

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Fourth 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

Christina Davis, 518-0784

### Religious Education

Adults: Sandra Jensen, 839-2372

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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*Advice 4: Make space in your daily life for communion with God and for spiritual nurture through prayer, reading, meditation, and other disciplines which open you to the Spirit.*

*Query 4: Is every aspect of your life open to the transforming power of God? What stands in the way?*

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

## Calendar

**April 20:** 9am Easter Breakfast

## 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

Aaivn Foster 766-9762

**Join us for First Day School's Annual Easter Breakfast  
at 9am on the 20th of April at the Meetinghouse!**

This year we will collect donations for: Kakamega, to sponsor an orphan in Kenya; Friendly Water for the World, to provide clean water around the world; The H.O.M.E Team, to provide housing and resources to the homeless in Portland; Friends Camp Scholarships, for kids with incarcerated parents.

We will also be collecting physical donations for Preble Street Resource Center and a local animal shelter.

Listen for more announcements at meeting for worship and we hope to see you there!



**Portland Friends Meeting for Business**  
**April 6, 2014**

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began with 20 members and attenders present, when co-clerk Andrew Grannell read the Query that begins: Do you look for opportunities to deepen your understanding of the history and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends? We spent a while in silent and expectant worship.
2. The minutes of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting for Business were accepted.
3. Lyn Ballou reported for Ministry and Counsel:
  - (i) Stephanie Richards has been approved as clear for membership and was warmly accepted by the Meeting.
  - (ii) Revisions to the first draft of PFM's State of Society Report for 2013 were reported, with a few changes to include funerals and weddings and the Midyear gathering. One small change was requested, to spell out abbreviations in full, but the report was otherwise accepted.
  - (iii) Commitment to Climate Change as a PFM Focus: A concern for acting together in the manner of Friends was brought by Ministry and Council to Meeting for Business. Details of the concern and the queries arising from it follow these minutes.

Ministry and Counsel stressed the importance of Quaker process in agreeing on whether the meeting is led to take on a single topic and if so what that topic might be. A threshing session to explore all these issues was suggested. The issue Ministry and Counsel brought forward was climate change, which arose from a concern around that topic. It was noted that this was a spiritual question as well as a practical one or a social justice issue. There was the sense of the importance of our corporate voice and witness in both our words and our actions. The support of our community for individual actions strengthens us as individuals, and also strengthens our relationships with other communities.

The issue was referred back to Ministry and Counsel for further recommendations on how to proceed at the next Business Meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report : One-quarter of the way through the year we are in the black for the month of March, with a positive balance of \$941. This is due to the very generous donations that Friends have contributed, and quite a few rental opportunities, as well as the teen fundraiser luncheon. The total income for March was \$6,762.

Our expenses for the month were \$5,821. In addition to our monthly contribution to NEYM of \$1042, we also contributed our annual amount of \$1500 to Friends School of Portland.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses**  
**March 2014 — Three Months (##%)**

Year-to-date Income	\$12,689
Percent of Budget	19%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$13,859
Percent of Budget	20%
Balance	(\$1,171)

Our YTD income was \$12,689, or 19% of our budgeted amount. Our YTD expenses were \$13,859, or 20% of our budgeted amount. This leaves us with a negative balance of (\$1,171) for the year.

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minutes (continued)

