New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, preliminarily accepted)*

## Upcoming Events

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Sep 22</b>    | Earth & Spirit Equinox potluck picnic, noon                           |
| <b>Sep 28</b>    | United Society of Friends Women meeting, Durham                       |
| <b>Oct 4-6</b>   | Junior High YM Retreat, Framingham                                    |
| <b>Oct 4-6</b>   | Young Friends Retreat, Mt. Toby: "Creativity Around the World"        |
| <b>Oct 5-6</b>   | PFM Retreat: "Integrating Your Spiritual Life in the Wider Community" |
| <b>Oct 14</b>    | Kakamega fundraising day at Gelato Fiasco                             |
| <b>Oct 18-20</b> | Young Adult Friends Retreat, Framingham: "Radical Hospitality"        |
| <b>Oct 19</b>    | <i>Awakening the Dreamer</i> program                                  |

### Monthly Events:

- 2nd & 4th Sun:** Singing & Religious Ed. Adults 9am, singing 10am, youth 10:45am  
**2nd & 4th Wednesday:** House Worship in Bath, 7pm. Leslie Manning, 592-2659  
**2nd Saturday:** Youngish Adults Potluck, 5-8pm. Marnie Grumbach, 749-9666  
**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](mailto:abarnett@gmail.com)  
Phone: 523-0314

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

**Send address change**  
**details to Tony Scilipoti**  
[tscilipoti@maine.rr.com](mailto:tscilipoti@maine.rr.com)

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

# Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting

## September 8, 2013

Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 14 members and attenders present, during which Co-Clerk Anne Harwood read Advices #10 and #11, along with a quotation from John Calvi, from the Revised Advices and Queries. #10 reads: "Examine your leadings through a process of discernment to determine whether or not they are grounded in the Spirit. Test your discernment with your faith community." And #11: "Be alert to how 'way opens.' It may be revealed through a door closing."

### Treasurer's report at a glance

Year-to-date expenses: \$38,206  
Donations and income: \$31,363  
Deficit: \$6,844

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

2. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are eight months or two thirds into the budget year, and in good shape. Income for August was \$4,693, which included donations of \$3,690. Expenses were \$3,795 so that we have a positive balance of \$898 for the month. Due to higher expenses earlier in the year, with donations at 40% of our budget two-thirds of the way through the year, we have a negative year-to-date budget balance of \$-6,844. We are a little behind last year. Upcoming expenses of \$1,875 for line 18, the endowment replenishment, will be paid, and there are also pledges to four more organizations. Roof work, which has begun, will be paid out of the capital improvement fund, which is outside the operating budget. Kathy thanked us for earlier and more regular contributions and encouraged us to continue them. Friends accepted the report.

3. **Financial Oversight.** Kathy Beach reported that the Committee has been discussing the possibility of a loan to help Friends School of Portland in their expansion to a new site where they will build a new school. Although they are not yet ready to make a recommendation, Doug McCown presented an interim report on their thinking.

The concept is to loan money at a rate with a good yield for the Meeting such as 3 or 4 per cent, perhaps for five years. (We are currently earning 1 per cent on the funds which would be used.) Amounts from \$50,000 to \$100,000 have been mentioned. There would be risk of not being repaid in full. It would also involve the Meeting more in the life of the school.

What information would we need to have for a sound decision? Our own money appears to be prudently invested and we would risk only a small part of it. How well the school is raising money would be a question. Interest rates could go up, although there is no immediate prospect of that. We might also want the loan secured with a mortgage. Our involvement may help the school secure bank loans. There are questions of timing, but we do have room to let these issues season.

It was proposed to have a threshing session about these issues so that we could have wider participation in our decision. Friends welcomed this idea. We asked Financial Oversight Committee to consider these issues, gather further information, hone their recommendations, and schedule a threshing session with a representative from Friends School to explore a loan to the school.

4. **Ministry and Counsel,** Co-clerk Anne Harwood reported for the Committee.

Abby Reuscher 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.

