

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Second Month, 2015

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a

Adult Education: 2nd and 4th Sundays 9a

First Day School: 2nd and 4th Sundays 10:45a



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103

portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Connections

Co-Clerks

Andy Grannell 878-8698

Liz Maier 883-5420

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

Lyn Ballou 865-3888

Lea Sutton 642-2327

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Christina Davis 518-0784

Al Norton 899-3001

Religious Education

Adults: Sandra Jensen, 839-2372

Youth: Susan Lavigne, 775-0626

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698

dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com

e-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414

mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com

Newsletter

submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

address change details

Tony Scilipoti

tscilipoti@maine.rr.com

“What are the signs of vitality and immediacy of the Divine Presence in our meetings for worship? Does our worship lead us into faithful action?”

NEYM Faith and Practice, III: Advices and Queries

Calendar

February 13-15: Young Friends Retreat—Rejuve, Rejuice, Recycle:

The Rejuvenation Retreat, Wellesley Meeting

February 15: Rise of Meeting, presentation/discussion, Jose Aguto Legislative Secretary, Sustainable Energy and Environment, FCNL

February 22: Rise of Meeting, Earth and Spirit climate change action discussion and potluck

February 27-March 1: JYM Retreat—What's a Prayer? Wellesley Meeting

March 8: 10:45a First Day School Meeting for Business

March 6-8: Bodyworks: A Special Retreat for 6th Graders, Westport Meeting

March 15: Rise of Meeting, “Climate Disobedience and lessons from the Lobster Boat Blockade,” a discussion with Jay O'Hara

March 20-21: Falmouth Corner Women's Retreat at PFM

Monthly Events

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

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for worship

2nd & 4th Sundays: 9a Adult Education

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

Bart Czyz, btczyk@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

4th Friday: 3:30-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen

Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

Falmouth Quarter Women's Retreat

at Portland Friends Meeting on March 20-21 (details inside)

Portland Friends Meeting for Business
February 1, 2015

Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 30 members and attenders present. During worship, Co-Clerk Liz Maier read Queries for the Meeting Community from the *NEYM Faith and Practice Preliminary Revised Advices and Queries*: What are the signs of vitality and immediacy of the Divine Presence in our meetings for worship? What gifts do different Friends bring to worship? Do we nurture spiritual gifts and show appreciation when they are exercised? Are we aware of those among us who rarely speak in worship, but whose presence grounds the meeting? Are we open to ministry expressed in a variety of religious terms? How well and how deeply do we listen to one another? Do we recognize ministry as faithful even when it makes us uncomfortable? Do we nurture our children in Quaker worship and know them as fellow worshippers? Do our corporate and personal worship practices enrich each other? Does our worship lead us into faithful action?

1. Minutes of January 4th, 2015, Meeting for Business were accepted with no changes. Co-clerk Andy Grannell reported that the question about the e-group and how we access it is still outstanding. We are monitoring the upcoming work on climate change. The question of how we can contribute to the meeting both financially and through the newsletter is also still outstanding.

2. Treasurer's Report – Kathy Beach reported that since our last business meeting members of the Financial Oversight committee have made the detailed report a little easier to read by eliminating one line in the Meeting Community section. Since the salaries for the Religious Ed Coordinator and the Nursery Coordinator include the taxes that will be taken out for withholding, this year they will only list the total monthly salary, with the understanding that the checks actually issued to Anne Payson and Jessica Eller will reflect the withholding taxes, in accordance with IRS regulations.

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses
One months — 8% of 2015

Year-to-date Income	\$4,069
Percent of Budget	6%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$3,839
Percent of Budget	6%
Balance	(\$230)

The donation line has been adjusted to reflect that change, and our total budget is now \$66,710.

