

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Fifth 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

Heather Denkmire

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### postal mail submissions

Liz Maier

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1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103

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

*Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them?*

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

## Calendar

**May 15:** Deadline for Leadings proposals

**May 18:** Rise of Meeting, Love Your Meetinghouse Day

**June 1:** Celebrating the graduation of 4 seniors

**June 8:** Threshing Session around the Question of whether there is any cause/concern/issue that the meeting as a whole community might be called to focus upon.

**June 15:** First Day School End-of-year Celebration

## Monthly Events

**Every Sunday:** 10:30a Meeting for worship

**Every Wednesday:** 5:30p Meeting for worship

**1st Sundays:** 9a Meeting for business

**2nd & 4th Sundays:** 9a Adult Religious Education  
10:45a Youth Religious Education

**2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays:** 10:10a Singing hymns, children's songs, rounds and more

**2nd Saturday:** 5-8p Youngish adults potluck  
Jock Carter [jockel.carter@presumpscott.com](mailto:jockel.carter@presumpscott.com)

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

**Portland Friends Meeting for Business  
May 4, 2014**

Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 23 members and attenders present. During worship, Co-Clerk Sarah Cushman read some of Faith & Practice's queries regarding outreach: Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them?

1. Minutes of April 6, 2014 Meeting for Business were accepted.

2. Financial Oversight –

- a. Treasurer's Report : Kathy Beach reported that our income for April was \$3,766 and expenses were \$3,962, leaving a negative balance of \$196.

Year to date, income was \$16,455 and expenses were \$17, 821. This leaves our year-to-date balance in the red, \$1,367.

Our expenses for the month were \$5,821. In addition to our monthly contribution to New England Yearly Meeting of \$1042. Our annual pledges of \$500 to the equalization fund at New England Yearly Meeting, and our annual donation to Friends of China Camp, \$300, have been fulfilled.

The Easter breakfast raised \$877, which is scheduled to be distributed to four charities selected by the children.

The Treasurer's Report was approved with thanks.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses  
March 2014 — Three Months (33%)**

Year-to-date Income	\$16,455
Percent of Budget	24%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$17,821
Percent of Budget	20%
Balance	(\$1,367)

- b. Dorothy Grannell reported that Financial Oversight requests that individuals be able to make contributions in support of the visit of Theoneste Bizimana to the Friends' Peace Teams. Friends would write Friends' Peace Teams in the memo line. The suggested total donation is \$200.00. If individual donations do not rise to that point, Portland Friends Meeting would supply the difference from the miscellaneous budget line. It was suggested that the opportunity to donate by the end of May should be publicized within the meeting community by announcement, newsletter and poster, and this was approved by the meeting.

3. Lyn Ballou reported for Ministry and Counsel:

- a. Ministry and Counsel suggested that we hold a threshing Session on June 8th at rise of meeting about the possible commitment to a meeting-wide focus on an issue such as climate change. Details will follow later.
- b. Ministry and Counsel recommended that we hold Summer 9am Meeting for Worship again and put Mid-Week Meeting for Worship on hold during the summer change to evening worship on Sunday. It was suggested that we switch to summer morning worship at 9 a.m. and summer evening worship at 5:00 p.m. on June 22nd, with the traditional potluck following the evening worship. This was approved by the meeting.
- c. Ad-hoc music revitalization group proposal: Following up on our State of Society Report's query, "Can we strengthen our music?" Ministry and Counsel Committee has convened an ad-hoc group of members and attenders interested in invigorating the Meeting's music programming. Members of the group were clear that music is an extension of our worship together. They propose as a trial experiment that the group assist with convening singing for 15 minutes before Meeting for Worship every Sunday except 1st Sunday during the school year. It was suggested that the music should start at 10:10 a.m. and stop at 10:25 a.m., five minutes before the start of silent Meeting for Worship. Kate Potter has drawn up a starting list that includes old favorites and child-friendly songs, which will be published in the newsletter for Friends to add their own favorites. This suggestion was approved by business meeting.

- d. Cellphone issues during Meeting for Worship: putting it on vibrate will not do. Phones should be off or on airplane mode. Texting is not OK.

