

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

November 2013

**Meeting for Worship:** Sundays, 10:30a

**First Day School:** 2nd and 4th Sundays, 10:45a

## Connections

### 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 Religious Education 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)

### Newsletter

electronic submissions

Heather Denkmire

[pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net)

postal mail submissions

Liz Maier

274 Black Point Rd.

Scarborough, ME 04074

address change details

Tony Scilipoti

[tscilipoti@maine.rr.com](mailto:tscilipoti@maine.rr.com)



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103

[portlandfriendsmeeting.org](http://portlandfriendsmeeting.org)

*Query #12: "Do you listen for the Spirit even when the words are foreign to you? Is your own understanding of God enriched by other people's experiences of the Divine?"*

*(New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Revision Committee, Chapter 11: General Advices and Queries, preliminarily accepted)*

## Upcoming Events

**November 15-17:** Young Friends Retreat

**December 1:** 4:15p Advent Garden

## Monthly Events

**1st Sunday:** Meeting for business

**2nd & 4th Sundays:** 9am Adult Religions Education, 10am Singing  
10:30am Meeting for Worship, 10:45am Youth Religious Education

**2nd & 4th Wed:** 7pm House Worship in Bath. Leslie Manning, 592-2659

**2nd Saturday:** 5-8p Youngish Adults Potluck. Marnie Grumbach, 749-9666

**4th Friday:** 3:30-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen. Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762

## *Harvest Lunch Fundraiser* Sunday, November 24th

Join members and  
attenders downstairs at  
rise of meeting for soups,  
chili, and breads served  
by the teen group.

Delicious homemade pies  
will be available for sale.



*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.*

### Elementary Retreat (grades 2-6)

Nov. 15 - 17, Westport (MA) Monthly Meeting  
jymretreats.org

*The winds of grace are always blowing,  
but you have to raise the sail.*

—Sri Ramakrishna

What are your spiritual sails? Do you remember to put them up in the morning, or do you go racing off with your gas-powered engine, oblivious to the Light and Love gently blowing all around you? How do you find moments of that of God in your daily life, whether at meeting for worship or at the bus stop? We'll talk about how we take care of our sails, share our most reliable destinations for catching the Spirit, and hopefully romp along Horseneck Beach on Saturday afternoon.

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

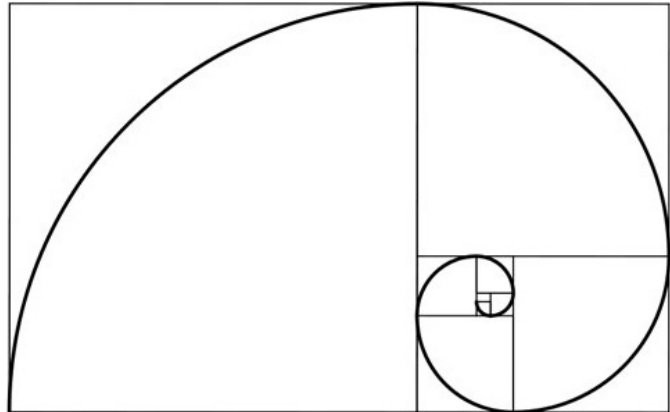
[youngfriends.neym.org/](http://youngfriends.neym.org/)

November 15-17

*Sexuality & Relationships*, Portland Friends Meeting

December 27-30

*Leadings*, Friendly Crossways, Harvard, MA



Young Friends Retreat here at home, November 15-17th! We've got a great crew of Young Friends from six states signed up and a wonderful volunteer staff. Here are some ways you can help...

- Rides for Young Friends from the Portland train and bus stations to the retreat on Friday evening (probably in the 6:30-8:30) and Sunday morning/early afternoon following worship. Right now I don't know how many YFs will be taking public transit, but my guess is that one or two drivers will be enough. These drivers would need to have a cell phone so that the Young Friends and I can contact them.
- Hospitality for parents of Young Friends coming from a distance to bring their teens to the retreat. So far, I have one parent bringing Young Friends from Vermont who is hoping to stay in the Portland area for the weekend so she can do the drive both ways. My guess is there may be another parent or two looking for hospitality on Friday night, if possible.
- A couple folks with room in their car to take the trash and recycling after the retreat.

If anyone is able to help in these ways, please contact Nia Thomas at [niadwynwen@gmail.com](mailto:niadwynwen@gmail.com).

### Upcoming events

**Wednesday, December 4, 10:30am-12:00n**

**Informational Tour:** Take a tour of our school, led by the Director of Admissions, then stay for a Question and Answer session with our Head of School, Jenny Rowe. For parents only.