At 8% through the year, our total expenses for January were \$3,839. Donations were \$3,076, with total income of \$4,069. This leaves us with a positive balance of \$230. Only a Meeting contribution to NEYM has been sent this month. No other Meeting contribution checks were written to avoid starting the year in the red. Financial Oversight would like to make the signage and contribution box easier to see on the front hall table so that Friends are not wondering how they can contribute to the life of the Meeting. An article about making contributions on a monthly basis appeared in the newsletter, and Friends are invited to add their thoughts there. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Phone proposal. Sarah Cushman reported that we have a \$1800 a year phone bill. We have two landlines. Because of the fire alarm system we were previously required to have two phone lines, but Seacoast Security now has a way of receiving input from the system that is wireless. This would enable us to drop one line though there is a \$999 installation fee. We concluded that we needed a phone for emergency purposes. The proposal is that we should get a Google Voice number for the meeting house, which would be our public number and would appear on our website. Co-clerks would have access to that number and get email notifications of messages. They could also use their own phones to call out using that number. We could acquire a basic Pay As You Go phone and buy 1000 minutes for the year for \$100. The location of the phone is still to be determined as is the responsibility to charge it periodically, though it seems to be related to meeting house rental and the Events Committee. Dorothy Grannell offered to take responsibility for this. This proposal was approved.

3. Library and Archives Committee – Karyl Sylken gave the annual report for the Library and Archives Committee. It is printed in full at the end of these minutes.

4. Youth Religious Education – Sarah Peterson gave the annual report for the Youth Religious Education Committee. It is printed in full at the end of these minutes.

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minutes (continued)

5. Ministry and Counsel - Lea Sutton reported on four membership transfers. Anna Barnett's membership has been transferred out to Multnomah Monthly Meeting. We are sad to see her go but rejoice that she is happy in her new home. Lydia Maier's membership has been transferred in from Providence Monthly Meeting, and Theresa Oleksiw's membership has been transferred in from Durham Monthly Meeting, along with her daughter Abigail Fortune for Junior Membership. The transfers were joyfully approved.

6. Dorothy Grannell reported that Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas will hold its Section Meeting in Mexico City March 12 – 15. A spiritual preparation guide has been developed for use of individuals and meetings. Dorothy requests that those who are interested follow the meditation guide with her on the 10 days leading up to the event. The guide will be printed in the newsletter and copies will be available in the parlor. FWCC is introducing a new strategic plan for Friends in the Western Hemisphere. Its mission remains unchanged but how that mission is accomplished will demand much more of the Representatives sent by Yearly Meetings in terms of the operations of the organization. It will also demand more of yearly and monthly meetings in terms of listening to the voices of Friends from across theological divides and seeking understanding. Dorothy is seeking support of individual Portland Friends as she continues with her leading concerning FWCC and its ability to keep the world of Friends connected. The travel fund is still short of its goal and Friends are invited to make donations. Interpreters are also needed to translate for long phone meetings, and that is another expense that needs to be supported. Dorothy was asked to send an announcement about this round the e-group.

7. Dorothy Grannell reported concerning Building Rental: The Friends School of Portland may not have access to Mackworth Island on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the winter vacation in February (Feb 24 & 25). They have asked to rent the meeting house for those two days. They will pay rent for the two days at a slightly reduced rate similar to what the Yearly Meeting pays when a retreat is held here. Dorothy Grannell and Jenny Rowe will be reviewing the workings of the building in preparation for its use by the school if necessary. Dorothy requested that a member of Buildings and Grounds be available those two days in case an issue arises with the building as she will be away on the two days. The school administration will have a key to the building and we will notify the police because of the different traffic patterns for those two days. Jenny is contacting Tortilla Flats concerning the use of 12 parking spaces in the Tortilla Flats parking lot.

8. Hosting the FGC Development Committee in September – Andy Grannell reported. We have been asked if we can have a two day planning session here at PFM in September 2015. Fourteen members of the committee will be coming, which leads to needs for hospitality and transportation and will involve many of our meeting members. The meeting will be on a Friday and Saturday and they intend to stay over for meeting on Sunday. They have offered to hold a workshop on an issue of our choosing. This proposal was approved.

