

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Sixth Month 2014

Meeting for Worship: 6/15 Sunday 10:30a, 6/22 - 8/31 Sunday 5pm

First Day School: 6/15 10:45 (resumes in September)

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

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Query II: "Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all?"

(1985 New England Yearly Meeting, Faith and Practice (page 213))

Calendar

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

July 20: 7:15p Meeting for business (following potluck)

July 26-27: Quaker Ridge Meeting's 200th Celebration parade, worship

August 2-8: New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, Vermont

Monthly Events - summer (6/18-8/31)

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for worship 6/15
9am Meeting for worship (no childcare) 6/22-8/31
5pm Meeting for worship followed by potluck 6/22-8/31

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for worship, through 6/18

2nd Saturday: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck
Jock Carter jockel.carter@presumpscott.com

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

Last Day of First Day School — Sunday June 15 — Celebration for everyone!

Joins 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!**

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!

**Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting
June 1, 2014**

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on June 1, 2014 at 9 a.m., with 10 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Andy Grannell read Query #11 in the 1985 New England Yearly Meeting, Faith and Practice (page 213):

“Do you respect the worth of every human being as a child of God? Do you uphold the right of justice and human dignity? Do you endeavor to create political, social, and economic institutions which will sustain and enrich the life of all?”

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

2. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are 5 months or 42% into the 2014 budget year. Income for May was \$3,973. Expenses were \$7,090, which included the campership and other youth scholarships for Friends School of Portland summer camp and China Camp. New England Yearly Meeting scholarships will be paid in June. Total year-to-date income is \$20,428, or 30 % of budget, and total year-to-date expenses were \$24,911 or 36% of budget. The balance for the year to date is negative \$4,484. Friends are encouraged to donate.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses
Fifth month — 42% of 2014**

Year-to-date Income	\$20,428
Percent of Budget	30%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$24,911
Percent of Budget	36%
Balance	(\$4,484)

3. Financial Oversight Committee. Rita Clifford presented the following recommendation from the committee:

Child Care Help for Youngish Adults Gatherings

Financial Oversight recommends that an amount equally \$50 per month for 8 months be provided to the Youngish Adults to be dispersed to the child care providers who are trained and screened by the YRE committee as child care providers when they are used during the Youngish Adults meetings in homes or at the meeting house.

This money would come from budget line 29 which is adult scholarships for Quaker activities. In 2014, \$250 would be made available. If the need on a particular evening is larger than \$50 the parents needing the care would contribute the remainder of the money.

The payment will not go through the meeting's process for child care providers. This is seen as a grant to the Youngish Adults for child care provision that allows parents to participate in a Quaker event or workshop.

The situation will be reviewed during the budget process for 2015. Financial Oversight will request that Youngish Adults report back to the Meeting twice a year (June and December) indicating the following:

- average number attending the pot lucks
- average number of children needing care
- average number of families attending
- average number of hours of child care provided

Friends approved the proposal.

4. Ministry and Counsel. Stephanie Richards reported.

The committee has found Anne Payson clear for membership in Portland Friends Meeting and asked for approval. Friends warmly approved and thanked Anne for the excellent job she does as Youth Religious Coordinator.

minutes (continued)

Friends had requested that Ministry and Counsel consider whether to sponsor a display at the New England Yearly Meeting summer session in August. We decided to ask the Leadings Committee to provide information on their history and work. They will probably be creating a notebook describing projects to date, and a poster.

Ministry and Counsel also recommends the following schedule for summer worship and business (June 22 through August 31):

early morning 9:00 am

early evening 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm followed by pot-luck

no scheduled Mid-Week Worship

mid-summer Meeting for Business is proposed to be held on Sunday evening July 20th, 7:15 pm following worship and potluck. This was approved.

The Committee will be facilitating a threshing session June 8 at the rise of Meeting on the question whether our community wishes to address a unifying issue. This will be a time for discussion and discernment, not making the decision whether to take on a central issue, nor what that issue might be. A light meal will be served and discussion will run for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Please let Stephanie know if you need childcare as soon as possible. A summary will be provided later so that those unable to attend can learn what happened.

