

Portland Friends Newsletter

Page 1

Tenth 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

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



The success of our campaign has been mathematically proportional to the purity of our efforts. —Gandhi

Advices & Queries

11. What calls us into a Religious Society? Do we grow together in faithfulness?

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

Upcoming Events

- Oct 23** "Beyond Zionism" conference, USM, 6-9pm
Oct 26 Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, Windham
Oct 27 **Love Your Meetinghouse Day**, noon
Oct 27 "Learning Resiliency from Nature", Friends School, 4:30pm
Nov 1 Maine Council of Churches prayer for civil discourse
Nov 2 Friends School of Portland open house, 10am-12pm

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.

New editor!

Newsletter Contributions

Email items
to Heather Denkmire
heather@grantwinners.com
Phone: 590-8540

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!

Portland Friends Meeting for Business

October 13, 2013

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 36 members and attenders present, during which Co-Clerk Sarah Cushman read Query #11 from the *NEYM Faith and Practice Preliminary Revised Advices and Queries*, "What calls us into a Religious Society? Do we grow together in faithfulness?"

2. Minutes of September 8, 2013 Meeting for Business. These were accepted with no revisions.

3. Treasurer's Report - Kathy Beach. Donations for September were \$3543 for a total income of \$4546. Expenses were \$6052. The endowment replenishment has not been paid since February but will be paid in October to the tune of \$3750. It's been a busy check-writing month, with the last of the window replacements being finished and the roof project completed. The theme of spending more than we bring in continues, with hopefully our usual end-of-year rally to come in the next 2 months so that we end the year in good balance. Our income YTD is \$35,909 and our expenses YTD are \$44,258, leaving us with a negative balance of (\$8,349). We were a little better off last year at this point. The Treasurer's Report was approved. A comment was made that this would be an excellent time to send in any donation.

Treasurer's report at a glance

Year-to-date expenses: \$44,008

Donations and income: \$35,909

Deficit: \$8,349

4. Buildings and Grounds Report. Syl Doughty described the 2013 Work Agenda.

- a. Tree trimming was coordinated by Tracy Booth - Several tree branches overhanging the roof were removed to clear the way for the new roofing and reduce debris falling on the roof.
- b. Window restoration was coordinated by Syl Doughty - The last of the old windows were restored and weatherstripping installed. Remaining are two small attic windows and one upper lobby window that can be restored in the future.
- c. New roofing was coordinated by Syl Doughty - the existing roofing was installed without adequate ventilation and began failing after less than 17 years. New roofing with ridge ventilation was installed which should have a minimum life of about 35 years.
- d. Floor cleaning was coordinated by Liz Maier - The basement floors were stripped and refinished, and the main floor carpets were cleaned.
- e. Elevator inspection was coordinated by Karin Wagner - The stair travel lift has been inspected and relicensed by the state inspector.
- f. Fire extinguisher inspection was coordinated by James Grumbach - The fire extinguishers were inspected and retagged.
- g. Love your meetinghouse day will be 27th October at rise of meeting.

Friends expressed great gratitude for the work of the Buildings and Grounds committee.

5. Nominating Committee. Chris Beach reported for Nominating Committee. Heather Denkmire has volunteered to be our new newsletter editor. She has previous experience with newsletters, but is currently working with Anna Barnett to learn our practice. Friends approved this with thanks and appreciation, and with gratitude and a wish of God-speed to Anna Barnett, who is moving to Portland, Oregon.

6. Ministry and Counsel Committee. Stephanie Richards reported that the Committee continues to be busy, and they are grateful for this.

- a. Clearness Committees continue to be formed. This is wonderful work, as we feel it reflects the life and vibrancy of our Meeting.
- b. The Committee continues to work on the Memorial Minute for Hal Burnham.
- c. Welcome and Information events for new members and attenders. New England Yearly Meeting has designated October as Welcoming Month. In that spirit, we held a celebration on September's 5th Sunday to welcome our newest Meeting members. Also, in the coming months our Co-Clerks will be hosting Simple Meals after rise of Meeting in an effort to increase conversation and questions about Quakerism from old and new Friends. Topics will vary, and more information will be available soon. Finally, anyone interested in learning more about Friends, our Meeting, and/or membership is welcome to speak to any member of Ministry and Counsel.