5. Falmouth Quarterly Meeting Report, Sat. April 5, 9-4. Brad Bussiere-Nichols reported that it was a good gathering, with representatives from all meetings. Laying down of Oxford Hills Friends Meeting was a significant item discussed. Property and books were dealt with appropriately and the laying down approved with some sadness. The State of Society report was read for the Quarter and approved to go on to Yearly Meeting. Some memorial minutes, including Harold Burnham's, were deferred to next year. The afternoon was a sharing and listening session about the FUM personnel policy that has troubled many in NEYM, and how meetings have chosen to deal with this issue and with making financial contributions to FUM. FUM employs only single people who are chaste or those in monogamous heterosexual marriages. NEYM will be deciding this summer how to deal with funding for FUM with integrity. Intervisitation was encouraged, and Lewiston Meeting has asked for visitors.
6. Report on visit by Theoniste Bizimana from Rwanda, Coordinator of Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC), fundraising for Friends Peace Teams in Africa. He has been involved for ten years on the issue of healing and reconciliation for those caught up in genocide. He spoke to fifth graders at the Friends School, and the English Language Learning teachers at Portland High School who deal with refugees and asylum seekers. He held two community meetings with African refugees, at which members of AVP were present. Dorothy Grannell asked if we as a meeting could contribute towards Friends Peace Teams. This met with approval from the meeting and the matter was referred to Financial Oversight for an appropriate amount to be brought to the next business meeting.
7. Announcements:
  - (i) Peace and Social Concern's Threshing Session today at rise of meeting over a working lunch will focus on coming up with five topics to send to Friends Committee on National Legislation to give them input from meetings all over the country.
  - (ii) Planning for PFM's Youth sponsored Easter breakfast. Five concerns will be funded and friends are encouraged to attend on Easter Sunday from 9am to 10:25am.
  - (iii) Report on the Friends School of Portland's Annual Auction. It was very successful – the first live auction and first corporate sponsors. The final total including sponsorship raised over \$29,000 for the operating budget and for scholarships. Parents and families from the school will be here at PFM next Sunday.
8. We finished in silent worship at 10:28am.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Doughty, Co-recording clerk

### **Queries and concerns raised by Ministry and Counsel**

*(a document shared at the April 6, 2014 Meeting for Business)*

Throughout the history of Friends, certain matters of justice have called individuals, monthly meetings and the wider community of Friends to collective, spirit-led action. Our shared efforts towards abolition of slavery, the civil rights movement and peaceful antiwar work have each been beacons and models for the labors of our faith today. These moments in our history have both tested and strengthened our faith and our community; they have been born out of a shared sense that something was deeply wrong in our society, that we must shoulder some responsibility for those injustices, and that there was hope for a better future.

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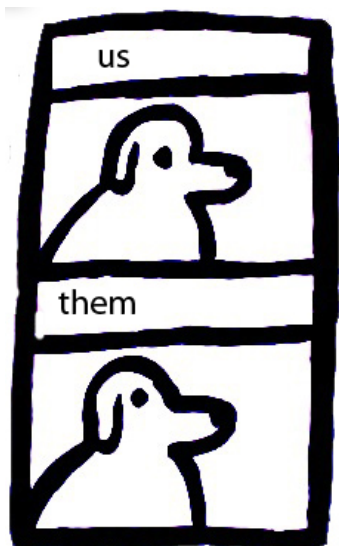
### Queries and concerns raised by Ministry and Counsel (continued)

Today, Ministry and Counsel has seen these fundamentals arise in our meeting community and in the wider community of Friends in response to the injustice implicit in our changing climate. We feel that the time is ripe to collectively address this issue, for both the critical risk to our society and environment that climate change poses and for the ways in which our community might grow closer and stronger through shared action that reflects and is reflected in our shared worship. We have the sense that in sharing the work that we are individually led to undertake we may alleviate the aloneness of pioneering efforts.

While Ministry and Counsel has perceived this as an issue deeply significant to Friends, we are unclear on a way forward. We have deep faith in our tradition of spirit-led, collective discernment and believe that it is from this place that any response to this matter must find form. To this end, we offer several queries that we have been posing to ourselves so that our process of discernment might become one that is shared by the Meeting as a whole.

**Q1:** *Are we led to collectively take on a single important issue, as has been done by Friends for critical matters of injustice?*

**Q2:** *How can we best acknowledge the natural anxiety that can arise when confronting complex and daunting issues and best support each other in facing those fears?*



Pete Franzen

#### For Rent

First floor apartment in our 3-unit house (we live on the second floor) will be available mid-May. In the Deering section of Portland, we're 2.7 miles from Meeting! It's a charming 2-bedroom, 1 bath home with a formal dining room as well as livingroom and eat-in kitchen, and some outdoor space for gardening. It's recently-renovated and includes washer/dryer in the basement. No smoking and no pets on premises. For more info contact me at [jfrick47@gmail.com](mailto:jfrick47@gmail.com) or phone 775-5141. Jennifer Frick and Peter Raszmann.

