

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Eleventh Month, 2014

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a

First Day School: 2nd & 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

Newsletter

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"Do you recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires? Are you ready to respond to any concern God may lay upon you, large or small?"

*NEYM Faith and Practice Preliminary Revised
Advices and Queries, Queries #6 and #14*

Calendar

November 14-16: Young Friends Retreat - "Make Food, Art, Music (Not War!)," Portland Friends Meeting

November 15: 5-8p Youngish Adult potluck (*note special date*)

November 21-23: JYM Youth Retreat "God's Yeast: A Bread Retreat,"
Westport Monthly Meeting

December 7: 4:15p Advent Garden

December 14: Harvest Lunch, rise of meeting (details below)

Monthly Events

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for worship (for all ages)

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for worship

2nd & 4th Sundays: 10:30a children in Meeting for worship
10:45a First Day School

2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sundays: 10:00a all ages singing before worship

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

Harvest Lunch — Meeting Fundraiser

The Teen Group, as a part of its service to the meeting, will host a fundraising lunch on Sunday, December 14th at rise of meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Portland Friends Meeting for Business
November 2nd, 2014**

Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 25 members and attenders present. During worship, Co-Clerk Sarah Cushman read Queries #6 and #14 from the *NEYM Faith and Practice Preliminary Revised Advices and Queries*, "Do you recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires? Are you ready to respond to any concern God may lay upon you, large or small?"

1. **Minutes of October 5th, 2014** Meeting for Business were accepted with no changes.
2. **Treasurer's Report** - Kathy Beach reported that the total for donations for the month of October was \$8,201. This is such a gift to our Meeting, and we are all grateful for that effort. The total income for the year is \$46,258 and the total expenses are \$48,377. We have closed the budget gap significantly this month with Friends' generosity, and our current deficit is \$2,122. In October, the expenses were \$5,862 and the income was \$9,084, giving us a balance of \$3,222 for the month. The Treasurer's report was approved.
3. **Ministry and Counsel** - Lyn Ballou reported that the retreat last weekend in Alfred was a great success. Financially it made a small profit and a good time was had by the adults (figures in the low 20s) and six children who attended. This will be followed up at Ministry and Counsel's next meeting before there are further details. A draft of the memorial minute for Harold Burnham was read and approved by the meeting. It will be printed in the newsletter. It will be sent to Falmouth Quarter with a recommendation that it be forwarded to NEYM. Gratitude was expressed to Stephanie Richards and Beth Bussiere-Nichols for their excellent work in writing the minute. The minute does not read as an obituary or a resume, but as a portrait of a spiritual life.
4. **Nominating Committee** - Chris Beach and Rob Levin laid out the Committee's proposal for Adult Religious Education that PFM lay down Adult Religious Education Committee (ARE) as it is now formed & functioning, and replace it with two ARE Co-Coordinators.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses
Ten months — 83% of 2014**

Year-to-date Income	\$46,258
Percent of Budget	68%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$48,377
Percent of Budget	71%
Balance	(\$2,122)

Thank you!

Friends "dug deep" this month. The total for donations for the month of October was \$8,201. This is a great gift to our Meeting—we are all grateful for that effort!

In 2015, Nominating would seek two volunteers to serve as Co-Coordinators of ARE. Their roles would be to:

- a. Receive ideas for 2nd and 4th Sunday programs.
- b. Listen carefully and discern with the proposer whether the program is appropriate for the meeting and how and when it might be held.
- c. Work with M&C and other committees when they propose an ARE program
- d. Help the proposer of the program publicize it through the Newsletter, Announcements at Rise of Meeting, flyers, etc.
- e. Help the proposer of the program hold it during the designated Sunday(s), typically from 9 to 10 AM on 2nd or 4th Sunday or occasionally after a potluck lunch on those or other Sundays.

By not having regularly scheduled ARE programs on 2nd and 4th Sundays, those 9-10 am time slots will be available for threshing sessions or similar gatherings called by Ministry and Council or other committees. Currently, available times for threshing sessions are after rise of meeting, and we anticipate that morning threshing sessions might be preferable in certain instances.

