

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Second Month 2014

**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 749-9706

### 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: Susan Lavigne, 775-0626

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

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*Seek to lead others to Truth through love. Let us teach by being ourselves teachable.*

*We are all humble learners in the school of Christ.*

*What does love require of you?*

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

## 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

## Adult Education in February

**Feb 9:** Portland Friends Meeting Family Tree – Dorothy Grannell

**Feb 23:** Setting Priorities ideas from Friends Committee on National Legislation – Becky Steele

**March 9:** FCNL national priorities for the 114 Congress – Becky Steele

**March 15:** 9am – 3 pm , Mid-Year Extended Worship at Winthrop Center Friends Meeting

## Ongoing Fundraiser for Quaker Missions West, which supports:

### RSWR, FWCC, Quaker UN Office, Ramallah Play Center and other Quaker organizations

Here is an easy way to support a number of Quaker organizations. Via this project, Quaker Missions (now Quaker Missions West) has donated well over \$90,000 to Right Sharing of World Resources, Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Palestinian Refugee Children Play Center (Ramallah), Monteverdi Friends School (scholarships), Lugulu Hospital (Kenya), Quaker United Nations Office, Project Lakota (St Louis Friends Meeting), Quaker Earthcare



Witness (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature), African Great Lakes Initiative, Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center (Vietnam), American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, to name a few. In all, more than 100 different 'Good Works' have received financial help. Either of these web pages explains the project in detail:

<http://www.midcoastfriendsmeeting.org/stamps.htm>

### Identifying Priorities for Legislation and for Life

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will be taking PFM members and attenders through the process of giving input to the Friends Committee on National Legislation concerning what we consider to be the five top priorities for FCNL to take into consideration as they prepare for work on issues for the 114th Congress in 2015-2016. This process will start at the February 23rd Adult Religious Education hour, when Becky Steele will lead us in finding out how we actually go about setting priorities. Becky says this will help not only with the FCNL issues, but with other parts of our lives when we need to set priorities. If there is interest and need she is offering to do one more Adult Religious Ed.session on March 9. The following is a link to a pdf of the FCNL study materials on "Setting Wise Priorities." These contain queries, Scripture quotes, and short references to FCNL's work. <http://fcnl.org/assets/about/govern/FCNLWeSeekLessons.pdf>. Another, simpler file with queries will be sent out on the listserv.

### A cabin in the woods...

Who in Friends community has been dreaming of the simple life in a cabin in the woods -- but only three miles from Portland? We are selling our beloved well insulated log home in Cape Elizabeth 1/3 of an acre with a vegetable garden and an excellent school district. Note this: out our back gate is 10 acres of conservation land that has walking trails and vernal pools. Over the years here we have worked towards a small carbon footprint. For details check out the website: <http://www.37stonedrive.com/>

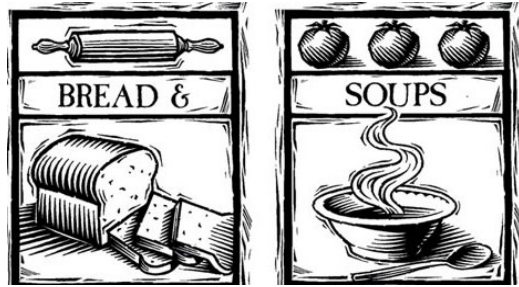
The Campbell-Cobbs are getting ready to live their next dream – to return to David's live in studio at Brickbottom Artist Association in Somerville, MA. Please come see us especially for Open Studios next fall. [www.brickbottomartists.com/](http://www.brickbottomartists.com/)

Thank you,  
Patsea Cobb and David Campbell

## Youth Religious Education News

### Teen group fundraiser!

Hungry? The Teen Group invites you to a lunch fundraiser on March 9th at noon! Yummy soups, breads, and desserts will be served, along with a good dose of great company. Join us!



### "The Middles"

The First Day School "middle" group, with teachers Jonathan Ewell and Heather Denkmire, enjoyed a "meal 'n' a movie." Viewing "Super Size Me" and a potluck lunch, we continue our journey exploring issues related to "saving the earth."

