

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Summer 2014

Meeting for Worship: Sunday 5pm (summer), 10:30a resumes 9/7

First Day School: 2nd & 4th Sundays 10:45, resumes 9/28

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

Newsletter

electronic submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

postal mail submissions

Liz Maier

274 Black Point Rd.

Scarborough, ME 04074

address change details

Tony Scilipoti

tscilipoti@maine.rr.com



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portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Query 9: Stewardship

Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation?

Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others?

Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?

(1985 New England Yearly Meeting, Faith and Practice)

Calendar

August 2-8:

New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, Vermont

September 28:

First Day School resumes

October 25-26:

All-Meeting Retreat, Alfred, ME

Monthly Events

Every Sunday:

9am Meeting for worship (no childcare) through 8/31

5pm Meeting for worship followed by potluck, through 8/31

10:30a Meeting for worship (for all ages), resumes 9/7

Every Wednesday:

5:30p Meeting for worship (resumes September)

2nd & 4th Sundays:

10:30a children in Meeting for worship, resumes 9/28

10:45a First Day School, resumes 9/28

2nd Saturday:

5-8p Youngish adults potluck

Jock Carter jockel.carter@presumpscott.com

4th Friday:

3:30-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen

Aiyn Foster 766-9762

Portland Friends Meeting for Business

July 20, 2014

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 24 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Andy Grannell read the Query that begins: "Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation?"
2. The minutes of June 7th, 2014 Meeting for Business were accepted.
3. **Treasurer's Report** : Sue Nelson reported on behalf of Treasurer Kathy Beach.

We were half-way through the year at the end of June, and our income in donations continues to lag behind our expenses, with the income running at 36% of our budget while the expenses are running at 46% of budget. This leaves us with a deficit of \$6,979 for the year-to-date, about the same as this time last year. Income for June was \$4253 and expenses \$6748, resulting in a negative balance of \$2495. Quite a few children and a few adults have taken advantage of our scholarship funds—the children for Friends Camp, Outdoor Adventure at Friends School, and NEYM sessions, and adults to help with expenses associated with NEYM sessions in Vermont.

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses Sixth month — 50% of 2014

Year-to-date Income	\$24,682
Percent of Budget	36%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$31,659
Percent of Budget	46%
Balance	(\$6,979)

The Treasurer's report was approved.

4. Jim Maier reported for **Ministry and Counsel**:

Report on the Threshing session on June 8, 2014 to consider "Are we called to work together on one unified theme for social witness as a meeting?" Although it was a small group that participated, a very lively and productive discussion generated a number of thoughts and statements related to this question. These will be reported in the newsletter. Ministry and Counsel will consider next steps at our next meeting.

The clearness committee that considered Pete Franzen's application for membership enthusiastically endorsed it, and the meeting approved.

5. **Finance Committee Report and Recommendation**: Doug McCown, Sara Jane Elliot, and Rita Clifford. Rita Clifford as clerk of the Financial Oversight Committee reported a request from Friends School of Portland for a bridge loan of \$100,000 from PFM to be made available to Friends School of Portland between August and September 2014. Doug McCown reported that 80% of the Friends School Capital Campaign has been raised. However TD Bank requires a reserve of money in escrow during the building process. Originally the Greater Portland Council of Government was providing a bridge loan of \$100,000 as a portion of this, but they have now pulled out at short notice three days ago over concerns about lending to religious based organizations. The Friends School are therefore short \$100,000 and have asked PFM for a loan at 5% interest for 21 months. This would be our second loan as we have already pledged them \$100,000 for 7 years at 4%. Financial Oversight considers this to be a low risk loan with a good return, but the financing has to take place quickly as work is continuing at the site and students are expected in thirteen months. If the school does not obtain the extra loan, they cannot close on their construction loan with TD Bank. The Friends School can afford to repay this loan.

Sara Jane Elliot explained that the original \$100,000 loan is currently in a money market account earning little interest, and could be used to provide the bridge loan. The other \$100,000 could be taken from our endowment as needed. It would not affect our programs for next year. If it was needed, we could still have our contribution to the operating budget from our endowment. These loans would also generate income from the interest. However, there would be a shortfall in the funds available for leadings and capital improvement to the tune of \$3000 for 2016. When the bridge loan is repaid it will be reinvested in the endowment. There is the risk of repayment, but the greater risk is that the school cannot be built. The total amount of our endowment is approximately \$525,000.

5. (continued) Financial Oversight, after discussing the matter, recommends that Meeting for Business approve a second \$100,000 loan to Friends School of Portland in the form of a bridge loan to be guaranteed immediately with actual loan taking place in late August or September. The terms of that loan will be 21 months at 5% interest. We will convey to FSP that if the second \$100,000 loan can be delayed until after the first loan is repaid, that would be best for us. However we commit to making the second loan available whenever it is needed. The second loan has already been approved by Meeting for Business.