9. Truth and Reconciliation Update – Arla Patch gave us a very full and fascinating report of her work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the indigenous American communities in Maine. This work will culminate with a report to be issued in June, but the energy will continue in other projects involving art and healing. She expressed thanks and gratitude to PFM for supporting her leading with grants and other support. Arla's report will appear in the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Doughty
Co-Recording Clerk

Library And Archives Committee Report for 2014

The library committee continues to be thankful for generous donations of books from Meeting members. When donated books are duplicates of books we already have, we set them aside for other Monthly Meetings or for members to help themselves.

We continue to use our computer and printer to keep current our library catalog, which is a printed listing of all the books in the library. It enables members and attenders to look up whether or not we have a certain book, and where in

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Library And Archives Committee Report *(cont-)*

the library it is located. For this we are grateful to former Library Committee member Kristina McCormick, who continues to catalog and enter into the computer new additions. We did weed out a number of books which were dated, the contents of which are covered by more recent books.

We received a generous donation of many books from Andy Grannell on Quaker history. A detailed list of the books is available. We also planned to buy 5 books reviewed in Friends Journal. We also paid for a subscription to "Friends Journal" for use in the library.

We are hoping for a larger budget, to use to buy more new books, so we can be a greater resource to the Meeting.

Library Committee meetings at the rise of Meeting have worked well for the usual work of assessing donated books, and considering new purchases.

We say goodbye with gratitude to 2 leaving members of the committee, but also welcome 3 new members for this next year.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karyl Sylken

On behalf of the Library and Archives Committee.

Annual Report of Youth Religious Education Committee — 2014

In 2014, the Youth Religious Education committee continued to support the young people of our Meeting as they each bring laughter, energy, and growing insight of Spirit into our community and their own lives. First Day School classes have been dynamic and well-attended, thanks to great volunteer teachers and the dedication of our coordinator, Anne Payson. In addition to the beloved traditions of the Easter Breakfast fundraiser, the June End of Year Celebration, and Advent Garden in early December, young Friends have engaged in new adventures and ideas for our community through Quaker retreats and collaborative projects within the meeting.

This year, the youth chose to donate the proceeds of \$877 from the Easter Breakfast fundraiser to four different causes: \$360 to Friends of Kakamega Orphanage to renew our annual commitment to support a young person named Bradley, \$200 to Friendly Waters of the World, \$185.50 to the Friends Camp Scholarship Fund, and \$185.50 to the Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) Team of the Milestone Foundation. Once again, the Teens ran a successful lunch fundraiser to benefit the general meeting budget, held on December 14th. This was coupled with a winter clothing drive to benefit the Preble St. Resource Center. The Teen group also continued monthly social gatherings with leaders Lise Wagner and Elizabeth Szatkowski. We had one new junior membership request during 2014 for Mabel Peterson, which was approved at the subsequent Meeting for Business.

Classes continue on the second and fourth First Days from September to June. These are divided into the Nursery, Littles, Middles and Teens, with age-specific programming developed by the teachers in collaboration with Anne Payson. We are pleased to report that all of our wonderful teachers have returned for the 2014-2015 school year. Of interest, the curriculum of the Littles, Middles and Teens is centered around the "S-P-I-C-E-S" Quaker testimonies this year. The Littles have an additional focus on Quaker "Superheroes", the Middles have incorporated the use of Sculpey clay into discussions of individuality and togetherness, and the Teens are also focusing on studying intriguing current and late Quaker role models. One ongoing challenge for the committee is the large age spread of the Middles group, which includes 7-12 year olds. The age breakdown of the classes is a complicated balance of the available classrooms, the distribution of children across all classes, and the available number of First Day School teachers. We will continue to check in with the teachers of the Middles and to offer support as needed to appropriately address this challenge.

Many children went beyond the Meetinghouse to various retreats, activities at the Friends School of Portland, Yearly Meeting and Friends Camp at China Lake, often supported by scholarships from our committee. We provided a total of \$4,460 in scholarships benefitting eight of our young people from six different families. We currently have a total of 30 families on our YREC mailing list and we estimate that approximately 20 families intermittently or regularly attend classes and events over the course of the year.