#### Youth Religious Education News

##### Scholarships available

Looking for fun summer Quaker activities for your child? Need financial support? Families are encouraged to consider Friends Camp in China, Maine ([friendscamp.org](http://friendscamp.org)), Friends School of Portland's summer day camp program ([friendsschoolofportland.org](http://friendsschoolofportland.org)), or New England Yearly Meeting Sessions. Some scholarship money is available from Portland Friends Meeting. Please take a scholarship form from the bulletin board downstairs or contact Anne Payson [annepayson10@gmail.com](mailto:annepayson10@gmail.com). Return applications to Anne or Lise Wagner by May 1.



**June 15**

**First Day School Year-End  
Celebration at Rise of Meeting!**

## Buildings and Grounds Annual Report 2013

Committee: Liz Maier, clerk, Syl Doughty, HD Wagener, Dorothy Coyle, Tracy Booth, James Grumbach, Camille Parrish.

This year the major project was a new roof by Jeffrey Audet Roofing for \$15,600. We had the basement floor stripped and waxed this summer and the carpets were cleaned. This year Begala Window works completed the restoration of the windows with the two remaining meeting room windows. Major projects deferred were paving, redoing the floor of the basement, and replacement of the furnace. Because of a few minor break-ins (basement windows) we have installed new motion lights on the four corners of the building and over the back porch. A big project for next year is to install heavy plastic basement security windows. There are at least a dozen and will cost an estimated \$800.

Outside, the Peace Garden is flourishing. A beautiful Peace Rose was blooming even in November! In the front we replaced the stones around the signs in a circle and will put in some planting in the spring. The large stone needs to be moved to the back for seating. We cleared out the garden to the left of the front steps and planted three blueberry plants and some other bulbs that had been uprooted from elsewhere. In the back we removed the overgrown pine trees next to the back stairs. New shade plants such as hostas will be put in there.

We are developing a good system of sharing tasks. Karin Wagner is our elevator guru. James Grumbach our fire extinguisher expert. Syl Doughty is our expert in seeing what needs to be done and knowing how to do it in the correct way. Tracy is our painting and color expert (you can only paint in the summer anyway). HD is on hand to let tradesmen into the building. For now, Dorothy is our fabric expert and is often at the meeting house to keep an eye on things. Our newest member Camille Parrish has graciously agreed to monitor things like Toilet Paper, Dish Soap, Sponges, Paper Towels, Trash Bags, and Hand soap refills (unscented and not antibacterial) She will purchase the items as needed and send the receipts to Kathy Beach, 9 Drew Road, South Portland, ME 04106. We also have another new member Bart Czyn. I don't know his contact information yet.

A big project for next year is to make as many new insulated shades as possible for the remaining ground floor windows similar to the ones in the meeting room. To purchase the shades would mean over \$1000 each. Meg Nobel has saved the directions for the ones she made for the big room and we are gathering a committee led by Tracy Booth to help on this project.

We intend to hire a teen team to keep the path to Tortilla Flat shoveled after storms.

We decided that the fall clean-up was too early and will ask for the second week of November next year. We have cut down the number of meetings because of people being away and because we can get a lot done by email. However, I think we have lost a lot by not getting together and sharing ideas with each other.

*Peace is a gift, but it does not come magically through our passivity.  
Only in our faithful response to God's call do we receive God's peace.  
~ Sandra Cronk, 1942-2000*

## Community Notes:

### **Building and Grounds Committee:**

The twelve cup coffee maker in the kitchen is broken. Please let us know if you have one you could donate!

The **Leadings Committee** would like to announce a **call for applications** for Leadings that Friends have for our next round of funding. We would like to accept applications in the month of April, with May 15th being the deadline for submissions. The committee will review the applications in May and projects will be funded at the end of May.



**Thursday, May 15, 7:00pm**

### **In the Moment: Mindfulness for Families and Educators**

Join Friends School of Portland for an evening of dialogue about the benefits of mindfulness for children and families.

The guest facilitators are Irene McHenry, a psychologist, author, and executive director of the *Friends Council on Education*, and Kathryn Byrnes, a scholar of mindfulness and education professor at Bowdoin College. Learn the research behind mindfulness in education, the impact on health and happiness, and practices to use in everyday life. Wishcamper Center, Lee Auditorium at USM Portland. *Free and open to*

*the public. No registration required.* Cosponsored by USM's Teacher Education Department, the YMCA of Greater Portland, and True North Health Center.