5. **Events Committee** Dorothy Grannell noted that we have been through many wonderful events this year and thanked everyone for helping at weddings and memorial services. She has drafted guidelines about what to do and how the Meetinghouse kitchen works. She would like to have training sessions to help spread these tasks around and eventually staff a committee when Nominating Committee does its work in the late fall. Kathy Beach, Sandi Jensen, Jennifer Frick and Becky Steele volunteered to help put together a notebook and start this work. They will work with Nominating Committee to set up an Events Committee.

6. **Falmouth Quarterly Meeting.** Dorothy Grannell, Clerk of the Quarter, reported on the July 27 garden party at Durham Meeting. About 25 people held a lovely summer Meeting for Worship and business meeting.

On October 26 at Windham Friends Meeting, there will be an important business meeting where the Quarter hopes to appoint people from each meeting for 2 years to the Quarterly Meeting Committee on Ministry and Counsel. There is a need to support two very small Meetings, A Ministry and Counsel Committee is key since we have no clergy to do this work. There is also a policy issue about whether to change the Quarter's practice relating to recording gifts in the ministry.

If you are interested in serving on the Quarter's Ministry and Counsel Committee, please see Dorothy, the Clerks, or someone on Ministry and Counsel.

## ***Minutes, continued***

7. **New England Yearly Meeting.** Co-Clerk Sarah Cushman reported on her first Yearly Meeting. There were excellent sessions on early Quakers and the Bible by Michael Birkel, a professor from Earlham College. At Meeting for Business there was consideration of the Doctrine of Christian Discovery, the FUM personnel policy and priorities involved in agreeing on a budget. There will be materials for Meetings to review, such as further revisions to Faith and Practice, increased contributions to Yearly Meeting, and revisions to its structure. Sarah read a moving statement from Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns on the challenges to believing in peace and social justice in the current world. It will be published in the newsletter.

Friends were referred to the NEYM website to view speakers and read proposed revisions to Faith and Practice.

Next year's Yearly Meeting will be at Castleton College in Vermont.

### **8. Other Business**

Our next Meeting for Business falls on the retreat weekend, which gives us the possibility of having it at the retreat or delaying it a week. After discussion, it was decided to introduce the process of business meeting at the retreat but hold the October meeting on October 13.

Arthur Fink reported for Earth and Spirit Committee. They will sponsor a potluck at the rise of Meeting on the September 22.

We closed in silent worship at 10:23 a.m. with 26 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on October 13, 2013, God willing.

*Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk*

### **From the NEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee report, 2013**

During the silent Good Friday Witness for Peace, an event that has been held on Boston Common for over 50 years and is endorsed by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, one of our Committee heard a passer-by look at our signs and comment, "Peace, huh? You all can stand out here all year, but I'm telling you, there ain't going to be no peace." For many of us who have been at this for more than 30 years, that comment resonates. We have seen the 60's programs of the "War on Poverty" dismantled and a political climate of such disdain for the poor that no one now even suggests new programs to help alleviate poverty. In this new Gilded Age of extraordinary wealth for a tiny minority at the top, even middle- and working-class families are barely making it, one misfortune – a period of unemployment, an illness, a disabled child – away from financial ruin. We have observed every-increasing military budgets until the United States now spends as much on armaments and military force as the rest of the world combined. We have witnessed our country become engaged in a perpetual "War on Terror" that has no identifiable endpoint, and is pursued with increasing reckless and wanton violence on civilians, including women and children, under administrations of both political parties. It is hard not to conclude that "there ain't going to be no peace" and that social justice is "just a dream some of us had."

This is the position that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee finds itself in. We are, in fact, perhaps an anomaly in a spiritual life...if you truly believe we are in God's hands, what is our concern with the world about? Isn't it a lack of faith to believe that the world, God's perfect creation, needs changing? Yet we are moved by Mother Theresa's assertion about her own social actions in the midst of the unimaginable, unchanging poverty of Calcutta, "God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful." We hear in our hearts, Paul's words, "faith, hope, and love abide." And because we have been touched by Love we are called under holy obedience to faithful action, and we continue to act, to the best of our limited insight and abilities, because God has no other hands on earth but ours.

## Thank you from Margo Burnham

*Margo Burnham sent this note after Hal Burnham's memorial service in August.*

Thank you all and the many others who made Dad's memorial just perfect and simple for us to grapple with and pull together. You have been a part of my father's family, you and all before you at the Portland Friends Meeting, for his entire life. And you gave us strength and a loving space to remember him with others in his extensive community. What a gift for us to hear how other's treasured him and how he touched others deeply.