The Nursery is thriving under the care of coordinator Jessica Eller and our attendance numbers have been higher this year than in prior years. The average attendance was 7, with a range from 1-15 children on any given week. 39 children total used the nursery in 2014, although 10 of these were one-time attendees. March and April held the highest rates of attendance with the lowest attendance occurring over the summer months. In addition to weekly oversight of the Nursery and monthly check-ins with our committee, Jessica ably coordinates the busy schedules of the teens and adult volunteers who assist in the Nursery. One of the challenges this year has been a lower than usual number of teen volunteers. In the coming year, we will be asking parents of regular Nursery attendees to volunteer for a one-time Nursery shift to help share the work of providing care for our many children.

The Committee wishes to thank the many volunteers who have made our programs possible, especially our teachers Chris Fitze, Lise Wagner, Elizabeth Szatkowski, Lindy Hankins, Heather Denkmire, Janet Lohmann and Jonathan Ewell. We are also grateful for the guidance and support of the Clerks, and the Committees of Adult Religious Education and Ministry and Counsel.

The Clerks of the Committee wish to thank the outgoing committee members Shuli Bonham, Susan Lavigne, and Lise Wagner, who have provided patience, wisdom, and hours of work on youth events. We are pleased to welcome our two new committee members Lydia Maier and Nate Nichols starting in January. One of our exciting initiatives for 2015 is to create small info cards promoting our YREC programs that can be available both at the Meeting and at other related venues, such as the Friends School of Portland.

For the committee, co-clerks Sarah Peterson and Luke Hankins.

Hello Portland Friends,

Earth and Spirit Committee has set an intention to have monthly events to honor, educate, support and/or inspire others - regarding our collective environmental stewardship and ACTION!



For February, Earth and Spirit Committee is hosting a 'Gathering for Sharing on Climate Change Action'. We want to personally invite you to attend, hear what people in your community are doing, and to share your own stories.

With FCNL visiting Portland Friends Meeting this month as well, and to give sufficient time for reflection, we have changed the date of our event: Earth and Spirit will now host this Climate Action Event at the Rise of Meeting on February 22nd.

We want to honor what each of us do in our own lives (personally or professionally) to take action for a more balanced world; and we want to support those who are working on Climate Change in any capacity. So, please reflect on your past year, and if you are someone who has been active on these important environmental issues – please join us on Sunday, February 22nd for a potluck gathering.

We hope to see you there!

—Earth and Spirit Committee

Request for Travel Funds Needed for Latin American Friends to Attend Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas Meeting in Mexico City, March 12-15, 2015

“Friends Woven Together in God’s Love” Colossians 2:2

Keynote speaker: Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, NEYM

Friends World Committee for Consultation: Section of the Americas Answering God's call to universal love, the Friends World Committee brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. Travel fund to enable Latin American Friends to go to FWCC Section meeting:

Need is \$15,000. \$7,000 has been raised.



How to contribute:

Send a donation to FWCC Friends Center, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1498 earmarked “SOA Travel Fund.” More information:

fwccamericas.org/

**Interview with Ruth Bowman (age 89) about her Experience with the Practice
of Holding People or Concerns in the Light**

August 29, 2005 (Audio transcript)

What do you imagine holding in the Light is/How do you do it?

...I imagine the person. And it's very hard when you don't know the person -- sometimes you don't know their name and you don't know what's wrong with them. But I imagine a person -- if I know them, so much the better, very much the better. And I imagine them in, almost in a child's drawing...you know the way they draw the sun, with rays going out. Yeah, quite a lot of those around there, or the sun itself.

[Later in interview:] Sort of all around the upper [part of the person] and maybe one sort of like a halo, maybe. But it's like a primitive drawing...with a lot of yellow, sunflower effect more.

And then recently I heard of a medical technique where a person is *hosed* in light. It's a treatment. And so I like that very much. Now I imagine hosing in the backyard...with light, sparklers and things. But on the whole I don't really know what it means in general.

When we lived in Rye, New York, there was a healing group in Larchmont (Quakers) and two or three people came out from New York on the train to go to it...And I said, "But I have no idea who Louise is, where does she live, what's wrong with her?" And they said, "Oh it doesn't matter, because God has all the addresses and telephone numbers." So I didn't get much help from that. But I've tried to go to those healing groups. Because it usually comes up in meeting that you're asked to hold someone in the light. And usually they're pretty nearly dead by that time. I think we ought to be at it all the time... that it shouldn't be a crisis thing and I think it's too late. I think we ought to just be holding each other -- everybody -- all the time.