### **Friends School of Portland is Hiring an Adventure Camp Lead Counselor**

FSP is looking for an individual to lead our 7 weeks of Adventure Camp sessions for 6-9 year olds on beautiful Mackworth Island. Essential skills and qualities: a background in summer camp counseling, outdoor leadership, youth development, early childhood education and/or creative arts; a love for outdoor learning and building community; a commitment to creativity, safety, clear communication, and reliability; a Bachelor's degree or equivalent life experience (Master's degree welcomed).

The Adventure Camp Lead Counselor will work with the Director of Summer Programs to develop and implement a nature-based and art curriculum for 2014. Camp dates are June 23-August 8; during camp, hours of work for this position are 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Paid training days will also be required.

## Portland Friends Meeting State of Society Report for 2013

Good News! Our meeting remains strong and vibrant, a diverse community of young and older people, grounded in worship and excited about the opportunities before us. First Day School is well attended. Older teenagers have an active group of their own that often meets at times other than Sundays, and that creates a wonderful transition from school class to becoming part of the adult community. "Young-ish Adult Friends" have regular gatherings. Adult religious education programs are nourishing for many of us. We've now added a regular mid-week meeting for worship.

We asked community members for comments that might be included in this report, and received these comments (and more):

- *I have been made to feel welcome.*
- *Portland Friends Meeting is always there! A rock for the community – stable and consistent.*
- *I'm grateful for this – my spiritual home.*
- *Meeting provides me with much needed calm and quiet.*
- *The messages during meeting have often spoken to me, while the silence has been life giving. A good balance overall!*
- *I would like to see more leadership from M&C regarding vocal ministry and growth in that area. I think we assume people will 'get it' about ministry—but it's quite hard!*
- *I appreciate our budget process and the encouragement for each committee to be as true as it can about its budget needs.*
- *I am impressed with the continued vitality of our meeting and its involvement in the Yearly Meeting.*
- *Our building is sacred space. . . .We share the load [of caring for it] and reap the benefits spiritually and communally. The building is a gift from the past that is supported and shared in the present, ensuring a presence for Friends in the future.*
- *[From a Friend spending several months abroad] I truly miss being at Worship. We have such a variety of messages; the more brief the more impact, for me. I wish for words from young school-age attenders too.*
- *The meeting was very supportive after my son's suicide - emotionally, spiritually and materially. I am so grateful . . . I was embraced and upheld by the whole community, which of course helped and continues to help me in my grief journey.*

We've had many life events – the suicide mentioned above, the death of Harold (Hal) Burnham, who had a long history as mentor, spiritual guide, and trusted friend of our meeting and of many members, the deaths of other beloved friends. We've also had many wonderful weddings. For so many of us, Portland Friends Meeting is a still point of spirit-filled grace that helps guide and refresh us in our busy lives.

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***PFM State of Society Report for 2013 (continued)***

Several years ago, the City of Portland decided to redo the section of Forest Avenue on which we are located, and that required us to do research and work to identify and update water and sewer connections, deal with a tree that may have been threatened, and address some issues with drainage on our parking area. That led us into a period of continued attention to building-related issues. In 2013 we replaced the meeting house roof, rebuilt several of our large windows, and addressed other building problems. This focus on the material turned out not to be a distraction from our spiritual concerns, but, rather, an expression of our concern for right care of property.

Recognizing that our building is sacred space, and that many Friends are not familiar with all the building "systems", a new group has offered workshops on how to use all our appliances in support of events such as weddings, memorial services, and large events sponsored by regional or national Friends groups.

Also part of this consideration, and a burning concern for many Friends, is the condition of our earth, climate change, and common disregard for these issues. Our Earth and Spirit Committee carries a deep, Spirit-held concern for the care of the earth, and has helped us share our personal experiences in honoring nature and learning from its rhythms, take time learning together about actual bonding with trees, and in turn bonding with all species. Their query to us – "What more is possible for me in my relationship with the earth?"

Another spiritually grounded project involved caring for our meeting history. Our Library and Archives Committee has collected and filed all of our newsletters, minutes, and other reports from 1975 onward. These have also been assembled into archival volumes that are available for our use, and are being put into digital form for easier access.