After silent reflection the recommendation of the Finance Committee was approved.

6. Approval of nominated representatives to **Falmouth Quarterly Meeting** to be held following worship on Sunday, July 27th at Quaker Ridge Friends Meeting House: Jim & Liz Maier were approved as our representatives with great appreciation.
7. The **Leadings Committee** asked for an approval for a small change to the guidelines for application for funding for leadings. Currently the guidelines express preference for people who have been active in our or other meetings for a period of time. The Committee asked for a change to reflect preference for people involved in this meeting and meetings in Falmouth quarter, so that we have a better chance of knowing them, and asking that they be available to meet with the Committee as part of the application process. This was approved.
8. **Earth and Spirit:** Ed Robinson reported that on August 17th Betty the Ecological Bus will be here from 3 to 5pm. This is partly to support the work of this organization, and partly to encourage people to come to our meeting house to become acquainted with PFM.

9. **Other matters/announcements**

Jenny Rowe invited the meeting to come to the ground breaking at the new Friends School of Portland on Thursday August 7 at 4pm and Saturday September 20th.

Dorothy Grannell asked for volunteers who could offer a bed for people from the Executive Committee of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section Of The Americas, who are meeting in Portland on September 18th, 19th and 20th.

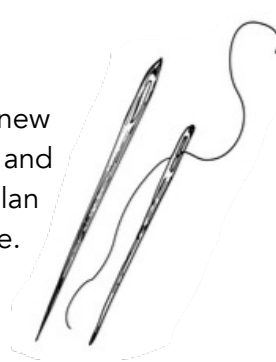
We finished in silent worship at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Doughty, Co-recording clerk

Do you like to sew?

The Building and Grounds Committee will be making new roman shades for the entry and parlor. We will work out a plan with the group we assemble. We will be working in the basement where it is cool!



If you are interested, contact Tracy Booth (tdbooth@earthlink.net) or Liz Maier (jim.liz.maier@gmail.com).

*Only the inner vision of God,
only the God-blindedness
of unreservedly dedicated souls,
only the utterly humble ones
can bow and break the raging
pride of a power-mad world.*

~ Thomas Kelly, 1893-1941



Friends World Committee for Consultation Executive Committee coming to PFM: FWCC Section of the Americas Executive Committee April 2014 at Miami Friends Meeting

September 17 – 20 will see 15 Friends from around the US, Cuba and El Salvador arrive in Portland. Most will come on Thursday, September 18, but one or two will come the night before. The Events Committee and Dorothy Grannell are seeking beds for them. What we are seeking right now is beds for NINE of these guests for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Three will stay at the meetinghouse and two are staying in Bath. The nine include two Spanish speaking women from Cuba and El Salvador (both are fluent in English), a woman from the west coast, a woman from New York by way of Jamaica, two men from the west coast, a man from Philadelphia, one from North Carolina and Noah Baker Merrill.

Hosts will be asked to provide breakfast for the guest and may be asked to drop committee members off at the meeting house each the morning. The committee works from 9 am to 9 pm each day they are here. Please contact Dorothy Grannell if you are willing to host one or more of the guests. It is especially helpful if you live an easy distance from the meetinghouse.

Dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com or 878-8698.

Other meals will be provided at the meetinghouse. Two of those will be pot luck and lunches will be "make your own sandwich" style. The pot luck meals will provide time for Portland and Falmouth Quarter Friends to meet these Friends "from away" and some from different Quaker traditions than ours. The Events Committee will be looking for volunteer drivers to pick up and drop off visitors from bus, train and airport and possibly between host house and meetinghouse. There will also be need for some volunteers to help with meal set up and clean up on a daily basis Thursday evening through Saturday lunch. More on these opportunities will be publicized in late August and early September.

e-bay! e-bay!

Sue Calhoun would like to sell some items via e-bay. Having neither used e-bay before, nor time to master the process herself at this point, Sue would appreciate our help. Have you or someone you know sold items via e-bay? Do you know of a person, or a local e-bay "store," that could help Sue with this? If you can help in either way, please contact Jane Mullen at 761-5856 or jimmmaine@aol.com. Thank you!

"Who knows if the gods exist at all?
Can you find them in the heavens? or the Himalayas?
On the earth, or in the air?
Nowhere else can God be found,
but in the heart of the seeker of Truth."

*Tamil Nadu, S. India.
Sung by traveling spiritual guides in Bengali villages*



First Day School begins again on September 28!