### Ride Share for Al Norton: Can you give a ride one Sunday a month?

Pastoral Care and Nominating are trying to create a regular ride sharing system for Al Norton. Borrowing from how we record announcements and how we clean and close the building, we want to have one individual or family give Al a ride on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, another individual or family give him a ride on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, a third individual or family on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, a fourth individual or family on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, and a fifth individual or family give him a ride on the occasional 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

So far, Muriel Allen has volunteered to drive Al on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. So we need volunteers for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

Note that those who volunteer can trade Sundays when they are unable to take Al on their designated day, and that others in the meeting can help as well.

This is a new idea we are trying, with the support of many Friends. Please, take advantage of this chance to get to know Al.

*If your heart is full of fear, you won't seek truth; you'll seek security. If a heart is full of love, it will have a limbering effect on the mind.*

— William Sloane Coffin, Jr.



### Save the Date! 8th Annual Auction & Brunch Saturday, April 5th, 10am-2pm

The annual Auction is Friends School of Portland's largest fundraising event. We raised just over \$24,000 at our 2013 Auction! Funds raised at the auction go directly towards our operating budget, and help us to provide financial aid. There will be entertainment, supervised activities for kids, and delicious food!

## Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting February 2, 2014

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on February 2, 2014 at 9 a.m., with 15 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Andy Grannell read Advice #16 and Query #17 from the Revised Advices and Queries. "Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship and prayerful search for the way of Truth? Are all members encouraged to use their talents in the service of this meeting? Do you undertake your proper share of the work and financial support of this meeting?"

1. We found the minutes of our January 2014 meeting to be in good order.

2. **Financial Oversight.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that the Committee is asking that we amend the approved 2014 budget to include a line 38 for the Events Committee in the amount of \$150. Friends approved the amendment.

### Quick Summary of Income and Expenses January 2014 — One Month (8%)

Year-to-date Income	\$3,513
Percent of Budget	5%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$4,710
Percent of Budget	7%
Balance	(\$1197)

3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are 1/12 or 8% into the 2014 budget year. Income for January was \$3,513, or 5% of the income budgeted for the year. Expenses were \$4,710, or 7% of budget, leaving a negative balance of \$1,197 for the month.

4. **Ministry and Counsel.** Stephanie Richards reported for the Committee on the progress of the State of Society Report. It will be brought to March Meeting for Business. The Committee is busy with much Clearness Committee work.

5. **Report on New Meetings Project Sharing/Discussion** Dorothy Grannell reported on a dinner gathering the evening of January 23 at the Meetinghouse about Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening. Thirty-four adults and four teens came from New Hampshire and southern and central Maine. Brent Bill and Beth Collea presented and led discussions. The evening saw a rich and exciting discussion of how we welcome newcomers and what issues are confronting our meetings. Our gathering was one of several taking place across New England; others have occurred in Hartford and Framingham.

6. **Report/Recommendation from Earth and Spirit.** Ed Robinson reported that Earth and Spirit Committee is grateful for the many ways in which Friends use practices supporting sustainability in their daily lives. In that spirit, the Committee will be following a new program of Garbage to Garden in Portland and other towns, and informing us how we may participate. Further details will be found in the newsletter or on the website [garbagetogarden.org](http://garbagetogarden.org).

7. **Peace and Social Concerns.** Jennifer Frick reported that Friends Committee on National Legislation is seeking input on lobbying priorities vis-a-vis the 114th Congress of 2015-616. They need five by April 15. There will be an adult education session on February 23 led by Becky Steele regarding how to set priorities. There may also be a second adult ed session. Further information is available on the FCNL website; a link will be provided in the newsletter.

8. **Pastoral Care** Shannon O'Connor reported the Committee is asking Friends to volunteer to transport Al Norton on first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays, in the same way people are responsible on certain Sundays for clean-up and taking announcements. Friends approved this arrangement. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby.