The question was raised as to how this would affect child care. Currently we do offer child care during that time period, so this would potentially reduce the need for child care and any potential programs would need to be co-ordinated with the Nursery co-ordinator. The feeling was expressed that child care should be routinely available during that time period and canceled if not needed, rather than scrambling to arrange it when required. There should be no impact on the current time scheduled for singing.

minutes (continued)

The question of whether the proposed co-coordinators could also initiate programs of ARE was raised, in order to fulfill a felt need for spiritual discussion. However, the role descriptors as currently written do not preclude such a function and the co-coordinators could work closely with committees to find programs. ARE also provides valuable education to new attenders on the principles of Quakerism. Ministry and Counsel would be interested in putting on such educational sessions.

Friends expressed sadness at the loss of valuable work performed by the committee, both in terms of the programs offered and the connection made between people attending the ARE sessions, and the process of the committee itself, and also sadness at the loss of time shared with young adults in such discussions.

The reduction in attendance at ARE has followed the changes in the schedule for Youth Religious Education, and may need to be addressed separately.

It was suggested that replacing the words 'lay down' in the proposal with 'modify' or 'an experiment' would be more helpful, and allow the proposal to expand opportunities for ARE programs in a way that does not currently happen. The proposal should be seen as a springboard for growth of ARE rather than reduction.

The issue was referred back to Nominating Committee for further discernment, taking into account the views expressed during the discussion. In the meantime Nominating Committee will post the ARE vacancy sheet with other committee sheets to allow the committee the potential to form during the sign-up period. Nominating Committee will report back next month.

5. **Falmouth Quarter Report.** The NEYM timing on receiving memorial minutes has changed. They are now required by February 10th. There will therefore be a special called meeting for business on January 25th following worship at PFM, in order for the minute for Harold Burnham to be read and approved. Members of Falmouth Quarter will be invited here to join the meeting. Friends approved this proposal.
6. **Other Business:** Dorothy Grannell proposed that the Adult Religious Education time on Sunday, November 23rd be used as a time of worship sharing on the topic "What Makes Us All Friends?" She will facilitate the program between 8:30 and 10 am and include a light breakfast with coffee. A short video of Friends from around the world would be shown and followed by sharing by individuals from our meeting who have worshiped with Friends of differing locations, practices and theologies. Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas is the sponsor of the proposed program. Child care will be provided. Friends approved this proposal.

Announcements:

- Doug Gwyn has been called to be the part time pastor at Durham Friends Meeting. He begins his service there in mid- November.
- We will be hosting Jonah McKenna Moss, the Clerk of Young Adult Friends (YAF) for New England Yearly Meeting on Saturday November 15 and Sunday November 16. Jonah is interested in meeting with Young Adult Friends from the meeting (age 18-35) and will be available to speak about the YAF program and about the Yearly Meeting's programs and funding. The Youngish Adults Potluck may be hosting their monthly potluck to welcome Jonah on the 15th instead of their usual 2nd Saturday evening.
- Friends of Kakamega will sponsor a Kenyan Made Crafts Sale on Saturday, November 29 here at Portland Friends Meeting from 9 am to 1 pm. Sukie Rice is seeking some volunteers from Portland Friends Meeting to assist with the set up, sale and clean up on Saturday. Please contact her at sukierice@comcast.net or call 207-318-8531. All are invited to attend. If you are not available on the 29th, the same sale in support of the Kakamega Orphanage will be offered at Durham Friends Meeting on Saturday, November 15th from 9 – 12.
- H.D. Wagener passed away at 2:15 a.m. Saturday morning. Plans are underway for a memorial service in the next few weeks - possibly the afternoon of November 29th though this is yet to be confirmed.
- On December 7th there will be our usual Advent Garden.

Have Breakfast With Friends Around the World!

You are invited to attend a worship sharing opportunity combined with a light breakfast on November 23 in Portland Friends' dining area from 8:30 am – 10 am. *Everyone is invited* and there is nursery care, however, Dorothy Grannell hopes that those of you who have worshipped with Friends in different parts of this hemisphere or around the entire world will come to share. Also those of you who have hosted Friends of a theological or worship stripe different from your own please come and share. We may view the short video "What Makes Us All Friends?" as a starting point and then consider questions such as "How has the experience enriched or changed you?"



Has experiencing different forms of worship and discussing different views caused you to grow spiritually or challenged you? How do opportunities like these enrich the Society of Friends?" Following our coffee and conversation we will adjourn to the meeting room for singing where it is hoped we can try some of the hymns that Latin American Friends enjoy. Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas is the sponsor of the program.

Christmas Crafts Fair Kenyan-Made Crafts to benefit the Kakamega Orphans Project

Saturday November 29
9:00am to NOON
Portland Friends Meetinghouse

Great Gifts!