5. Falmouth Quarter Andy Grannell read a report of Dorothy Grannell presenting the following information on the 2014-15 Quaker Ridge Meetinghouse 200th anniversary celebration on July 26-27, 2014. It is part of Casco Days, a celebration of local history.

On Saturday, there is a local parade. Attenders should arrive before noon in Casco. It is suggested that people march with a banner or information about modern Quakers.

On Sunday, worship begins at 10:30 a.m. . Let Dorothy know if you are attending so that she can let Betsy Crofts know. Betsy is from Philadelphia, owns the property and is coordinating these events. The meetinghouse is small, so planning is very important. There will be about 25 minutes of unprogrammed worship after Janice Beattie leads a modified programmed service.

A picnic will follow the service on Hacker's Hill. People should bring their own lunches. Desserts and beverage will be supplied. Views are spectacular. It is requested that those attending from Falmouth Quarter bring desserts to add to the pies that will be provided by the family, especially gluten free items.

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting will hold a short meeting for worship for business with specific attention to reading the memorial minute for Gordon Harris.

Marlee Turner, who attends this meeting in summer, highly recommended the experience of going there. Stephanie Richards mentioned the importance of the Saturday parade, and encouraged people to participate and show what contemporary Friends are doing. Andy Grannell will propose some participation to the Friends School of Portland.

6. Statistical Report for 2013. Recorder Lise Wagner reported.

Year end total 2012: 110 members

New members: 8

Transfers in: 3

Resignation: 1

Transfer out: 2

Death: 2

Total 2013: 116 members (80 female/36 male)

Average at worship: 74

Average at meeting for business: 29

First Day School: 36

Adult Religious Education: 12

minutes (continued)

6. All-Meeting Retreat for Fall 2014 The Clerk reported. The remaining committee members are planning to have another fall retreat in Alfred, and have reserved the dates of October 25 and 26. They plan to ask for more volunteers to serve on the committee at the rise of Meeting in the next few weeks.
7. Representatives to Yearly Meeting (August 2-8, 2014). We appointed Sarah Cushman, Lise Wagner, Brad Bussiere-Nichols, Elizabeth Szatkowski, Dorothy Grannell and Andy Grannell.

Friends interesting in attending should check NEYM.org, for details about this year's sessions at Castleton State College in Vermont, and for online registration. The meeting has scholarships available for adults. Questions should go to the Clerks.

8. Gay Pride Parade Saturday June 21. Friends were encouraged to attend and carry the Meeting's banner. Speak to Andy if you will attend so we can register by the June 7 deadline. The parade starts at noon at Monument Square. Participants should arrive by 11:30.
10. Other Business. Jennifer Frick for Peace and Social Concerns reported on the five priorities set by the threshing sessions for Friends Committee on National Legislation. They are:

Peaceful prevention and resolution of conflict including restorative justice.
Mitigation/adaption regarding the effects of climate disruption.
Sustainable food production/distribution supporting local farms and including food security.
Reduction of economic disparity, unequal distribution and access to resources (job, health, income)
Immigration reform.

These recommendations have been sent to FCNL in Washington D.C.

11. Updates/Reminders

June 1st, Sunday, Celebrating the 4 PFM Seniors' Graduations
June 8th, Sunday – Threshing Session
June 15th, Sunday – End of year Youth Religious Education Celebration
June 21st, Saturday – Gay Pride Parade, Portland, 11:30 Monument Square
June 22nd Sunday– 9:00 am & 5:00 pm summer schedule for worship begins
July 20th, Sunday – Meeting for Business, after worship and potluck
July 26-27, Sat-Sun - Quaker Ridge Meeting's 200th Celebration parade, worship
August 2nd – 8th – New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, Vermont

We closed in silent worship at 10: a.m. with 23 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again after the potluck on July 20, 2014, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

Donations for Friends Peace Teams

Those wishing to support the work of Theo Bizimana and the Friends Peace Teams that you can do so by writing a check to Portland Friends Meeting with the notation "Friends Peace Teams" in the memo line. PFM would like to send a donation to Friends Peace Teams by the end of June as they celebrate 20 years service to the world.