Please encourage anyone who may be interested to share a Hal memory with us, I think we yearn for those and would welcome them. One suggestion was to include an invitation in your next newsletter to email stories about Hal, and you can feel free to include my mother Phyllis' and my emails if you like ([pburnham77@hotmail.com](mailto:pburnham77@hotmail.com) and [margo\\_burnham@yahoo.com](mailto:margo_burnham@yahoo.com)), and we would forward to others in our family.

I hope Kenny, Finn and I can join you again soon at Meeting when we are back in town. It is a truly special place and we have the strongest desire that this particular Quaker community enjoy a long and thriving life!

Best wishes and much gratitude,

*Margo*

## Women's gathering in Durham - Sep 28

Fall Gathering of the United Society of Friends Women, New England

Durham Friends Meeting, September 28, 2013

Worship at 10am will be followed by program on USFW's International Triennial ("Take Courage"), delicious lunch, singing, business, and a pig roast for charity at 5:30 pm.

Overnight stay is possible Friday or Saturday. Contact Clarabel Marsteller, [clarabelm@yahoo.com](mailto:clarabelm@yahoo.com), 865-1017

## ★2013-2014 Young Friends Retreats (ages 14-18)★

Oct. 4-6 **Creativity Around the World** Mt. Toby Meeting, Leverett, MA

Nov. 15-17 **Sexuality & Relationships** Portland Meeting, ME

Dec. 27-30 **Leadings** Friendly Crossways, Harvard, MA

Feb. 14-16 **Healthy Body, Healthy Mind** Wellesley Meeting, MA

Mar. 28-30 **Let's Talk About Gender** Hartford Meeting, CT & location TBD

May 9-11 **Beyond Stereotypes: Exploring Self-Image** Westport Meeting, MA

*Nia Thomas, Young Friends and Young Adult Friends coordinator, [nia@neym.org](mailto:nia@neym.org), (617) 945-0373*

## Young Adult Friends Retreat - Oct. 18-20

To Young Adult Friends (18-35ish)! I hope that many of you can attend this autumn's **YAF retreat!**

**Theme?** "*Radical Inclusivity*" Back in the summer of 2012, YAFs formed a working group to explore what it would be mean for YAFs to be "radically inclusive". Since then, YAFs have been engaging in conversations about what deep and meaningful inclusion would really look like for our community. What steps are we needing to take to make our community inviting for a broader group of YAFs including YAFs from different backgrounds and YAFs with children? At this retreat, we'll continue this important conversations, plan for our winter retreat which will include young children, and put together care packages for new YAFs.

**When and where?** Friday October 18th at 7:00 PM until Sunday October 20th at noon, [Framingham Friends Meeting](#) in Framingham, Massachusetts.

More info: Nia Thomas, <[Nia@neym.org](mailto:Nia@neym.org)> or [\(617\) 945-0373](tel:6179450373).

# AWAKENING THE DREAMER, CHANGING THE DREAM



Where are we, at this moment, in our relation with our Earth?  
How did we get to this point?  
Where do we go from here?

We invite you to explore these important questions, as we present  
**AWAKENING THE DREAMER, CHANGING THE DREAM.**

*Committed to bringing about an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and  
spiritually fulfilling human presence on this planet.*

The Symposium is based upon a partnership that has developed between the Achuar people from the Amazon,  
and people from the industrialized world, who met them in Ecuador.

This exciting, timely presentation will bring you to the realization that we are at a moment in history when  
the **Eagle** – the symbol of the developed world that represents the best of the intellect and the mind – and  
the **Condor** – the bird that for indigenous people represents the best of wisdom and the heart – must come  
together to ensure the continued existence of humankind. We have much to learn from each other.