Meeting for Business, October 13, 2013, *continued*

7. Event Planning Committee. Dorothy Grannell reported that the planning group has a draft of guidelines for the forthcoming Committee. There will be a training for the practical management of events held at the meeting house for anybody who is planning such a thing. They have discussed creating a badge for people with training to wear during an event so that practical questions can be easily resolved. The training will be open to anyone who wants to know how the meeting house works, regardless of whether they want to become a volunteer or not. The Sunday before Thanksgiving may be the best day to do this training but the date remains to be co-ordinated with other groups needing to use the meeting house. It was commented that a recent event at Durham Meeting House had raised concerns about the impact of persons with contagious health conditions involved in food preparation. This will be considered for training purposes by the planning group. It was suggested that a simple booklet should be made available to cover items in the training to supplement the work of the trained people. The hope is that sufficient people will undergo training to have a full understanding of the working of various parts of the meeting house. Emphasis on personal hygiene should be part of the training for anybody involved in food preparation.

8. Youngish Adults Potluck. Jock Carter, the co-ordinator of the group, reported about the Youngish Adults Potluck group to explain their activities. They are a group at a certain stage of life who normally get together in each other's homes on the second Saturday of the month to share dinner and social events and fellowship and build relationships and a better sense of community among themselves. They also have worship sharing. They feel this adds to the spiritual life of the meeting and builds friendship with both a small and a capital F. They would like to extend this sense of fellowship to younger members of the meetings in the future. They welcome anybody who wants to turn up with a dish to share. Thanks were expressed to Jock and to Marnie Grumbach for their work on this.

9. Peace & Social Concerns Committee. Minute from Northwest Quarter on Gun Violence. Jennifer Frick read this minute, which can be found below these minutes in the newsletter. The minute has been circulated around monthly meetings for discussion and possible revision and forwarding to NEYM in August 2014. However, the minute also asks for commitment to the cause of reducing gun violence. Talking to the legislators was suggested. It was also suggested that we ask somebody who uses weapons on a regular basis to talk to us to educate us on the other side of the issue. Lesley Manning was suggested as a person who could help us organize a threshing session or a forum. Concerns about dealing with mental health issues should be considered. The statement is one of principle that we are asked to commit to. Peace and Social Concerns was asked to continue to consider and discern the next step if any, and its own role in it, and make recommendations to the meeting, whether this be a simple endorsement or a more full educative process, and whether it should be part of a wider discussion about violence in American society. Adult Education may also wish to consider this.

10. Falmouth Quarter - Dorothy Grannell reported.

- a. Representatives to Falmouth Quarterly Meeting on October 26 – Marlee Turner and Andy Grannell volunteered for this.
- b. Representatives to Falmouth Quarter Ministry & Counsel. Andy Grannell and Marlee Turner volunteered to be part of the conversation around this. Ministry and Counsel of PFM will talk to them and discern any other possibility.

We closed in silent worship, purposing to meet again on November 3, 2013, God willing.

Jenny Doughty, Co-Recording Clerk



PFM Retreat report: A new place, and no rain

On October 5th and 6th 30 Portland Friends Meeting folk gathered for a Retreat. We visited a new place (at least to many) — the Notre Dame Spiritual Center in Alfred. Now run by Brothers of Christian Instruction, it was formerly a Shaker Village and thoughts of these Sisters & Brothers of ours popped up at various times throughout the weekend. We sang “Simple Gifts”. Many of us visited the Shaker Museum and graveyard during our free time. Were we channeling them when we wished for more children among us?

We found the facility to meet nearly all of our needs and the Christian Brothers to be most helpful and accommodating. The Spiritual Center has a large meeting room, a second gathering spot that came to be known as the “comfy couch room” and a kitchen table to gather around for early morning coffee and later in the day snacks and board games. We especially liked the proximity to Portland that allowed some folks to join us for activities during the day and return to their homes at night. The ride to Alfred afforded a lovely fall foliage tour.

The queries used in small groups (these groups are always mentioned in evaluations as the best part of any retreat!) centered around how we might remain true to our Quaker testimonies as we travel in the wider world and how we might bring some of our Quaker ideas of process to other groups to which we belong.