...I had a mastectomy when I was 81...and that was very interesting. I did very, very well and had very few problems... and I got so much support that I didn't believe it. And I know it helped...I had a lot of cards and phone messages and flowers and stuff and so I think it helped. I know it helped. And it gave me a terrific feeling about the world, about people's caring...

Do you see it as a form or prayer?

I think it is, the way it's done in meeting...

I have a very good friend that's a liberal Catholic and she has a prayer list. And she can tell by looking at me sort of whether I need to be on her prayer list. She's very open about it, her prayer list...She's helped me a lot and we laugh about it.

Experiences with holding in the Light:

Tom Bowman, my son...I asked him yesterday what do you think about holding in the Light. He said, "...Oh, it's a mystery. You're not supposed to know." He said, "That's egotistical to want to know."...So I thought that was interesting...

...Julie [Bowman] is wonderful, she's his wife. She said the first time she heard "holding in the Light" was, she had just had a little boy...and Glenice Hutchins came to see her...and she said Glenice...told her about her son, I think it was her son, that was just a wreck. And he was in drugs and everything was wrong and Glenice said she had been so upset and they did everything they could, you know all the strings and legal things...And Julie, who was horrified with it, with this new baby, said, "What do you do when your baby gets like this?" And Glenice said, "Well, all I can do now is hold him in the Light."...And she said, "It's changed me...That's what it's done".

...I think that's the beauty of it, what it does to the person [who's doing the holding].

...Speaking of doing it together, Barbara Potter and Mary Hillas were trying to sell a house and the person...paid down money and said that she wanted it and everything and so they took it off the market and set the closing date. The closing date came and she said she really like it and she didn't want it at all. And they were so angry...they said they were very angry and upset. And it changed their whole -- everything. So they said, "Let us go into silence and

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hold this person in the Light."...So they made a compromise with the woman. But I thought it was a lovely thing to do together...that they were so consistently on the right track.

Do you think holding in the Light has power?

Oh yes, I do. And I think that's the excitement of it, is the mystery of it...So I do, I do. But something holds me back, because of my Unitarian, you know, they question everything, and the Bible was just an old story book...

When did you first hear about holding in the Light?

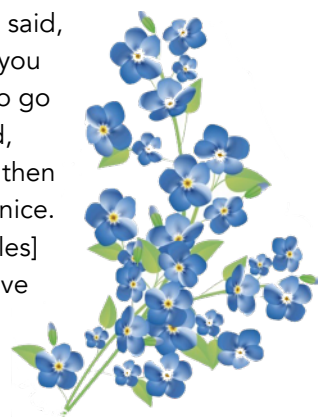
I think it was probably around 1950 when...we'd just been married...Ellen was born and we started going to a nearby Friends Meeting in New York. And it was never explained. They just said hold somebody.

Well, at the beginning I didn't know what it was. I thought is this some kind of Catholic votive light that they're sneaking in here? [laughs]...For a long time I didn't know what was going on. I thought well why don't they just say pray for the person or what are they skirting around on that? And I've never found out that either... But now I like this "hosing off", sort of fireworks.

What about sharing about holding in the Light with non-Friends?

Well, with her -- [Helen, Ruth's Catholic friend] she had to have an operation -- I said, "Well, Helen, I don't have a prayer list but I have a holding in the Light list." [laughs] So I did that...She was very pleased.

I know one thing that happened...the other day these two men...Mormons...came... And I said, "Oh, my husband loves to argue about religion, you should come back...but I can't talk to you now." And so they did come back. So they stayed and stayed and stayed. Well, we had to go somewhere. [laughs] And so finally -- they were in there talking...so finally I went in and said, "Why don't we just sit in silence together and hold each other in the Light a little bit -- and then we have to go somewhere." So we did, these two young men, yes, so we did. It was very nice. I interrupted what they were talking about -- I think Dick was just talking about himself. [smiles] Those boys, they're impressive aren't they? Two years -- one of them was pre-med. So I have great respect for what they were doing...They were very dignified and respectful of...I think they were wonderful. ...But anyway, so then one of them left his notebook that he kept his dates in, so he had to come back. So we practically hugged each other. It was so sweet, it was lovely.