Woven bowls, scarves, nativity sets, angels, carved animals, wooden bowls, Christmas tree ornaments, soap stones and much more...

Gelato also available for sale!

For information, please call
318-8531 or email:
sukierice@comcast.net



Advent Garden, December 7

All are invited to join children and families on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2013 at 4:15 PM for the annual Advent Garden. In the midst of the rush of the holiday season, enter into a space of silent wonder.

Children will walk the advent spiral of evergreens, take a light from the center, and place a candle among the fragrant boughs. Listen and watch the glow spread. Light refreshments follow the service.

Benefit Concert!

FSP parent and singer/songwriter Kate Schrock will perform alongside Glen DaCosta to benefit our new school! Glen DaCosta is a former band member of Bob Marley and the Wailers and has also played horns for artists like Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and Lou Rawls. He is credited with playing on albums like Kaya and Exodus, as well as Marley's Survival Tour. Tickets will be available for a suggested donation of \$25, in advance through FSP by calling Rose at 781-6281, at any Bull Moose location, or at the door of the event. This will be an incredible show, helping FSP to build our permanent home!

As always, Friends School of Portland welcomes your presence at our Meeting for Worship every Monday at 2:30pm.



KATE SCHROCK AND GLEN DACOSTA BENEFIT CONCERT



**Monday, November 10
7:00pm
One Longfellow Square,
Portland**

Suggested donation of \$25

**Tickets are available at the door or in advance:
At all Bull Moose locations OR
by calling Rose Splint 781-6281
www.friendsschoolofportland.org**

Local pianist and singer-songwriter (and FSP parent!) Kate Schrock will perform alongside saxophonist Glen DaCosta to benefit the new Friends School of Portland!



Glen DaCosta is an arranger, composer, and long-time saxophone player for the legendary Bob Marley and the Wailers. He has also played horns for artists like Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and Lou Rawls.



***Help Friends School of
Portland build our new home!***

Member profile -- Sarah Cushman-Levin

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Woolwich, outside of Bath. I was a country kid and loved nature. We lived almost on the Dresden line on Merrymeeting Bay (the Kennebec) and I spent a lot of time in the woods and on the river.

Go to school?

School is always a funny question for me – I did my undergrad at Bryn Mawr College outside of Philly and I always felt a little bit like the admissions mistake. I was a big fish in a tiny pond at Morse High School in Bath – and then a tiny fish in a big scary ultra-academic pond at college. Some of my more formative time was spent studying (and living) in Costa Rica, Brazil, and Portugal. And then there was another fun period getting my automotive associate's degree at Baltimore County Community College years later. I take online classes now at the University of South Florida in the little niche of transportation planning I love, called Transportation Demand Management.



What do you do for work?

I've had the wonderful chance to work for myself for the past nine years – Cushman Transportation Consulting, LLC – it sounds so pretentious! :) I do transportation education, planning, and consulting work – all around my general obsession with all things walk/bike/bus/carpool and how to get people to try alternate ways to get around. I love that I get to work with different communities and on teams - but also that I'm often working from home in my pajamas.

What are your favorite things to do?

Riding my bike, napping, gliding on my bike, reading romance novels, using my bike to haul 80 pounds of tomatoes home from the farmer's market, canning dilly beans and foraged fruit and tomato sauce and zucchini soup, biking to Quaker meeting, sewing camping gear and other useful items, using my bike for anything.

Tell us about the spiritual journey that brought you to Portland Friends Meeting.

I don't remember a time when I didn't feel some sense of the divine – not that I probably was able to express it that way when I was five or so. I was raised a mix of things: (1) my primary family – mom, step-dad, and brother - were agnostic and non-church-going; (2) I spent every other weekend with my dad's family and the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Damariscotta; Dad was a liberal theologian, a Methodist minister and then Episcopal priest (although he didn't have a church until I was teenager); and (3) on alternate weekends and during the summers I went to an evangelical neighborhood church and camp nearby. I was moved by my Christian friends' daily walk with the divine but let's just say that the heavy duty, this-is-the-only-way evangelism didn't quite speak to my condition. (Which is funny, because I sometimes feel a little bit like a Quaker evangelist now – as in, "Hey, you should totally check this faith practice out – it's not for everyone but it might work for you!") I had to leave Maine to find Quakers - I had no idea we had them here! I started attending mid-week meeting at nearby Haverford while I was in school. When I moved to Maryland and stayed for the six years after college, I attended Annapolis Meeting and then Homewood (Baltimore). Although – true confessions - I think I really started attending more seriously after I began dating Rob long-distance (who was then attending meeting in New York City). And I have to say Portland Friends Meeting was where I became most rooted, when we moved back to Maine in 2002. Maybe I was more ready to settle in after just getting married and coming home – but I think it also has to do with our incredibly vibrant community here.