**Date:** October 19, 2013

**Time:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(arrive 9:45 for start time of 10a.m.)

**Place:** Portland Friends' Meeting

1847 Forest Ave. (between  
Hannaford and Tortilla Flat)

**Bring bag lunch, drinks provided**

**Pre-register:** [jfrick47@gmail.com](mailto:jfrick47@gmail.com), especially if you need child care



Please join us as we address these questions with brilliant, impactful videos and interactive exercises.  
You will have opportunities to add your own thoughts, raise your own questions, and to meet fellow humans  
who share your interests and concerns. We will make you aware of ways in which you can join in the fast-growing,  
powerful global movement to bring about positive change.  
You may find yourself in a state of what Paul Hawken calls "blessed unrest"!

# Friend's report from Wabanaki Confederacy Conference

*Shirley Hager, a member of Farmington (ME) Monthly Meeting, represented Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy as a guest at a recent gathering of native peoples. This is an excerpt from her report.*

Dear Friends,

As I think you know, this was only the second time in history that non-Natives have been invited to take part in the Wabanaki Confederacy Conference (last year being the first). This time, in order to bring greater purpose to our being there and to anticipate the numbers, it was asked that organizations that have been allies of the Wabanaki, such as FCMPP, send representatives. As this gathering was being held in New Brunswick, and there has been a tremendous amount of alliance work there particularly around environmental issues such as fracking, mining, etc., many of the non-Natives there were representatives of environmental organizations. I believe there were four Quakers present--myself, Marilyn and Harrison Roper of Houlton, and Penni Burrell from Nova Scotia. It was surprising, moving and humbling that throughout the long weekend (Thursday-Sunday) non-Natives were invited to participate in all of the ceremonies--an act of trust and good will that was certainly unanticipated on my part. We felt welcomed and included in every sense of the word. This was an historic occasion in which we were meeting, for the first time in many generations, in a lodge built according to ancient instructions that have been carefully protected and preserved and reintroduced back to this region. I felt a sense of awe throughout.

On Saturday, the allies met separately to create an alliance statement (attached) while Wabanaki participants met to consider their constitution. The statement I'm sharing with you contains some references that might need a bit of explanation, while also providing a backdrop to the funding request that is below. The current Canadian government is pursuing mineral and shale gas extraction at unprecedented rates while, at the same time, trying to strip First Nations peoples of all rights to be informed or have any say in what is happening in their communities. Protests, therefore, are springing up all over Canada--one most recently in the Native community of Elsipogtog.

The Wabanaki Environmental Legal Defense Fund has been established to support those being arrested in current protests in New Brunswick against mining and fracking interests. While the current activity is in New Brunswick, many Wabanaki and others from Maine are in support, and with the interest of Irving Corp. in mining and other extractive industries in Maine, as well as the possibility of the East-West Highway, those of us in Maine may well be impacted by these issues here at home soon. Contributions to the Wabanaki Environmental Legal Defense Fund may be made as follows: You can make an online donation at <http://wabanakilegaldefence.wordpress.com/donate/> or, you can mail a check to: Wabanaki Environmental Legal Defence Fund, 50 Maliseet Drive, Fredericton, NB E3A 2V9.

In the coming years, the Wabanaki Confederacy will undoubtedly meet in Maine at some point and issues raised will perhaps strike more of a chord with our FCMPP group as being closer to home, however, many Wabanaki from Maine were in attendance at this Conference and, as you know, the border is a U.S./Canadian concept only. I found it was enormously beneficial and educational to take part in the discussions even though I was not Canadian, and saw many connections with Maine.

There has been an important funding request from Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot lawyer and indigenous rights activist, to help fund trainings in non-violence for Wabanaki and allies currently engaged in resistance to shale gas exploration and mining activities in New Brunswick--trainings that are urgently needed before the protests there spill over into violence and those on both sides are injured. While the activities may not currently be taking place in Maine, many Maine Wabanaki, Sherri included, are trying to offer their assistance in many ways, and these trainings will be able to be replicated in many other places. I feel these trainings are something that Quakers might support even without understanding all of the issues around fracking and mineral extraction, since their intent is to *support the practice of non-violence in protests that are already occurring* and to support indigenous rights to "free, prior and informed consent" over what happens in their homeland.

Sherri is busily writing grant proposals to fund this training, but individual contributions in any amount are urgently needed and welcomed. You may make checks out to the Spirite Foundation (a 501c3 organization) with the following in the memo line: "Land Peace Foundation (or LPF) Training Event". Checks should be mailed to: Sherri Mitchell, 14 Rolling Thunder Drive, Indian Island, ME 04468. Thank you, Friends, for your consideration of this request.