**Thursday, December 12, 9:00-10:30am**

**Classroom Visits for Parents:** Spend time in each classroom observing teachers and students in action, then stay for a Question and Answer session with our Head of School, Jenny Rowe. School tours will be available for those visiting for the first time. For parents only.



**FRIENDS SCHOOL  
OF PORTLAND**

inquiry • reflection • action

*A Quaker day school for preschool-8th grade*

## Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting November 3, 2013

Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 15 members and attenders present. During the silence, co-clerk Anne Harwood read Query #12 from the Revised Advices and Queries. Query #12 reads, "Do you listen for the Spirit even when the words are foreign to you? Is your own understanding of God enriched by other people's experiences of the Divine?"

Clerk's Comments Following the words of the query, Co-Clerk Anne Harwood remarked on the radical nature of our process for business, the need to listen for the spirit. She noted this works best in silence and asked Friends to be mindful of that and proceed in good order.

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

2. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are ten months, or 83%, into the budget year. Income for October was \$8,388, and expenses were \$7,433, resulting in a positive balance of \$955 for the month. Income year-to-date is \$44,297 and expenses are \$51,691, leaving a gap of \$7,394, which needs to be closed by contributions in November and December.

### Treasurer's report at a glance

Year-to-date expenses:	\$51,691
Donations and income:	\$44,297
Total:	\$(7,394)

3. **Financial Oversight.** Rita Clifford began the Committee's report and recommendations in regard to a proposed loan to the Friends School of Portland to support their new building. She described the October 20 information and threshing session, followed by worship sharing, and the general feelings which emerged. Friends believed it was necessary to conserve our money, but also to use it wisely, and support of Friends education is a very wise use. The committee therefore recommends as follows:

"The Financial Oversight Committee of Portland Friends meeting recommends offering a loan to the Friends School of Portland, should it be needed, to help finance the construction of the new school building as it moves to a new location in Cumberland, Maine. The terms of the loan would be \$100,000.00 for a five years, payable over a twenty year period, with the interest and amount able to be re-negotiated at the end of the initial five year period. The initial amount of interest to be charged will be 4 % per annum. The payment schedule is to be negotiated with Friends School of Portland."

Sara Jane Elliott distributed a list of account balances as of October 17, 2013. She described two sets of accounts, the bank accounts and the investment accounts. Among the bank accounts is the Barbie Potter Pax Money Market fund of approximately \$100,000. It is this fund which would furnish the loan. It presently earns less than 1/2 per cent, so a loan with 4% interest would be an improvement.

The mechanics of the proposed loan were explained by Doug McCown. They are as stated in the recommendation. At the end of five years some of the principal will have been paid, but not all. Payment of the balance will then be renegotiated. This could benefit the Meeting if interest rates go up. The Committee chose 4% as a fair rate based on conversations with local banks. Some Friends felt the rate was high if we really want to support the school. It was pointed out that the risks of loaning this money include no repayment at all or only partial repayment of principal, and loss of income if interest rates go up. Even though we would be charging a rate similar to those charged by banks, our loan will help the School be able to use our support as a plus to attract other contributors. It was suggested that we accept the proposal, with the interest rate to be negotiated, perhaps at 3.5%. Friends decided to approve the loan for \$100,000 on the terms described in the recommendation, with the Committee to settle upon an appropriate interest rate and designate the people to negotiate with the School. The Committee will bring its final recommendation to Meeting for Business in December.

4. **Retreat Committee.** Muriel Allen read a report on the all-Meeting retreat held October 5 and 6 at the Notre Dame Spiritual Center in Alfred. The reviews of the place and the activities were positive, and the committee looks forward to a similar event in October 2014. It is close enough that many attenders came for the (cont-)

*minutes (continued)*

day. There is growing room in Alfred for more attenders, especially children, and room on the committee for more people. If you are interested, please see Lyn Ballou or Margie Schoeller.

The retreat finished \$277 the black, thanks to its attenders and an equalization fund.

5. **Ministry and Counsel.** Stephanie Richards reported. The committee recommends for junior membership Caroline McKeon of Falmouth, who has already made an impact both at our Meeting and in the wider Quaker world, including time at the Kakamega Orphanage. Friends approved.

Stephanie reported that the Committee is working on the idea of a memorial wall, which would consist of photographs of deceased members, allowing members and attenders new and old to remember those we miss. If you have thoughts about this project, please see a member of Ministry and Counsel.