9. **Other Business.** Sarah Cushman reported about the new practice of simple meals after Meeting to promote fellowship and welcome newcomers. The first one was this past Sunday, January 26. There will be at least two more in Feb and March. The Clerks usually organize and put the meal on but help is needed for the meal of February 16. Dorothy Grannell suggested that the Events Committee be contacted in these circumstances, so that they could find people to call upon. Friends also made suggestions about possible Committee sponsorship, and Peace and Social Concerns is going to help with the March simple meal.

(cont-)

minutes (continued)

10. Dorothy Grannell mentioned that the Events Committee will probably lead tours of the Meetinghouse again during the year, similar to what was done during the Voyage of Discovery. Passports from the Voyage are available on the front table. Kathy Beach is Clerk of the Committee.
11. Lise Wagner stated the teens are doing another fundraising luncheon on March 9. The Clerk encouraged Friends to contact Jane Mullen about events using the Meetinghouse.

12. **Updates/Reminders**

- Wednesdays at 5:30 Open/Expectant Worship
- Sunday, February 9 - Both co-clerks will be away; we need a worship leader
- Sunday, February 16 - Simple meal/bag lunch with focus on queries
- Wednesday, February 19th, Ministry & Counsel meets
- Sunday, February 9, Adult Education, PFM Family Tree--who are we related to?, led by Dorothy Grannell
- Sunday, February 23, Adult Education--Becky Steele leads how to set priorities

We closed in silent worship at 10:00 a.m. with 19 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on March 2, 2014, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk



**Annual Report — Pastoral Care Committee, Portland Friends Meeting, 2013**

Members of the Pastoral Care Committee for 2013 were Sue Calhoun, Morgan Grumbach, Kristina MacCormick, Al Norton, Shannon O'Connor and David Spector. Shannon O'Connor and Morgan Grumbach served as co-clerks.

This year we continued to focus on giving practical help to members of the Meeting community in times of need. Whenever we could find ways to facilitate such assistance, we were very gratified. It was quite helpful to us in several cases when people in difficulties proactively called us themselves. At other times, others in the Meeting alerted us to Friends' needs as they arose.

We worked on three projects in the course of the year. One of them, a plan to have two estate planning workshops for interested members of the Meeting community, was not approved by Ministry and Counsel. Morgan had found an estate planner who was willing to volunteer his time. Ministry and Counsel said they were contemplating something similar and asked us to hold off on it.

We designed a new rides system. Although the germ of the idea came to us in June, because of the summer schedule, we didn't implement it until autumn. We did a lot of work on it over the summer. So far, it seems to be working well! Although presently we do not have very many Friends needing rides, the system is designed to be scalable and capable of expanding as the need arises.

We were approached by Ministry and Counsel about a joint project whereby we design a system for regularly checking in on some of our elders, especially those who live alone. We had a meeting with a member of Ministry and Counsel and went over a list of elders that had been made some years ago. We have not begun to hammer out the details of such a program, but we have made a start by looking at the names and current situations of the elders in our Meeting community. This is something we will be working on in conjunction with Ministry and Counsel in 2014.

Morgan Grumbach, Co-Clerk  
Shannon O'Connor, Co-Clerk

## Adult Religious Education Committee Annual Report, 2013

This year the topics brought to the Meeting during our Religious Education hour covered a broad spectrum, some themes spanning several classes and others one time topics, all generating lively discussions with 10-15 participants each class.

Expanding on our exploration of Jesus a few years ago, we used the PBS 4 hour documentary "From Jesus to the Christ" over 4 classes, to expand our understanding of who Jesus was as a person and how views of him after his death developed, from the first followers to the growth of the Christian churches over the centuries. With the many expert views presented on the show to fertilize our own understandings, it was a very interesting and in-depth exploration.