Portland Friends Meeting is active with efforts on a range of social concerns – some by committees, and many by individual Friends. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee co-sponsored a workshop on lobbying, with resource people from Friends Committee on National Legislation, that helped us learn how best to communicate views to our senators and representatives. On the next day, members of our meeting were preparing for meetings with these officials. And we have been cooperating with other Friends meetings in Maine to advance positions that Friends support.

Our relatively new Leadings Committee completed discernment on its fifth round of applications. Funded with the yearly proceeds of a bequest, we supported Friends sharing stories about work with Native Americans and Non-natives that occurred between 1987 and 1993, sending young friends to a work project in Nicaragua, and developing a laundromat / community service project. Not all of the approved projects were able to get off the ground, and the committee has had to develop some agility in learning how to discern and support leadings that don't come with major institutional support.

We've come to recognize that our Nominating Committee plays a significant role in our growth and stability. Their work defining committee roles, and actively soliciting community engagement has been significant and inspiring.

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**PFM State of Society Report for 2013** (continued)

In March, we hosted the Friends World Committee for Consultation/New England Yearly Meeting Midyear Gathering. One hundred New England Friends Gathered for 2.5 days with guests from Northern Ireland on the theme "Let the Living Waters Flow, Friends Serving God's Purposes." Friends from our meeting and across the quarter made this event happen in ways that enriched our local and yearly meeting.

This all sounds overwhelmingly positive. And yet we seek more. Can we strengthen our music and give more encouragement to non-verbal expressions of hopes, anxieties, delights? Are we too dependent upon the work and faithfulness of a few "pillars" of the meeting – Friends who have made themselves available for so many projects? And how can we all become clearer about our leadings, and about what we have to declare in this world? These and other questions will lead us as we begin this new year.

The Friends School of Portland is a separate Quaker institution, but one closely associated with our meeting. Teachers, administrators, and student families are members of our meeting, and we all deeply value the school. It certainly is part of our spiritual community. The school's recent decisions to purchase new land and begin fundraising for their new building have excited many Friends, and yet also raised concerns. Bringing Quaker process into our somewhat secular institutions remains a challenge for us, as we bring our work into the world.



*Coming up just around the bend ~ Seeds of Spring from Earth and Spirit*

Yes - Mother's Day (May 11) is just around the bend, but will arrive before our May Meeting Newsletter gets to you so here we are the early birds planting seeds - food for thought.

Earth and Spirit is honoring this year how we are all Mothers really at one moment or the other . . . We plant that seed in you to nourish and see what can blossom for you this year in your self. How can we honor this year, even more, when and how we are mothering -

We honor how our Earth is our inclusive one Mother - that we could not be here without the natural world - absolutely not possible for humans to be here without the oxygen of the plant kingdom. Some people even say that we are really part plant, and they part human. There is food for thought -

In honoring our Mother Earth together, on Mother's Day ~ Earth and Spirit will have seeds for anyone wanting to sew around the Meeting House grounds as a Spring cover crop, often mostly Winter Rye which will nourish the winter worn soil and bring the greening of our lawns. For those interested in doing the same at home, Paris Farmers Union has ample supply.

And on a last note - we offer the history of Mother's Day, to honor the history of this day.

More food for thoughts. More seeds ?! <http://bit.ly/1mZ4tA6> For those not online, we'll have some printed copy of this article available at Meeting - Gratitude ~ \* Love ~ \* Blessings ~ \*

## **State of Society Report of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting of Friends 2013**

Falmouth Quarter redoubled its efforts in 2013 to revitalize its Ministry & Counsel and to increase inter-visitation among our monthly meetings. Our experience has been bittersweet. We learned that one meeting, Oxford Hills Friends, had stopped worshipping and had lost its meeting place. As a result, the official process of laying down Oxford Hills has begun, but in reality that process started some time ago. It is with sadness we recognize that, through a mutual lack of contact, we had not noticed a meeting that was dying and in need of support.

The sweet aspect of our renewed efforts to connect found six meetings and one worship group where, though limited in numbers in some cases, the Spirit and worship is strong. In the spring, five meetings provided volunteers and hospitality for New England Friends who gathered at a mid-year gathering jointly sponsored by New England Yearly Meeting and Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas. The theme of "Let the Living Waters Flow, Friends Serving God's Purposes" was brought to us by Friends from Northern Ireland. As well, our meetings hosted Friends from Cuba, Bolivia and Kenya over this past year, bringing the world family of Friends to us. We were enriched and strengthened by their witness.