4. Updates/Reminders:

- a. Poster asking for support for Cuban Quaker Youth Pilgrimage pilgrim to Bolivia and Peru will be posted in the foyer. This will include the opportunity to provide support for a young Cuban Friend to attend this Pilgrimage.
- b. May 11 – Plant seeds of spring for Mother Earth on the PFM grounds with Earth & Spirit on Mother’s Day
- c. May 15 – Deadline for next round of applications to the Leadings Committee
- d. May 18 – Love Your Meetinghouse Day
- e. June 1 – Celebration of Graduating Teen Group Members
- f. June 8 – Threshing Session at rise of meeting.
- g. June 15 – Youth Religious Education - End-of-Year Celebration
- h. Visit the [www.NEYM.org/sessions](http://www.NEYM.org/sessions) web site to learn how the payment for sessions will be different this year as well as to see how the schedule will change. We will be in a new place with a lot of new activities, August 2nd through 8th.
- i. Meetings will be able to have displays at yearly meeting sessions this year. Check the bulletin board and the newsletter for further details and to comment if you think Portland Friends should bring a display.

Respectfully submitted, Jenny Doughty, co-recording clerk

### Last Day of First Day School — Sunday June 15 — Celebration!

Join us for First Day School classes, beginning at 10:45 (after the usual 15 minutes of worship for children).

Children are then asked to be present for the Rise of Meeting, then we scamper **outside for FUN games and social time!**

Start warming up now for the famous game of "Tug of Peace!"

Please bring finger food to share....we provide the ice cream and popsicles.

Whether you have participated in First Day School a little, not at all, or a lot, we would love to see you there!



**SAVE THE DATE: July 26-27 Join the celebration(s) of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quaker Ridge Meetinghouse in Casco!**

Be a part of the group representing Quakers of the Past and Present in the Casco Days Parade on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> - contact Betsy Crofts at [emcrofts@gmail.com](mailto:emcrofts@gmail.com) for more information.

Then Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, join Friends for 10:30am Meeting for Worship, followed by a picnic at noon up on beautiful Hackers Hill above the meetinghouse.

Friends are always encouraged to attend worship at Quaker Ridge at 10:30am any Sunday during the summer - as well as to stop by to visit the meetinghouse at other times.



**Youth Religious Education News**



**The Middles**

It's been a year of singing happy cow stories, watching the disgusting effect of fast food on human bodies, and considering the role of the individual and groups in "saving the earth." The middles are finishing up the year with a collaborative art project. Soon to be displayed in the Meetinghouse, we will share a visual vision of how individuals can take action as well as how those actions can grow when coordinated with others in a group effort.



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

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



Anyone interested in volunteering or exploring volunteering for the Maine Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation Commission or its support organization Maine-Wabanaki REACH, please come to the Volunteer Orientation Meeting on May 22, at either 2-3:30 PM or 6:30-8:00 PM at Portland Friends Meetinghouse. For further information contact: Arla Patch, Community Engagement Coordinator, Maine-Wabanaki REACH [arla@megailnk.net](mailto:arla@megailnk.net) 890-0966

## 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.

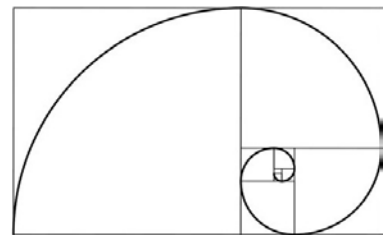
We intend to hire a teen team to keep the path to Tortilla Flat shoveled after storms.

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.

Many friends have asked about my trip to Auschwitz / Birkenau. I do look forward to sharing words and images with the meeting. But, meanwhile, here's a link to a video of my "Pecha Kucha" talk about that trip, that I gave with cellist Robin Jellis. PK talks are exactly 6 minutes and 40 seconds:

<http://vimeo.com/91339833>

-- Arthur Fink





## Changes, Changes for NEYM Sessions!

New England Yearly Meeting sessions will be held at Castleton State College in Vermont (pictured here) this year after many years in Rhode Island. Sessions will be held at a new site and there are many new ways of doing things as well. Please go to [www.neym.org/sessions](http://www.neym.org/sessions) to learn about three levels for fees, how to pay the fees, how to access Equalization funds from NEYM



and from Portland Friends Meeting. Afternoon choices will be very different this year with exercise, anchor groups, committee meetings and workshops happening in different formats and time frames. There is too much to include here so you really will have to check out all the options on line. It promises to be interesting and challenging at the same time.



**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.

### **Preschool Open House at Friends School of Portland**

**Wednesday, May 21, 8:30-10am**

Are you looking at preschools for Fall 2014? Come learn more about FSP's unique preschool program and culture of joyful learning. Observe circle time, experience free choice time in the classroom, meet the teachers, and take a tour of the school. For prospective preschoolers and their parents. Please RSVP to Jen McNally at [jen@friendsschoolofportland.org](mailto:jen@friendsschoolofportland.org) or 781-6321.

