

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

First Month 2013

Meeting for Worship: Sundays, 10:30a

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

Connections

Co-Clerks

Sarah Cushman 841-7186

Andy Grannell 878-8698

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

Newsletter

electronic submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

postal mail submissions

Liz Maier

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Advice 15: "Remember that love is a gift of the Divine, not simply a human emotion. As imperfect beings we are not always able to feel loving toward one another, but by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can receive and give love beyond our human capacity?"

Query 16: "What does love require of you?"

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

Upcoming Events

January 23: 6-9:30p Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening

Monthly Events

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for worship

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for worship

1st Sundays: Meeting for business

2nd & 4th Sundays: 9a Adult Religious Education

10a Singing

10:45a Youth Religious Education

2nd Saturday: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck

Marnie Grumbach 749-9666

4th Friday: 3:30-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen

Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

Youth Religious Education News

The teen group held a Simple Meal fundraiser for the meeting on November 24 and raised over \$800! The homemade soups were delicious, and the event was so enjoyable that the teens hope to do it again in March.

Upcoming retreats:

Jan, 17-19, 2014 JYM Retreat God Like a Wet Bar of Soap @ Wellesley (MA) Meeting

Jan. 31 - Feb. 2, 2014 JHYM Retreat Honesty (The Music Retreat) @ Westport (MA) Meeting

Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening

Please come to a mid-week gathering of regional Friends to participate in a discussion led by Brent Bill of Friends General Conference's New Meetings Project and Beth Collea, Youth Religious Education Coordinator for NEYM. The topic is "Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening." On **Thursday, January 23rd**, following a simple dinner downstairs at 6:00 pm where Brent Bill will talk about the New Meetings Project the discussion will be held upstairs in the Worship Room at Portland Friends Meeting at 7 pm. Child care will be available and there will be vegetarian and gluten free options as well as standard soups and breads.

The discussion will be based a book by Diana Butler Bass, *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*. She offers 4 practical steps to live into in this time of renewal:

- Re-encounter the holy texts of your tradition
- Take up an inward practice and an outward practice
- Have food and fun with you faith community
- Live out your experiential faith in the world.

Please join in the discussion. Portland Friends hope that Falmouth Quarter Friends will join in this program. Please respond to Dorothy Grannell 207-878-8698 or dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com by January 21st if you are planning to come so that we are sure to have enough food and please also tell her if you need child care.

Queries to consider in preparation for this discussion:

How does my spiritual life affect the spiritual aliveness of our Meeting?

Gospel means the Good News-is our meeting spreading Good News inside and outside of the Meetinghouse?



Admissions Deadline

Friends School of Portland's priority deadline for applications is January 31, 2014. After that day, applications will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

Admissions Events

Tuesday, January 21, 9:00-10:30am (early childhood only)

Spend time in our preschool and Kindergarten classrooms 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.

Thursday, January 23, 9:00-10:30am (Grades 1-4 and 5-8)

Spend time in our elementary and middle school classrooms 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.

Winter and Early Spring Getaway FWCC Consultations Throughout the Hemisphere!

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas is trying something different this year. Instead of a single annual meeting, there will be four opportunities for Friends to gather across our theological and geographical landscapes to go deep into the theme “Let the Living Waters Flow!” At each of the four sites there will be worship and workshops that address similar topics offered by different presenter.

If you want to visit with Friends in El Salvador, travel to San Ignacio for the consultation there February 21 – 23, 2014. If California is your early spring destination head for Sacramento March 14 – 16. The

South American consultation will be held in La Paz, Bolivia, March 28 – 30 and for a pre-Easter getaway join Friends in High Point, North Carolina April 11 -13. Attendance at each consultation is limited to 120 persons. Registration for all four events is open on line at <http://fwccamericas.org/events/2014-Consultations.shtml>. All consultations will be conducted in Spanish and English. Registration for the consultations is on line but individuals must make their own reservations for hotels where rooms have been reserved. On the www.fwccamericas.org site you are able to read biographical statements about the presenters – an eclectic group of fellow travelers.

New England Friends will provide leadership for two workshops at High Point. Debbie Humphries and Lisa Graustein will head the cross cultural communications day long workshop “Hearing Heart to Heart”. Portland Friends own Merritt Bussiere-Nichols will co-lead the half day service workshop based on the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice with representatives from the North Carolina Friends Disaster Teams and Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program. The other workshops presented at High Point are “Quaker Leadership for the 21st Century” led by students from Guilford College Leadership Program and “Conflict Transformation” led by a team of Friends from New York Yearly Meeting.

At each consultation the opening night will feature a challenging speaker. Song will fill the air on the Saturday evenings and Sunday worship will have a featured speaker that is shared with the local Friends meetings. The two day format allows for silent and programmed worship as well as small group interaction through home groups. The South American consultations will replace the Quaker Leadership workshop with one on Quaker History – a need that is deeply felt by Latin American Friends.

Yearly Meetings are asked to send representatives but these consultations are open to any Friend wanting to participate – there will be no meeting for worship for the conduct of business. Instead we are invited into a time of exploration and meditation with conservative, liberal, pastoral, unprogrammed and evangelical Friends to deepen our ties and expand our understanding of the faith we hold dear in its many expressions.



Let the Living Water flow!