In May, we joined with Vassalboro Quarter for the biennial All Maine Gathering at South China Community Church in a commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rufus Jones' birth. Our times with Vassalboro Friends strengthen our ties as Friends and friends, and deepen our understanding of how our shared faith is lived out in various ways.

Our quarter's concern for recording gifts in ministry was enhanced by our October meeting with Brian Drayton as he explained the history and process of the practice. Those in our quarter who have been recognized for their gifts in ministry shared powerfully how this recognition has helped them share the Light with others. Those gathered were able to report on how these Friends gifts have enriched our lives. Falmouth Quarter has not changed its practice of recording gifts. The benefit of recording gifts is visible and viable in our midst.

We decided to change our meeting schedule back to meeting on Saturdays. We will meet on the first Saturday in April and November and the fourth Saturday in July (except in 2014 it will be the fourth Sunday so we can celebrate together the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Quaker Ridge Meeting in Casco). We will not meet in January unless there is need for that meeting. Our summer meetings will focus more on families and social relationships, as this summer when we shared a Garden Party at Durham Friends—naming the "scare crow" and sharing in the bounty of the community garden project there.

Individuals in our quarter serve Friends locally, regionally, and in significant ways across New England Yearly Meeting—and globally as well. We witness to Friends testimonies individually and corporately. We seek to strengthen that witness within our quarter and to provide care for each other as meetings and as individuals within them. We believe that inter-visiting, participating in activities at different meetings within the quarter, and sharing worship strengthen us all.

Though our meetings are challenged in very different ways relating to size, membership and changing focus, we remain rich in our times of worship and feel the power of the Living Water of the Spirit flowing through us.

Approved April 5, 2014

**Theoneste Bizimana and Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC)  
March 31 ~April 9 2014 in New England**

Theoneste Bizimana, founder and coordinator of the *Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities* (HROC) program of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) in Rwanda for 10 years. HROC has helped people in conflict to heal from trauma, reconnect with themselves, their communities, and rebuild their communities. Ten years ago when the president of Rwanda released those who had perpetrated the Rwandan genocide, both the victims and perpetrators were fearful that the killing would start again. There were no mental health services available in Rwanda. Theo and other Friends decided that in order to rebuild and keep safe their communities something had to be done. And so HROC was born.



Based on the tactics of the Alternatives to Violence movement, Transformative Mediation and Conflict Reconciliation and Transformation a community program was developed. Twenty people in a village are gathered together for 2 and half days. Ten are former perpetrators and ten are former victim. Through the intense process of confronting each other and recognition of responsibility for action and forgiveness new relationships are formed. The basis for living together again in community without violence is formed. Once this is done, twenty more from the same community are recommended by the participants of the first group until a critical mass of people within the community has been through the process.

This is the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide and the 20th anniversary of Friends Peace Teams and the 10th anniversary for HROC. Theo spoke at Friends School of Portland, Portland High school and two community venues when he was here last week. He then has traveled on to other parts of New England. He will be in the US until mid June. He is raising awareness, providing training and raising funds to continue the programs.

His visit here may bear fruit by getting our local AVP programs involved in providing training within the refugee community. It certainly was beneficial for the English Language Learner program at the high school. Refugees and those who serve the refugee community had opportunities to learn about this way of helping individuals and communities heal. We do not know what Theo's message will do for our greater Portland region. We are glad that Sukie Rice was able to organize this visit and for Anne and Pays Payson for hosting his stay. We have been blessed by Theo Bizimana's witness and presence. If you would like to make a donation in support of this work please send it to:

Friends Peace Teams  
1001 Park Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63104 (USA)

If you want to know more about the programs please visit :<http://friendspeaceteams.org/> and <http://healingandrebuiltourcommunities.org>.