First Day School News

It may seem like winter will never end, but it will, and that means we will once again be holding the First Day School fundraiser Easter Breakfast (April 12). The children will be holding their own Meeting for Business on March 8 to discuss who will receive the proceeds (usually three or four organizations). The First Day School is committed to annual support of a young Kenyan boy at Kakamega named Bradley. In the past, money has also been donated to other organizations, including Friendly Waters for the World, Right Sharing of World Resources, Friends Camp scholarships, animal shelters, and homelessness initiatives.

We welcome input from the Meeting about other worthy causes. Is there an organization you would like the children to know about? You are welcome to come to the March 8 meeting to make a brief presentation. For more information contact Anne Payson (781-2501/annepayson10@gmail.com).

The "Middles" (approx 8-13) encourage families to contact Heather Denkmire heather@grantwinners.net 207-590-8540 if there are children who may be hesitant about attending First Day School. Like the other FDS classes, we have a welcoming and safe space and invite all our 8ish-13ish young people to visit.

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

— Sandra Cronk, 1942-2000

Workshops at Woolman Hill –

www.woolmanhill.org

Feb. 21 – Inward Activism and Outward Prayer

March 26-29 -- Journey Towards Wholeness
(also a follow up in November)

April 17-19 – Listening with the Eyes

Newsletter needs:

So many members and attenders don't feel comfortable in the "spotlight." However, it's my hope that this newsletter can be one of the ways we get to know each other. If you are willing to answer some questions for a "member profile" piece, please contact me. pfnnewsletter@grantwinners.net.

I'm also eager to find someone who is comfortable using Pages in case I'm in a bind and need help preparing an issue. There would be no time commitment beyond being available if desperately needed.

And, finally, please send pictures of the Meeting life! We should see more of our faces in the newsletter, and you can help! Thank you! —Heather Denkmire

Manifesting Bipartisan Action on Climate Change in Congress through citizen engagement and faith-filled leadings

Learn what FCNL and other faith traditions are doing in Washington DC to foster bipartisan recognition by Congress of the climate science and impacts and how you can get involved.

A presentation and discussion with Jose Aguto Legislative Secretary, Sustainable Energy and Environment, FCNL

New Date: February 15, 2015, 11:45 a.m.
Portland Friends Meeting



Jose directs FCNL's lobbying efforts to seek an Earth restored. A major aspect of this work is on the Call to Conscience on Climate Disruption, a grassroots interfaith moral call for bipartisan action in Congress on climate change. The Call is based on several premises:

- Congress is essential to addressing the national and global challenges of climate disruption.
- To solve a problem (climate change), Congress must first admit it has one.
- The only antidote to organized money is organized people.
- A moral foundation is critical for the success of social movements like a sustainable future.
- The exercise of our democratic rights is a path towards peaceful social change.

Last fall, an interfaith delegation voicing the Call persuaded their Republican Congressman to introduce a resolution acknowledging the science and impacts of climate change, and committing Congress to act. We seek your help in voicing the Call across the country. Young adults can help by coming to Washington DC from March 14-17 to participate in FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend on this Call. Concerned people of faith can lobby their Congressional delegations in state. Through our actions, Congress can move from climate denial to climate solutions. We hope you can join us.

We will provide soup and bread. Feel free to bring your own lunch too.

SERVICE PROJECT TRIP TO KAKAMEGA, KENYA

SUMMER 2015

TO THE USFW FRIENDS ORPHAN CARE CENTRE PROJECT



Announcing our Annual Service Trip to the Kakamega Orphans Care Centre

August 5-26*

An amazing three weeks, during which time participants stay at the Care Centre living and working with the 50 children and 60 high school students there, and take trips to the rural regions to meet the home-based children and their guardians.