What kinds of things would you like to do in our community?

I'd like us to be better able to help new people find their way into the life of the meeting, without necessarily having to do more formal newcomer gatherings or classes. I read this piece in a Friends General Conference booklet on welcoming folks that I'd like to try. Basically, at rise of meeting during announcements you put a Friend on the spot with a specific question (for example, "How do people decide to speak in worship? Are there ground rules? Can we say anything?") and anyone who's interested in the answer (old Friend or new) can join the Friend-in-the-hot-seat for a short discussion. It can offer newcomers something to grab onto and a few people to connect with, without much fuss. Anyway, I'd like to try it – maybe after Co-Clerking!



Love your Meetinghouse Day

Sunday, November 9, at rise of meeting.
Please bring your work clothes, gloves, rakes, bags and any other gear that you think may help us spiff up PFM's grounds and building.

Earth and Spirit Retreat

Saturday, November 15th at Aaiyn Foster's home on Peaks Island. See notice on the bulletin board for more details.

Stewardship Opportunities — Committee Openings

Nominating Committee is asking members and attenders to sign up for committee for 2015. The following committees have openings:

Peace and Social Concerns
Ministry and Council
Buildings and Grounds
Adult Religious Education
Friends School Resource Committee
Pastoral Care
Financial Oversight
Earth and Spirit
Youth Religious Education
Clean Up and Close Up (Third Sundays)
Announcements Recorder (2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays)
Cemetery Committee
Library Committee

For every committee except Ministry and Council and Peace and Social Concerns, you can either e-mail or call Rob Levin (rob@roblevin.net, 774-8026) or sign up in person in the Meetinghouse foyer. For those two committees, please speak with Rob about your interest, as Nominating Committee formally nominates members of those committees.

Six of my images from the "Trees of Auschwitz" series are hanging at the Etz Chaim Synagogue on Congress Street, just above India Street. They are on the 2nd floor, to the left as you enter the synagogue proper.

These trees grew up after the holocaust, but in the earth of Auschwitz. What do they know that we need to know? That's the question I want to ask, and these images feel like a perfect lead in to that discussion.

If you have connections to schools, churches, community groups, or other places that should have me and Robin Jellis (cellist) offer a program about our journey to Auschwitz / Birkenau, please share with me.

— Arthur Fink



Report from Falmouth Quarterly Meeting

Leadership for 2015

Clerk – Dorothy Grannell, Portland

Recording Clerk – Open – we are seeking a person to fill this post

Treasurer – Leslie Manning, Durham

Beacon Hill Representative, Sarah Cushman, Portland

Archivist – Open

We approved a budget of \$675.00 for the quarter which includes funding for All Maine Gathering and a reduction in support for Friends Camp since their mortgage has been assumed by NEYM.

Memorial Minutes must be received by Permanent Board by February 10th, 2015. Because we will have memorial minutes to pass on to NEYM, the Quarter approved a called meeting for worship for the conduct of business for the reading of memorial minutes to be held on Sunday, January 25th at 12:30 at Portland Friends Meeting (PFM approved this on November 2, 2014). Falmouth Quarter Friends are invited to attend worship at Portland Friends at 10:30, have soup and bread with us followed by the called Quarterly Meeting. It is hoped that this will help to encourage inter-visitation among meetings. During the Ministry and Counsel portion of the meeting, an important discussion was held about memorial minutes, their purpose and their qualities. The sharing was rich and especially helpful to the representative from Brunswick Meeting which has not utilized the practice in the past.

We approved returning to a former practice within the quarter to have the host meeting lead the worship for the day utilizing the preferred form of worship of the host meeting. Falmouth Quarter is a bit unusual as three different forms of Friends worship are practices: programmed worship led by a pastor, semi-programmed worship led by the Spirit and open waiting worship. Programs for the quarterly meeting may be developed by the host meeting or any of our meetings who have a program to propose for the day in consultation with the clerks and the CPR committee (Committee for Planning and Revitalization).