Peace,

*Shirley*

## We need a newsletter editor!

I'm moving to The Other Portland, so PFM needs a new newsletter editor. I think that the editor is a kind of steward who holds a space for the PFM community to connect and share. You also get to know people throughout the meeting, and it's fun coming up with the design and article ideas.

The newsletter is a once-a-month job that entails going to business meeting, collecting submissions, doing the layout and posting on PFM's website. Not counting business meeting it takes me a few hours per issue, plus or minus depending on my ambitions. You need to be comfortable with computers to learn to do the layout and post to the website. --Anna Barnett

Interested? Contact Rob Levin of Nom Com, [rob@roblevin.net](mailto:rob@roblevin.net)

### ***Why do I give financially to Portland Friends Meeting?***

I have been asking myself this question of late, not because I have any hesitations about giving, but because I have been considering how I could best communicate the importance of such giving to other folks in Meeting.

A clear and tender answer came at our September Meeting for Business. During a report about NEYM Sessions, Sarah Cushman read a statement from NEYM Peace and Social Concerns to our gathering (see page 3). The statement reflected on the struggles and challenges that face our country and world. It focused attention to the lack of peace in our world, the financial plight of many in our country, and the flow of wealth to an increasingly small number of our citizens.

That report brought many of us to tears and yet it ended with the importance of keeping the faith, quoting Mother Theresa's assertion that "God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful."

In the comments that followed, Friends recognized the difficulties stated in the report but cited example after example of hope in this discouraging time. Such truth telling, such passion, such tenderness! And, yes, even hope.

This experience so beautifully illustrates why I am a Quaker and why I joyfully support our wonderful Meeting financially.

-- Rita Clifford

*You have been invited to meet  
The Friend.*

*No one can resist a Divine Invitation.  
That narrows down all our choices  
to just two:*

*We can come to God  
Dressed for dancing, or  
Be carried in on a stretcher  
to God's ward.*

*You don't have to act crazy anymore –  
We all know how good you were at  
that.*

*Now retire, dear one, from all the hard  
work of appearing,  
Of bringing pain to your sweet eyes  
and heart.*

*Look into a clear mountain mirror:  
See the beautiful, ancient Warrior of  
Truth*

*And the divine elements you always  
carried inside.*

*They infused this Universe with  
sacred Life*

*so long ago*

*And join you eternally with all that Is –  
With God!*

--Hafiz

### **Could you sponsor this newsletter?**

\$50 donated to our Meeting will buy paper and stamps for the newsletters that are sent out this month. Marion Lundgren and the communications committee donate their time to this endeavor. Please donate generously to our beloved Meeting!

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103

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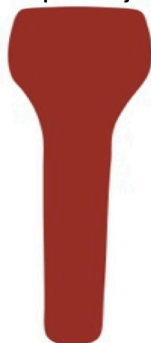


Please recycle this newsletter.



Help the Kakamega Orphan Project while enjoying a delicious Gelato from Gelato Fiasco (425 Fore St. Portland)

Scooping Gelato for the Kakamega Orphan Project



**MONDAY**  
**October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Columbus Day

**Scoop Gelato!!**  
at Gelato Fiasco to Benefit  
**FRIENDS OF KAKAMEGA**

Join us at the Gelato Fiasco store on Fore Street in the Old Port for a gelato fundraiser to benefit Friends of Kakamega: an orphan project in Kakamega, Kenya. Simply mention Friends of Kakamega at the store, or show the *Red Spoon* above and 100% of your money will be donated to Friends of Kakamega!

Please Invite Your Friends

To learn more about our organization, please visit <http://www.friendsokakamega.org/>

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.

Support a documentary on Quakers

This Kickstarter campaign is raising money to produce a television documentary called *Quakers: The Quiet Revolutionaries*. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/gardnerdocgroup/quakers-the-quiet-revolutionaries>

Online Quaker Studies courses - starting Sep 28

[A Quaker reads Thomas Merton](#) and [Reading Isaac Penington](#): more at <http://www.bhfh.org/qsp/QsplIndex.html>