Consultations to:

- Sustain and grow our meetings
- Consider the future of Friends
- Affirm our mutual Quaker identity

Learn more and register online at:
<http://fwccamericas.org/events/2014-Consultations.shtml>

• FEBRUARY 21-23
EL SALVADOR

• MARCH 14-16
SACRAMENTO, CA

• MARCH 28-30
BOLIVIA

• APRIL 11-13
HIGH POINT, NC

Photo by Judy Goldberg

Friends World Committee for Consultation
Section of the Americas

1506 Race Street, Philadelphia PA 19102, USA
215. 241. 7250, americas@fwccamericas.org

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting
January 5, 2014

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on January 5, 2014 at 9 a.m., with 16 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Sarah Cushman read Advice # 15 and Query #16 from the Revised Advices and Queries. Advice #15 reads, "Remember that love is a gift of the Divine, not simply a human emotion. As imperfect beings we are not always able to feel loving toward one another, but by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can receive and give love beyond our human capacity." And Query #16 reads, "What does love require of you?"

1. **We found the minutes of our December 2013 meeting to be in good order, with the correction of the name of Katherine Beach as a new member.**

2. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we ended the year 2013 in the black. Income for December was \$7,757 and expenses were \$3,915, leaving a positive balance of \$3,842 for the month. The Income came from donations of \$6,554 and \$940 from fundraising efforts.

Total income for the year was \$65,528. This represents 92% of what we budgeted. Our total expenses for the year were \$61,217, which represents 86% of what we budgeted. This gives us a positive balance of \$4,311 at year-end.

3. **Financial Oversight/Proposed 2014 Budget.** Kathy Beach proposed that we accept the 2014 budget presented at December Meeting for Business. One of the reasons we did not do so at that time was the prospect of unanticipated expenses caused by recent vandalism at the Meetinghouse. The Committee suggested that the \$4,311 positive balance from 2013 be kept in reserve for any such expenses incurred by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Friends approved the budget with thanks to the Financial Oversight Committee for their gentle, effective work in 2013.

4. **Ministry and Counsel.** Stephanie Richards reported that the Committee is in the process of putting together the annual State of Society Report. This year the Committee would like to gather thoughts on our spiritual state from attenders. Notecards were passed out for Friends to use in writing responses during the coming week. E-mails to Stephanie or to Lyn Ballou could also be sent.

5. **Pastoral Oversight Committee-->Pastoral Care Committee.** Shannon O'Connor reported that the Committee would like to change its name to Pastoral Care Committee. The request arises from concerns about whether the name truly describes what the Committee does, and about whether it may have discouraged Friends from joining the Committee.

It was pointed out that we all have a responsibility to help provide care, and that the Committee itself supervises the care and ideally should not be responsible for the direct provision of rides, meals and other services.

Friends approved changing the name to Pastoral Care Committee and encouraged the Committee to emphasize their supervisory role and recruit new members if necessary.

6. **Nominating Committee.** Chris Beach reported. He noted that sometimes a committee will seek new members for the upcoming year, working with Nominating Committee in its efforts to identify volunteers, Youth Religious Education Committee being an example of that work this year.

(cont-)

minutes (continued)

6. **Nominating Committee (cont-)**

Chris Beach also presented the following additional nominations for 2014:

Nominating Committee, Muriel Allen; Adult Religious Education Committee, Donna Yellen; Youth Religious Education Committee, Sarah Peterson, Eileen Johnson, Luke Hankins; third week announcements, Colleen Crowley

Friends approved these additions to the 2014 nominations. Chris also cited the need for more members on Pastoral Care Committee.

7. **Outreach to the local community**

This issue arose last month due to the recent vandalism at the Meetinghouse.

Dorothy Grannell reported on research about how to connect to our neighbors in the Riverton area. She spoke with Shawna Ohm, the community service officer at Riverton Housing, and with Donna Yellen about ways to connect with the neighborhood. Shawna suggested that a small group walk through the housing development with her. She also suggested that we connect with the Riverton Neighborhood Association that is headed by the president of the Riverton School PTA. If the Meeting would like people to come and talk about the neighborhood she suggested the person who heads the community policing, Joe Bliss, and the Neighborhood Association leader. Donna Yellen suggested that we contact the city counselor for this area, John Coyne. Another possible contact would be the African church which meets at the karate club.

The Clerk asked for an indication of interest from people who would like to work on this. Muriel Allen, Sarah Cushman and Lyn Ballou responded.

8. **Other Business.**

Liz Maier reported for Building and Grounds Committee that motion lights have been installed to deter further vandalism. Also, Lise Wagner has organized several teens to shovel the path from the Tortilla Flats parking lot to the Meetinghouse.

It was suggested that Committee reports be put in the newsletter.

9. **Updates/Reminders**

- a. Mid-Week Worship starts Wednesday January 8 - check the banner running at the top of the PFM website for any cancelations before heading to worship on any given Wednesday. Worship will be from 5:30 to 6:30
- b. Voyage of Discovery - Sunday January 12. Children are welcome. Dress rehearsal for those leading the adventure will be Saturday January 11 at 11 a.m. at the Meetinghouse.
- c. 2nd Lunch and Tabletop Queries - Sunday January 19. Organizer: Anne Harwood
- d. Co-Clerks away the weekend of January 17-19 Woolman Hill workshop on corporate discernment and Meeting for Business--other participants encouraged
- e. Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening - Thursday January 23 Meal at 6 p.m., Program at 7.
- f. Committee annual reports are due
- g. State of Society Report - meeting-wide input requested during early January

We closed in silent worship at 10:25 a.m. with 26 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on February 2, 2014, God willing

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested



Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, February 5, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net