Cooper Family Update

Ernest Cooper was recognized on Saturday July 26th at St Luke's Anglican Church on Congress St for completing the Bible Ministry Certificate from the Portland Bible College. Mathilde has become a U.S. citizen and changed her last name to Cooper as well. Shakira is working for Hannaford's in Lewiston, Anna will begin her senior year in high school in the fall, Zebia and Joyce are doing well in school and Oswald is continuing his college studies. The oldest son in Kentucky will graduate from college in December and begin medical school then. The family hopes to be able to return to Portland when the contract on their current home is up. Ernest works full time at night now and the commute between Portland and Lewiston is difficult and expensive.

Ernest and Mathilde send their greetings to Portland Friends and expressed their gratitude for the support of Friends and the Meeting since they have come to Maine. Their current address is 71 Strawberry Ave., Apt. 2, Lewiston, ME 04240.

Help Wanted: Newsletter jobs!

Getting to Know Us — Write a "bio" about a member or attender each month by asking for submissions or by interviewing and sharing.

Getting to Know Us, v.2 — Collect brief descriptions of committees and groups so we all know who does what "behind the scenes."

Quaker News — Read newsletters, websites, talk with Friends, share news about Quaker activities.

Calendar Keeper — Check Quaker websites, review announcements and minutes, and contact committee chairs to compile the monthly calendar.

Application process: Volunteer yourself by emailing pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net.

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

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@friendsschoolofportland.org, or visit friendsschoolofportland.org for information about the Friends School of Portland preschool!



Bettie the Eco Bus!

August 17th RIGHT HERE at Portland Friends Meeting

Quakers Ian Toal and Lesley Heyl have been touring the country in Bettie their retrofitted school bus sharing their knowledge of sustainable living techniques. On Sunday August 17th they will be RIGHT HERE at Portland Friends Meeting to give tours of Bettie and share their knowledge with us . Bettie runs on bio-diesel and vegetable oil; Ian installs solar cells. (Have you been thinking that this might be was your next move to help the environment?) Please come on Sunday August 17th 3-5 (open house for the public).

Bettie (and Ian & Lesley) will be here through potluck for Meeting members and attenders, in case you don't get here earlier. Event sponsored by Earth & Spirit Committee, Ed Robinson, Clerk



Are we called to work together on one unified theme for social witness as a Meeting?

Summary statements for Threshing Session on June 8, 2014

- * Potential for deepening the life of our Meeting
- * Potential to create cohesion with different faiths on a particular issue, and make more connections with those communities
- * Action is easier to take part in when part of a larger group
- * Living our Quaker witness in the community and wider world could be beneficial
- * Potential for deepening ourselves as individuals; outward action can lead to spiritual deepening and vice versa.
- * This is an opportunity for a "skills and commitments audit" in our community
- * Cart before the horse? It is right to focus on this issue in terms of our Meeting rather than as a powerful concern for a particular issue?
- * There must be respect for a spectrum of involvement and
- * There is potential for feeling "left out"
- * Any approach should be broad and inclusive
- * Individual leadings need to be supported and not eclipsed by corporate actions and decisions
- * Potential for opening the door to dissent and fracturing in this community
- * A need to discern the role of Peace and Social Concerns Committee
- * Would we lay other activities down (for example, like the NEYM Jubilee Year) or add this?
- * Strain on Meeting resources concerns
- * There is confusion or dis-ease about approaches to social witness
- * The timeframe is important to consider, and there will be a need to keep monitoring the process
- * What would taking this on look like, logistically?
- * Potential to have difficulty maintaining focus, as a common theme can have many different aspects.
- * Need to be mindful of maintaining a way open for seekers

Friends School of Portland Construction Begins!

Friends School of Portland is delighted to report that we will begin construction of our new school in August! Thanks to the support of a handful of generous private lenders including Portland Friends Meeting, we have the financing we need to begin the project. With over 80% of funds raised (that's \$2 million!), we are in good shape and will continue with great energy to raise the remaining \$470,000 needed by December.

Another piece of exciting news: we are fully on target for Passive House certification. This rigorous, voluntary building standard is embodied in the building's tight envelope, ventilation with heat recovery systems, efficient lighting, and carefully window and door placement. Our project will be featured at the International Passive House Conference in September, and we will be only the third PH school in the country.

We hope you will join us at one of two groundbreaking ceremonies, the first on *Thursday, August 7 at 4:00 p.m.* and the second on *Saturday morning, September 20*, which will be more oriented toward youngsters. The site is along Route 1, directly after crossing from Falmouth into Cumberland, on the right hand side going north. We will mark the event with balloons! For more information, call us at 781-6321.

We are most grateful for the deep and active support from PFM in helping the school grow from a leading to a thriving educational community where Friends values are lived each day.

Respectfully,
Jenny



PROPOSED NEW BUILDING, FOR FRIENDS SCHOOL OF PORTLAND
PHASES 1 + 2
ROUTE 1, CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested



Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, September 10th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net