## Leadings Committee — Annual Report 2013

A relatively new Committee, Leadings completed discernment on its fifth round of applications in 2013. Four members have served since its inception: Muriel Allen, Brad Bussiere-Nichols, Sandi Jensen and Patricia Pyle. Lisa Wagner, one of the original members resigned mid-year to allow more time for other Meeting contributions. Kathy Beach joined us facilitating closer communication with Financial Oversight (our funds are dependent on interest earned in the Barbie Potter Bequest Fund during the previous year).

We are beginning to have a better understanding of our task and a comfortable sense of the rhythm of the scheduling of applications and the awarding of grants. The twice a year open period for applications-April and October-seems to be working. We continue to be grateful to the entire Meeting and especially the Nominating Committee for its original mandate for our Committee. The guidelines for applications have been especially helpful both to the Committee and for potential applicants.

We had three applications in April and found all of them to be well documented, well-considered and spiritually based. Equal grants were made to all three. We supported a writing project of Shirley Hager in which she will tell the story of a series of weekend Gatherings that occurred between 1987-1993 with Natives and non-Natives from Maine and Atlantic Canada. Shirley states that "for many of us our perspectives, our values-our very lives were changed forever."

Elizabeth Swatkowski sought funds to help finance her Leading to introduce her daughters to the needs and concerns of the wider world by participating in a work project in Nicaragua. Alas, Emily Kelsey could not gather additional support in time for her GREEN program which "paired renewable energy education with a service [component] of building rainwater collection systems." She returned her grant money and it was distributed equally to the other two recipients.

In October we had only a single applicant: Colleen Crowley, asking for help with funding for her laundromat/community service project. Our award allowed her to repair the roof employing a local laborer.

We were ready in December to approve 2014 funds to support Arthur Fink's trip to Auschwitz, but individuals stepped forward to help making our participation unnecessary.

New concerns arose for us this year. The first is the need to offer Support Committees to supplement grants in many instances. Having gained permission from Ministry & Counsel to do so, we are in the process of arranging such a Committee for Colleen. We face the dilemma of all who offer scholarships that our funds may not be enough to fully support the Leading. Should we make an award in such cases? Do we need a procedure for referring to other sources? How flexible can we be to accommodate unforeseen opportunities? Should we reserve a certain amount for such occasions? We continue to feel our way in this new process, reminding ourselves to be guided by the generosity and human kindness of Barbie in all endeavors.

## Help a Cuban Friend attend the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage brings together Young Friends ages 16-18 from different parts of the world to explore Quaker history, gain a deeper understanding of Quaker process, develop a stronger relationship with God and form lasting friendships, all while experience different Friends traditions and forms of worship. This year's pilgrimage, offered by the Friends World Committee for Consultation,



Ulises Rojas and Heredio Santos, retired pastor of Banes Friends Church

Section of the Americas ([fwccamericas.org/qyp-andes.shtml](http://fwccamericas.org/qyp-andes.shtml)) will run from July 22 -August 21. Pilgrims will travel to Bolivia and Peru, vibrant centers of the South American Quaker movement.

### *Support a Cuban Young Friend's Participation*

No New England Young Friend or Young Adult Friend applied to attend this year's pilgrimage, however one from our sister yearly meeting in Cuba did! Ulises Manuel Bove Rojas, Banes Monthly Meeting, was selected as one of the pilgrims from Cuba to attend the pilgrimage. This 18-year-old Friend is very involved in his meeting and with Cuban Young Friends. He has participated in a number of service projects and recently completed an intensive two-week course at the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute (see article about CQPI on [fum.org](http://fum.org)) given to pastors and leaders of Cuba Yearly Meeting.

We are seeking to raise \$3,000 in support from New England Friends for Ulises, recognizing the bridge of Love and friendship our two yearly meetings have built for the past 20+ years. Friends of all ages and their meetings are encouraged to send support, as they are able and led to: New England Yearly Meeting. ATTN: QYP Rojas, 901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602. Please write the check to NEYM with a notation in the memo line that reads: QYP Rojas. Gifts should be received by June 1, 2015

Quaker Youth Pilgrimages have been life changing for many who have attended. Who knows what work the Spirit will do in Ulises and how we may all be changed by his work in Cuba and beyond.

—Nataly Moran, member, NEYM FWCC committee & member QYP program group

## Help Wanted: Newsletter jobs!

**Photographer** — Periodically take or collect photos of happenings related to Meeting life and submit them each month to the newsletter with appropriate captions.

**Getting to Know Us editor** — Ideally from the perspective of someone who knows nothing about PFM, gather messages from committees explaining their work, talk with members/attenders and share their stories, find creative ways to tell us about us.