As always the Talent Show was a big hit! Sara Jane & Rita played show tunes on clarinet and saxophone respectively. There was the ever-popular Taco Bell Canon and a marvelous machine was created with Al Norton and his wheelchair serving as the engine. Cedar and Rob Levin were given the Academy Award for multiple acts including Father /Daughter push-ups and a new verse to All God’s Critters celebrating Cedar’s pet hamster.

Best of all there was no rain until we were readying to go home.

Muriel Allen

Ministry and Counsel Corner

Meetings and membership

Not surprisingly, early Quakers had no such thing as formal membership. They met in each other’s homes, bound only by their common belief that God and Christ were a presence in their daily lives. As groups grew, they developed standards for membership, but these standards all begin with the understanding that we start with that of God in each of us and endeavor to live our lives in keeping with the spirit of Christ.

As New England Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* puts it, “Membership may be thought of, therefore, not as a bestowal of a gift by a group, but rather as a mutual recognition by applicant and meeting that they are joined in their commitment to that way of life.”

So, it is really all about commitment. Are you ready to commit yourself to listening for the spirit, to following your leadings, to sharing them with the rest of us, to doing your part to sustain our spiritual community? If so, will you enter into a covenant with Portland Friends Meeting to do so?

If you are ready, or think you might, be, you can explore membership by looking at membership packets in the library. You can talk to the Clerks, or a member of the Ministry and Counsel Committee, or any member of the Meeting.

You might ask, “Will someone be inviting me to do that?” Sometimes that does happen, but most likely, you will feel the time is right and begin the membership process yourself.

You might have other questions:-- Is there a financial obligation? Or an obligation to attend Meeting for Business? We all, attenders and members, need to support our community financially as best we can. We all should try to attend Meeting for Business from time to time. But membership does not impose a specific monetary amount or other duties. All are simply asked to do what we can to support our community.

Quakers are famous for their thoughtful process. We like to let ideas “season” before we come together on a decision. So too, you may find that you are still letting your own feelings about your spiritual life and your life in this community evolve over some time. Or you may feel that has happened, and you are ready to explore more commitment. We will be happy to welcome you to membership when you are ready.



&



present

TREE OF LIFE CONFERENCE- PORTLAND

Beyond Zionism: Jewish and Palestinian Voices *Resisting Injustice, Pursuing Peace*

Wednesday, October 23rd

6:00-9:00 PM

Hannaford Auditorium, Abromson Center
University of Southern Maine
Portland, ME

\$10 in advance

\$15 at the door*

*Advanced tickets can be purchased until October 20th at www.tolef.org or send check payable to TOLEF to R. Schaible, 136 Callahan Rd, Buxton, ME 04093.

6:00 Reception Book signing, sales of Palestinian olive oil, condiments and pottery, light refreshments, and live music with **Syrian qunan**

6:45-9:00 Speakers and Performance

Miko Peled served in an IDF Special Forces Unit, is the son of an Israeli military hero and grandson of a Zionist leader and signer of Israel's Declaration of Independence. In 1997, his beloved niece Smadar was killed by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem. That tragedy propelled Peled on a journey of discovery and transformation.

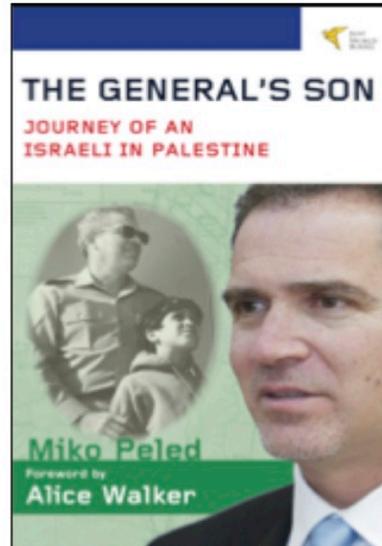


Jane Sami Hilal is Director of the Water and Environment Research Unit at the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem. She will talk about life under occupation, including daily battles with Israel over the Palestinians' right to water and what is required to have a viable Palestinian state.



Bridges of Hope Performers

Tamer Al-Sahouri (oud); **Cristina Awad**, (vocals); and **John Sababa**, (percussion) have toured across the Middle East and in Europe as ambassadors of Palestinian rights.



"There are few books on the Israel/Palestine issue that seem as hopeful to me as this one."