Another 3 classes focused on issues generated in New England Yearly Meeting. One was a follow-up to the NEYM Mid-Year Gathering held at PFM, to share what came up in presentations and worship. We also addressed the Doctrine of Discovery, as this is an issue all monthly meetings have been asked to discuss. It complemented well the work of our member Arla Patch with the TRC (Maine State Truth and Reconciliation Commission) dealing with the trauma of Maine native children having been taken from their homes and tribes and put into foster homes and schools "to take the Indian out of them"—and how it has affected whole families, generations and communities. Led by our new secretary of NEYM, Noah Baker Merrill, we also had a discussion on the legacy gift for NEYM, from the sale of a senior facility, generating ideas on how to invest that money in the future of NEYM.

Three classes delved into an exploration of prayer, giving participants opportunities to articulate their own experience of prayer and broadening our perceptions and understanding of the many diverse manifestations of prayer, how people communicate with God or the Divine.

We discussed some of the more esoteric aspects of Quakerism, including Eldership, Going into the Silence and Holding in the Light, as well as sharing stories of our personal spiritual journeys. The process and gift of Clearness Committees, for membership and for personal issues, were explained in another class. In Abolitionism and Portland Friends Meeting we looked back at a period of our own history in the broader community.

Our only challenge is generational. When adult classes are not at the same time as youth classes, it is difficult for young adults and parents of youth who attend those later classes to participate. We would love to have higher participation and a broader age range, as we have in the past when adult and youth classes were coordinated. This needs further discernment and discussion.



**Maine-Wabanaki REACH**  
Reconciliation • Engagement • Advocacy • Change • Healing

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



On February 10, 18 and 19, members of the Passamaquoddy community at Motahkomikuk (Indian Township) will be sharing their painful experiences and stories of survival with the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission please regard these days a time of reflection, prayer, and meditation in support and solidarity with this historic process of truth, healing and change. For more information, visit: <http://conta.cc/1fAZoXC>

**Maine-based Opportunity  
for Extended Worship  
Saturday, 15 March 2014, 9a-3p**

Continuing the tradition of a mid-year gathering in Maine, Winthrop Center Friends Church, Winthrop Center, Maine, is providing space for a day of extended worship. All are welcome, and we are especially encouraging Maine Friends to attend.

Morning snacks and beverages will be provided. Lunch will be a potluck. There is no registration fee, and there will be no child care.

We are asking that people register as space is limited.

Please email Ann Dodd-Collins at [doddco@gmail.com](mailto:doddco@gmail.com). Put "Extended Worship" in the subject line and include:

- your name
- your monthly meeting
- what you will bring for the potluck
- your phone number
- your email address

You may also call Ann at 207-832-6103.  
More details will follow for those who register.

## Ten ways to Love

LISTEN without interrupting (Proverbs 18:13)  
SPEAK without accusing. (James 1:19)  
GIVE without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)  
PRAY without ceasing (Colossians 1:19)  
ANSWER without arguing (Proverbs 17:1)  
SHARE without pretending (Ephesians 4:15)  
ENJOY without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)  
TRUST without wavering (Corinthians 13:7)  
FORGIVE without punishing (Colossians 3:13)  
PROMISE without forgetting (Proverbs 13:12)

*from "Being Salt and Light P(6<sup>th</sup> World Conference report), p. 113*

## Editor's Note:

Hello friends,

I'm Heather Denkmire, new editor of our newsletter. My two daughters and I have been attending meeting for the last couple years. I've also been teaching First Day school for almost that long. I'm a native New Englander and spent my summers growing up in the mountains of Maine. I'm a writer (I write a monthly column in the Bangor Daily News), an artist, and I own a small business helping nonprofits win grants.

Designing and laying out the newsletter is great fun for me. I could use help, however, with some content I'd like to incorporate each month, including:

Member or attender profiles—interview, write, keep track of who has been profiled, etc.

Quaker history—this could be a simple "did you know?" or a larger article.

Event collector—visit Quaker websites (NEYM, etc.) and gather relevant information on upcoming events.

If you are interested in any of these jobs, please contact me at

[pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net). Thank you!



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Address Service Requested



**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Wednesday, March 5, 9pm

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