## **Annual Report of Nominating Committee for 2013**

*Prepared by Clerk of Committee Rob Levin*

This year's Nominating Committee (or Nom Com, as we have taken to calling it) members have been Rob Levin, Chris Beach, Brad Bussiere-Nichols, and Stefanie Fairchild. (Lise Wagner served on the committee briefly, but had to step off due to her other commitments.) Each of us has taken primary responsibility for three or four committees and/or individual positions, working to be sure they will be filled and functioning for 2014.

After his many years of service in the Clerk role, Chris passed the torch to Rob this year. Chris has been invaluable in assisting Rob with this transition.

Nom Com in any given year is primarily looking forward to the next year. From January to late September, we simply respond to the occasional need to fill a vacated position. Then, between late September and early January, we do the heavy lifting. We meet a few times as a whole committee, communicate often by email and phone.

Some highlights of our year include:

- For the second year in a row, there was remarkable stability on many of the individual positions and committees. For the first time in recent memory, there was no turnover on Ministry and Council. And everyone serving in an individual position such as the Treasurers or Recording Clerk agreed to stay on in 2014. This stability made the job of our committee much easier.
- We were very pleased to see people sign up for the new Events Coordination Committee, and hope that this committee fulfills its promise of making events run more smoothly while not having the coordination burdens fall on any one or two people.

Some challenges have been:

- Filling all of the slots for each week of the month for Clean Up & Close Up and for Recorder of Announcements. Understandably, people are reluctant to commit to being at Meeting on any given week of the month.
- Various committees report to us that they seek more people. These include Pastoral Care and Earth and Spirit. We continually discuss the pros and cons of the current committee structure, and whether any committees should be laid down or consolidated. But at the present time all of the committees appear to be functional, and we do not have any recommendations to make.

By year's end we were able to fill almost all of the individual and committee positions, and we continue to be inspired by the willingness of so many individuals to serve our meeting with such spirit and generosity! There remain a few positions open for volunteers to fill, which is the case every year.

As they step down, we give thanks to Lise Wagner and Elizabeth Szatkowski for their time on the committee, and we welcome at least one new member in Muriel Allen for 2014.



## **Portland Friends Meeting: Who's who, and what do we do? Leadings Committee**

The Leadings Committee was started in September of 2011. It was made possible by the bequest of Barbie Potter to Portland Friends Meeting. At the time of the bequest, an ad hoc committee met to discern how best to use the income generated from Barbie's bequest. The idea of funding spiritual leadings from members and attenders of Portland Friends Meeting was approved by Meeting for Business in June of 2011. The Leadings Committee was then formed, and its members were asked to meet quarterly, or as needed, to consider requests for financial support for members' and attenders' spiritual leadings. The

Leadings Committee has 5 members, chosen for their demonstrated ability to sit with others and discern with them how Spirit is moving the person and how a leading might best be implemented practically.

The current members of the Leadings Committee are Muriel Allen, Sandi Jensen, Brad Bussiere-Nichols, Patricia Pyle and Kathy Beach.

The committee accepts applications for Leadings twice each year, in the spring and fall. The original awards were envisioned as \$1500 per project, but this is not always the case, as there have been varying numbers of applications for Leadings projects each season. In addition to this, return on investments has been variable. Applications should be sent to Patricia Pyle at [patricia\\_pyle@yahoo.com](mailto:patricia_pyle@yahoo.com) or to her home address, 350 Duck Pond Rd, Westbrook, ME 04092.

### **Guidelines for Applications to the Leadings Committee**

1. The applicant should have a strong sense that they are being led by the Spirit to undertake the proposed project or work. They should be able to explain how they arrived at their conviction.
2. The applicant should have a sense that the time is right for them to fully commit to this leading and to give it their best effort.
3. The applicant should describe the project, being as specific as possible about the expected results or projects and how they might benefit Portland Friends Meeting or the wider community. They should make careful note of any pertinent feedback or independent confirmation they have received.
4. The applicant should submit a preliminary budget for the project corroborating the amount of the grant being requested.
5. The applicant should be aware that preference will be given to those applying for the first time and to members or attenders who have been active in our Meeting or another Quaker Meeting for several years. Those reapplying are encouraged to consider other sources of funding as well, such as grant writing or an annual fundraiser or other Quaker support for leadings such as the Lyman or Obadiah Brown Funds.

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested



Join us for First Day School's Annual Easter Breakfast: April 20th at 9am!

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Wednesday, May 7, 9pm

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