PFM Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) priorities discerned and shared

Peace & Social Concerns held an educational session March 9th during Adult Religious Education regarding the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) *Statement of Legislative Policy* titled "The World We Seek." This was followed by an April 6th threshing session where those present discerned our top five priorities for FCNL to focus on in the upcoming 114th Congress in 2015-2016. This Spring Quaker responses from across the United States will be gathered and the Quaker lobby agenda assembled. At the end of threshing PFM discerned our priorities to be:

Peaceful prevention & resolution of conflict including Restorative Justice.

Mitigation / Adaptation regarding the effects of climate disruption.

Sustainable food production / distribution supporting local farms and including food security.

Reduce economic disparity: unequal distribution and access to resources (job, health, income).

Immigration reform.

The PFM response has been sent to FCNL and will be assessed along with other Quaker responses this Spring and staff at FCNL will begin their work.

For those who wish to learn more about FCNL and follow the process see the website: www.fcnl.org



Changes, Changes for NEYM Sessions!

New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) sessions will be held at Castleton State College in Vermont this year after many years in Rhode Island. Please go to 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.

Early Morning Worship Option for Summer Months — Call for Those Interested in Opening the Meetinghouse

Similar to last summer, Friends again approved holding an additional meeting for worship on Sundays for the summer months beginning on June 22. This 9am worship is made possible by individuals signing up to open and close the meetinghouse on particular Sundays. Co-Clerks provide conveners with keys and any guidance needed. If you are available and willing to sign up to open the Meetinghouse for a week or two this summer, please do so via the online Doodle schedule: <http://doodle.com/w4yttwftqczzekhs>

“Strange and unendurable irony — that Friends who speak so much about the Inward Light should so timidly hide their own light under a bushel! The time has come to preach the faith we have resolved to practice. If we have good news for our brothers, and I believe we do, let us shout it from the housetops!”

~ John Yungblut, 1913-1995

Summer camps

Did you know Friends School of Portland offers summer day camps for kids ages 4-14? Week-long sessions run June 23-August 1. Spots are still available in all weeks of Island Play (4-5 year olds) and Adventure Program (6-9 year olds)!

Kids ages 9-14 can select from a variety of Specialty Camps: *Independent Video Production* (June 30-July 3); *Rock Camp with Maine Academy of Modern Music* (July 7-11); *Fiber Arts "Whittle & Knit"* (July 14-18); *Mountain Bear Survival Skills & Create an Original Play* (July 21-25); *Advanced Mountain Bear Survival Skills* (July 28-Aug 1); *Storybook Creation* (Aug 4-8).



Preschool openings

Are you looking for a great preschool for your child? Friends School of Portland still has openings in our preschool classroom for the 2014-15 school year. Students must be age 3 by September 2, 2014. We invite you to learn more about our unique program, including:

- * Small class size (13 students and 2 teachers) within a culture of joyful learning and an atmosphere of love and acceptance
- * One hour of outside time each day
- * Natural learning materials and an emphasis on imaginative play

We offer a 2-, 3-, or 5-day program with either half days (until noon) or full days (until 3pm), with optional aftercare until 5:30pm.



Please call 781-6321, email jen@friendschoolofportland.org, or visit friendschoolofportland.org for information about the Friends School of Portland preschool or summer camps!

Help Wanted: Newsletter jobs!

Getting to Know Us — 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 pfnnewsletter@grantwinners.net.

Thank you to Arthur Fink for volunteering to take and share photographs!

Suggested Reading



from the Adult Religious Education Class May 24, 2014

Some of these books are available through the Portland Public Library (*) and a few are in the Meeting Library (**). Most are available through Amazon or other book sellers. Those contributing to the list were: Kate Potter, Sandi Jensen, Dorothy Grannell, Andy Grannell, Kristina McCormack, Jo Linder and Al Norton.

MEDITATION/PRAYER/SPIRITUALITY

PRAYERS of the Cosmos: Reflections on the Original Meaning of Jesus's Words, Commentary and Translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz

BLESSINGS of The Cosmos: Wisdom of the Heart from the Aramaic Words of Jesus, Neil Douglas Klotz

* An Altar in the World A Geography of Faith, by Barbara Brown Taylor, 2009.