--Alice Walker

Co-sponsors: American Jews for a Just Peace-Boston ~ CHIME ~ Greater Brunswick PeaceWorks ~ Jewish Voice for Peace-Boston ~ Maine United Nations Association ~ Middle East Children's Alliance ~ NAACP-Maine ~ Pax Christi-Maine ~ Peace Action Maine ~ USM/Department of History & Political Science ~ USM/Department of Criminology & Sociology **FMI:** www.mvprights.org / 207-239-8060



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

Apply for Quaker Youth Pilgrimage by December 1

Deadline for application for Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2014 to Peru and Bolivia: December 1, 2013. Sign up online at www.fwccamericas.org. If you are between 16 and 18, check out this opportunity – *be careful, it might just change your life!*

FWCC: From one annual meeting to four regional consultations

For the first time, the Friends World Committee for Consultation is replacing its annual meeting with an opportunity for any Friend to participate in worship, study and service with Friends from across the Section of the Americas.

Four consultations will be held throughout North and South America from February to April 2014, continuing the theme from the 6th World Conference, *“Let the Living Waters Flow, Friends Serving God’s Purposes.”*

At each location, Friends are invited to participate in one of four workshops and to bring skills and discernments back to their meetings to share in building bridges across the Society of Friends and opening communication within and among our meetings.

Workshops: Conflict Transformation, Cross Cultural Communication, Quaker Leadership for the 21st Century, The Kabarak Call and Quaker Service, The Lives of Early Friends (Latin American sites).

- **February 21-23 in San Ignacio, El Salvador**
- **March 14-16 in Sacramento, California**
- **March 28-30 in La Paz, Bolivia**
- **April 11-13 in High Point, North Carolina**

Space at each site is limited to 120 participants. **Registration begins in November:** www.fwccamericas.org

Friends School Family Open House - Nov 2

Saturday, November 2, 10:00am-12 noon: Take a tour of our school, led by a student ambassador. Spend time in the classrooms with the teachers, and meet current families. For parents, prospective students, and siblings. To RSVP, please call 781-6321 or email jen@friendsschoolofportland.org.

Learning Resiliency from Nature

Friends School of Portland - Oct 27

Ecologist Tom Wessels will speak on Sunday, October 27 at 4:30pm, Carter Hall at Friends School of Portland. For 3.8 billion years life on this planet has not only sustained itself; it has thrived. The very foundation of that success rests in the principle of self-organization. To create resilient, stable, human systems--whether an economy, organization, business, or family--we do not need to reinvent the wheel. We need only to follow the path that nature has charted.

This presentation, which Tom titles *Self-organization: The Key to Resiliency*, will demonstrate how self-organization works in natural systems as a template to create healthy, sustainable, human systems. We're proud to have this dynamic teacher, writer and speaker here, connecting Friends School of Portland's sustainability efforts with cutting-edge thinking.

Jen McNally



Love Your Meetinghouse Day is Sunday, Oct. 27 at noon

Please join fellow friends with rakes, brooms and buckets to assist in our biennial cleaning of the Meeting House from 12:30-3:00. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy before the festivities begin.



Prayer on Civil Discourse - Nov 1

On November 1 the Maine Council of Churches will be holding a day of prayer on civil discourse for the election. MCC invites congregations across Maine to participate in a public prayer service to promote civil discourse and prayerful discernment in public life the weekend before Election Day. For more information, please contact: info@mainecouncilofchurches.org or call 207 772-1918.

From the calendar coordinator... Scrub-a-Dub!

Please notice that our meetinghouse use calendar has been "scrubbed" as of 10/1/13. It now reflects only those events/uses which I have been made aware of. Many repeating entries from past months and years have been deleted, due to my sneaking suspicion that they are out of date.

Our beautiful, peaceful meetinghouse is available for our use for events & activities related to the life of the meeting, and available for rent for other uses. If you use, or wish to use, space for a committee meeting, Spiritual Direction Group, social gathering, meeting-related event, etc., please:

- A) Check space availability on the online the calendar (www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org) first, and then
- B) Contact me re.your desired space/time details (jmmaine@aol.com).

Don't miss out!! The calendar is updated as scheduling requests are made. Please schedule your use well in advance of a need.

With thanks, Jane Mullen, 761-5856

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

Address Service Requested



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