6. **Youth Religious Education.** Caroline McKeon announced a fundraiser for the Meeting November 24 after the rise of Meeting selling homemade pies and a vegetarian lunch. If you are interested in making a pie, please see Lise Wagner.
7. **Good Search.** Kathy Beach reported that Financial Oversight Committee is considering having the Meeting participate in the benefits of this search engine. The Friends School of Portland already uses it to enable people buying on line from certain sellers to allocate part of the profit from their purchase as a contribution to a designated charity. Friends approved of proceeding to include Portland Friends Meeting. It was suggested that the Committee put an article in the newsletter instructing Friends on how to use Good Search to benefit the Meeting.
8. **Nominating Committee.** Rob Levin reported the Committee is hard at work on positions for 2014 and urged Friends to sign up for vacant slots on the sheets posted in the lobby. The Committee is pleased to recommend Andy Grannell as Co-Clerk of the Meeting. Friends approved. Friends thanked Anne Harwood for her excellent service as Co-Clerk.
9. **Quarterly Meeting.** Marlee Turner reported on the October 26 Quarterly Meeting at Windham, in a church even older than ours. Brian Drayton of Weare Meeting gave the program about recording gifts in ministry and was joined by some of the recorded ministers in Falmouth Quarter: Edwin Hinshaw and Clarabel Marstaller of Durham, Janice Beattie of Windham and Ralph Greene of South China. Daphne Clement of Durham and Christa Evans of Brunswick will co-clerk the rejuvenated Ministry and Counsel Committee. Dorothy Grannell will serve as Clerk, Colleen Crowley as Recording Clerk and Leslie Manning as Treasurer.

The Quarter has begun the process of laying down Oxford Hills Meeting. They have set new quarterly meeting dates of the 4th Saturday, but this July will be the 4th Sunday because of the 200th anniversary of Quaker Ridge Meeting.

10. **Events Committee.** Dorothy Grannell reported a checklist is almost complete and there will be a training session on January 12, 2014 at the rise of Meeting.
11. **Other business.** Youth Religious Education will do the Advent Garden on Sunday, December 1 at 4 p.m. Anne Payson, Youth Religious Education Coordinator, noted that it is the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend.

We closed in silent worship at 10:25 a.m. with 29 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on December 1, 2013, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

**Reminders:** Simple meal November 24 at rise of meeting, Dec. 1 Meeting for Business, Financial Oversight will present next year's budget.

## *Advent Garden, December 1*

All are invited to join children and families on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013 at 4:15 PM for the annual Advent Garden. In the midst of the rush of the holiday season, enter into a space of silent wonder.

Children will walk the advent spiral of evergreens, take a light from the center, and place a candle among the fragrant boughs. Listen and watch the glow spread. Light refreshments follow the service.



## Maine-Wabanaki REACH

Reconciliation - Engagement - Advocacy - Change - Healing

### FOR VOLUNTEERS AND INTERESTED ALLIES:

ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) for Social Workers, Students and Counselors with Esther Attean from REACH—learn about the history and necessity of ICWA.  
11/12 9-11:00—133 Wishcamper, Shep Lee Auditorium  
11/12 1:15- 3:15—133 Wishcamper, Shep Lee Auditorium

Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare TRC Statement Gatherer Training with Rachel George from TRC - for those interested in volunteering as Statement Gatherers  
11/13 9-12:00—USM Glickman Library, Rm 423/424

Maine-Wabanaki REACH Speakers Bureau Training to Give Presentations with Arla Patch from REACH. Maine and Wabanaki citizens learn how to be active partners in building awareness of history and the TRC process.  
11/13 1-3:00—USM Glickman Library, Rm 423/424

For More Information Contact:

Esther Attean, Maine-Wabanaki REACH,  
[esther@mainewabanakireach.org](mailto:esther@mainewabanakireach.org), 615-3189

Heather Martin, Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare TRC, [heather@mainewabanakitrc.org](mailto:heather@mainewabanakitrc.org), 664-0280

Seeking homemade pies! We need pies to sell at our Harvest Lunch Fundraiser. If you can make a pie (or pies), please contact Lise Wagner ([lisewagner@gwi.net](mailto:lisewagner@gwi.net)).

Financial Oversight began some fundraising with the sale of Notecards made by Sara Jane Elliot. They can be purchased at the front table in the entry foyer.

**Come Learn about the History,  
Necessity and Process of the:**

Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare  
**Truth & Reconciliation**  
Commission



~ FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 2013 6:00 PM**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE  
Luther Bonney, Talbot Lecture Hall  
Portland, Maine

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested



**Next Newsletter Deadline!**  
Wednesday, December 4th, 9pm

submissions: [pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net)