Marlee Turner reported on her inter visitation to Southern Maine Meeting, Windham Friends Meeting, Mahoosuc Mountains Preparative meeting, and Lewiston Friends. She has made plans to visit with Brunswick and Durham Friends in the spring. She reports that the Spirit is alive and well in the meetings that she visited and that she was welcomed warmly by each of them and fully included in their post meeting discussions and sharing of food. Food is an important part of the meetings where she visited. Marlee encouraged us all to take time to visit throughout the Quarter to get to know our neighbors and fellow Quakers in the region. She feels her visits were spiritually enriching for her and she hopes those she visited.

Durham Friends meeting shared a minute that Durham approved concerning Climate Change and Lewiston shared its meeting on being an open and welcoming meeting for worship. Both minutes will be posted at Portland Friends Meeting in the foyer so that we may know the testimony of our sister meetings in the Quarter.

Durham Friends meeting has called Doug Gwyn to be its pastor. Doug will begin his ministry in mid November. As a part time pastor. He comes most recently from Pendle Hill as a teacher. He is the author of a number of books and Pendle Hill pamphlets. He also has talent as a musician.

Announcements:

All Maine gathering will be held on May 2, 2015, place to be determined

Topic: Conflict transformation. Presented by the Conflict Transforming Team of New York Yearly Meeting, Heather Cook and Peter Phillips facilitators.

The Structural Review committee of New England Yearly Meeting will be holding listening sessions between January and April of 2015. Friends are urged to attend as the Yearly Meeting seeks to better understand the practices and procedures of Friends that continue to serve the Religious Society of Friends and those that are not. Announcements will be made of locations and dates for these discernment sessions.

Falmouth Quarter Report (continued)

Friends of Kakamega will hold Christmas Crafts Fairs at Durham on November 15 from 9 to 1 pm and at Portland Friends from 9 – noon on November 29.

Friends Committee on Public Policy will hold a meeting on December 6th. Place and time to be announced.

We expressed our thanks to Durham Friends for their hospitality and lunch. The rearrangement of their worship space into a square enhanced the conduct of our worship and business.

On November 1, 2014 Falmouth Quarterly Meeting approved standing in agreement with two minutes of concern which came from Lewiston Monthly Meeting of Friends and Durham Monthly Meeting. We also agreed to send them on to Permanent Board of New England Yearly Meeting indicating our agreement.

Welcome

We, the members and attenders of **Lewiston Monthly Meeting**, welcome you as you are, or as you hope to be.

Our welcome includes all visitors and seekers of whatever age, ethnicity, race, sexual identity, gender identity, ability or disability, faith persuasion or none.

A fundamental belief of Quakerism is that there is that of God in everyone, every life is precious and we all have gifts to nurture and share.

You are welcome to join us in worship, and in our community of reflection and action.

Approved 5th day, 10th month, 2014 by Lewiston Monthly Meeting of Friends

Durham Friends Meeting Minute of Concern for the Environment

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it.” Psalm 24:1

The Religious society of Friends testimonies of simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship are our guides in dealing with the challenges of global warming and climate change. Durham Friends Meeting supports sustainable relationships among the economic, environmental, and social systems; we understand these to rightly be relationships that emphasize humans as interdependent with and nurturing of the environment and of each other.

Cultivating a deeper awareness of our connections with all of Creation enables us to live more spirit-filled lives. This awareness reminds us of God’s presence in everything around us, leads us to greater clarity and acceptance of ourselves as God’s creatures. Failure to respect the sanctity and interdependence of all Creation is a root of war, social oppression, and environmental destruction.

Friends concerns for simplicity, right sharing of resources and equality lead us to recognize that the effects of global warming desecrate God’s creation.

We, on this day of the United nations march in New York City, issue and urgent call for Friends to make substantive changes in their lifestyles including:

- Reduction in use of fossil fuels for transportation, home heating, electricity.
- Reduction of industrial combustion of fossil fuels.
- Work for public policies that discourage use of carbon-based fuels and encourage use of renewable sources of energy.
- We acknowledge that is an urgent need to begin a steady progress towards bringing our lives into right relationship with the community of life on Earth. With knowledge, and with Friends’ testimonies as our guide, we embrace our responsibility to protect the earth’s life forms and ecosystems.

Approved 21st day, 9th month, 2014 by Durham Monthly Meeting

Portland Friends Meeting
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Address Service Requested

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

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