**Calendar Keeper** — Do whatever it takes to make sure your friendly newsletter editor doesn't miss listing upcoming special events each month.

Application process: Volunteer yourself by emailing [pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net).



## Donations Wanted in Support of Friends Peace Teams

Portland Friends Meeting has approved the proposal of Financial Oversight requesting that members and attenders make donations to Portland Friends Meeting for the Friends Peace Teams. Please send what you are able and write Friends peace Teams in the memo line of your check and mail or give it to Portland Friends Meeting. The meeting will send as much as is collected to Friends Peace Teams by May 31. If the donations do not reach a goal of \$200.00 the remaining amount up to \$200 will be added to the donations from the Miscellaneous line in our annual budget. If more that \$200 is given the total will be sent. This request is made in support of the visit of Theoneste Bizimana.



In April, Theoneste Bizimana visited the Friends School of Portland, Portland High School, Reiche School and a community organization serving refugees in the Greater Portland region. He spoke with students, teachers, refugees, social workers and Quakers while he was here. Theo is one of the founders of the Healing and Reconciliation of our Communities (HROC) in Rwanda. A part of the reason for the visit was to commemorate the Rwandan genocide that happened 20 years ago in April and to raise money for Friends Peace Teams. Theo told the story but did not ask for donations at his talks. Some people did make donations and buy some books but Theo gave much more than what was received.

For ten years Theo and the other HROC facilitators have been bringing victims and perpetrators of genocide together to reconcile. This work is being done so that a cycle of genocide in Rwanda and other East African countries may be broken. The program is based in part on the Alternatives to Violence program and is supported by Friends Peace Teams. Check its web site to learn more about the work of the Peace Teams. [www.friendspeaceteams.org/](http://www.friendspeaceteams.org/) It is important to note that Rwanda is recovering from the genocide financially, politically and socially and there is no evidence return of genocide in the 20 year cycle of the past.

### **Friends & the Internet Day** — Saturday, May 17th 9 to 4 Moses Brown School — 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence, RI

Join us for a day of practical exploration on ways the Internet can help Friends both within and beyond their meetings. Bring your laptop! This will be a 'jump in, try it out' day.

Explore:

- Ways online resources can make meeting life better.
- How the internet can help us communicate our Quaker message.
- Social media as outreach— we'll set up a Facebook ad together
- Using the tools you already have more effectively!

Our Guides: Jeff Hipp, NEYM Communications Director; Brent Bill, FGC New Meetings Project Coordinator; Kathleen Wooten, NEYM Sessions Coordinator; Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, FWCC; Mark Barker, Concord Meeting

Coffee at 9 am, program starts at 9:30 am. Lunch is provided, donations welcomed. RSVP for planning purposes &/or questions to Beth Collea, [recoord@neym.org](mailto:recoord@neym.org). Sponsored by NEYM Ministry & Counsel Resources Working Group

## Preliminary list of Songs for PFM, before worship on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

We hope to begin at 10:10 and end at 10:25 AM with a quiet hymn or song. Thus we enter Worship in a calm mood. The number after a song shows where to find it in the green hymnal (Worship in Song).

### Rounds:

I've got a river of light...Spring forth a well – 151  
Seek ye first the kingdom of God...Sing Alleluia – 100  
Dona Nobis Pacem (three sections) – 296  
Jubilate Deo (five sections) – 227  
I am an acorn, the packet, the seed – 242  
Shalom Chaverim – 298  
And everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree – 300  
I wish you a Happy Birthday (NEW TUNE!)

### Children's Songs:

All God's critters got a place in the choir - 306  
Down by the riverside – 295  
George Fox: there's a light that was shining – 272  
This little light of mine – 266  
Love is something if you give it away – 221  
Hymns and Spirituals  
How can I keep from singing? – 245  
Lord of the Dance – 115  
Simple Gifts – 271  
Amazing Grace – 185  
For the beauty of the earth – 10  
The lone wild bird – 240  
Song of the soul...Open my eyes that I may see – 166  
Morning has broken – 32  
Ubi caritas – 222  
Loud are the bells of Norwich (Julian of N.) -250  
Here I am, Lord – 260  
To everything, turn turn turn – (Ecclesiastes)  
Every time I feel the Spirit -147  
Swing low, sweet chariot – 249  
Spirit, we adore you - 145



*Please add your favorites, join in the singing and call Kate Potter (761-1648) or Jennifer Frick (775-5141) for further information.*





Easter Breakfast 2014



Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested



Join us for **love your meeting house day** on May18th from 12-2.  
Raking, cleaning windows and general cleanup... and fun!

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Wednesday, June 4, 9pm

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