The Testament of Devotion by Thomas Kelly

Naylor's Sonnet "There is a Spirit" by Kenneth Boulding

**(?) An Ocean of Darkness, an Ocean of Light, y un Barquito Grande: Friends Ministry of Hope in a Troubled World. By Bridget Moix A Wider Quaker Fellowship pamphlet from 2010

The Essential Zohar: The Source of Kabbalistic Wisdom. Rav. P. S. Berg, 2002.

JESUS

Who on Earth was Jesus? The Modern Quest for the Jesus of History, by David Boulton

The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind—a New Perspective on Christ and His Message, by Cynthia Bourgeault

Jesus for the Non-Religious, by John Shelby Spong

*Why Christianity Must Change or Die, A Bishop Speaks to Believers in Exile (A New Reformation of the Church's Faith and Practice), by John Shelby Spong

Eternal Life: A New Vision, Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell, by John Shelby Spong

*Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—and How They Can Be Restored, by Marcus J. Borg

Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way, by Nancy L. Bieber

POETRY

A Fresh Footpath: My new life in poetry by George S. Chappell

How I Discovered Poetry by Marilyn Nelson

Soular Energy by Shay Bintliff, MD

Grooks, by Piet Hein

Suggested Reading (continued)

THEOLOGY

Quakerism: a Theology for Our Time, by Patricia Williams 2008.

The Heart of Christianity, by Marcus Borg, 2003.

Convictions, by Marcus Borg (2014)

*The Quaker Way by Phil Gulley

NON-FICTION

Why Good People Do Bad Things, Understanding Our Darker Selves, by James Hollis.

The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating by Elisabeth Tova Bailey

The Historical Dictionary of Friends (Quakers) is a quick guide to everything you ever wanted to know about Friends and were afraid to ask.

** The Transformation of American Quakerism, by Thomas Hamm. 2009

Examines the many twists and turns of the Quaker experience in the US. The splits, the comings together, all described with honesty and very readable.

The Autobiography of Allen Jay, Joshua Brown, ed. 2012

Allen Jay lived through many of the key splits in Quakerism in the 1800's and had a strong ministry to youth. His work after the Civil War in North Carolina led to the formation of the Friends Disaster Team and AFSC many years later. Thinking that the document would help to bring Friends of different backgrounds together, the Richmond Declaration of Faith was written in his living room. Little did he know it would divide us rather than unite us. His writing is engaging and often humorous and it leaves you with lots to think about.

Community Note:

Fall Retreat Volunteers: Contact Lyn Ballou, David Spector, or Margie Schoeller if you would like to help with the Fall Retreat.



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

Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare
Truth & Reconciliation
Commission



Maine-Wabanaki REACH announces the day long training for those interested in volunteering (in any number of ways) for the Maine Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation or for REACH (the support organization for the TRC). Even if you missed the Volunteer Orientation last month, and would still like to volunteer, please come:

Friday June 20th from 10 am to 4 pm. (Bring brown bag lunch); **or** Saturday June 21st, from 10 - 4 (Bring brown bag lunch)

Where? Portland Friends Meetinghouse.

Questions? Call Community Engagement Coordinator Arla Patch. 890-0966 or write- arla@megalink.net

Youth Religious Education News

Did you know?

We have four seniors graduating this year from our First Day School Teen Group. They are Jake Griffin (Bowdoin), Cat Johnson (Franklin & Marshall), Caroline McKeon (Haverford), and Cordelia Payson (King's College, Halifax, NS). They are marvelous young people who have been very involved in our meeting and in Yearly Meeting, through retreats, Sessions, and Friends Camp. On June 1st, we celebrated them at the rise of meeting, recognizing them individually and giving them each a book and a letter of introduction to take with them on their journeys to college. If you see them, wish them well!



Friends School Summer Programs

Island Play
Adventure Program
Video Documentary
Jr. Rock Camp
Whittle & Knit
Create a Play
Mountain Bear
Storybook Creation



Portland Friends Meeting
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Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested



Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, July 9th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net