Two weeks of Camp include activities like arts and crafts, swimming, singing/drumming, soccer and other games, woodworking, story telling, sewing, candle-making, cooking and computers. We are joined by Kenyan counselors who provide invaluable leadership.



Costs:

- *\$1000 Trip Fee
- *Airfare (about \$2000)
- *Travel medical
- *Travel and Personal Expenses

Develop strong bonds with people in a culture very different from ours and discover our common humanity. See how in the midst of deep poverty, loving care and faith help people meet and overcome challenges. Give of yourself to children who will welcome you into their lives and hearts.

**To learn more about the service trip
contact:
sukierice@comcast.net
Friends of Kakamega**

****Note:** The August 5-26 dates of the trip may be changed slightly due to a teacher strike in Kenya that has affected the school year schedule. A final decision on the dates will be made in February.



SUMMARY FOR PORTLAND FRIENDS MEETING

Arla Patch, Community Engagement Coordinator, Maine-Wabanaki REACH 2/4/15

First above all else, is my deep gratitude to my spiritual community, Portland Friends Meeting. You have been here for me from the beginning of this leading to serve the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

PFM granted me two Barbie Potter "Leadings" grants which made it possible for me to serve for a year and a half as a volunteer, making numerous trips to Indian Island, and Bangor to serve on the Communications Subcommittee. This work involved writing articles, developing the educational presentation (a power point and script) to educate Maine on this history-making truth commission, hosting information tables, among other things. I also traveled extensively offering this program to the Rotary, Historical Societies, faith groups, Senior College, and high schools.

Portland Friends helped me organize and execute the largest Southern Maine TRC event to date at USM, complete with a dinner ahead of time for the presenters and Multicultural Center there. The larger Friends community has hosted me speaking about the TRC at Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, NE Yearly Meeting, United Society of Friends Women, Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (MD), and in May, I will co-lead a program for the Friends School of Portland, Parenting for Peace.

Perhaps my strongest message to Friends, is humbly, that this work has been the most powerful partnership with Spirit I've experienced, leading and guiding me as "way opened" again and again. For over three years it has felt as though all I had to do is show up faithfully. I felt like a straw, through which possibilities passed, a bridge, a faithful servant.

There are many examples but one is the result of being asked to vet the multitude of requests and proposals that came at us from the outside: writers, academics, filmmakers, photographers, etc. (*I was humbled by the trust that being this gatekeeper revealed.*) One was a student, Bennett Collins, at St. Andrews University in Scotland. I could tell from the start he was an exceptional person. His professor Ali Watson and he have done such a comprehensive study of us, it was published by Columbia University as a chapter in a book on truth commissions. He is now organizing a national event for June that will be in Washington, D.C. and be a first with only Indigenous presenters. <http://hrcolumbia.org/news/?cat=Indigenous>

Another was a filmmaker Adam Mazo, who with his partner Ben, have been filming our process in every possible venue for over two years. They will be producing a documentary film in 2016 and this spring, are creating a "short" for us to use. Documentation of the very first truth commission on what happened to native children (and therefore native communities) in this country is ground breaking, historic and will provide a blueprint for other states who follow in Maine's footsteps.

And just one more event that was a classic "leading" in the truest sense. Two summers ago, standing in my kitchen on a hot July Friday night, looking at a brochure from Bates College, the word "PORTRAIT" jumped off the page and seemed to hit me between the eyes. A series of images of portraits with the words from the person painted scratched into the paint, flooded my mind. I googled "the painter who painted about Americans Who Tell the Truth" and Robert Shetterly's name came up. The vision I had was a room full of Wabanaki portraits with all the many powerful things they might say.

When my further search reveal a "207" phone number, I was stunned to realize he lived in Maine. I called him and the conversation ultimately led to his painting a portrait of both Esther Attean and Denise Altwater, two of the core architects of this TRC. Sharing those paintings at many events has been an enormous addition to folks understanding this history.

Perhaps the event for which I feel the most gratitude is the change that occurred in the local culture of my own community. I asked the Bethel Chamber of Commerce to end a 55-year tradition of a white girl dressed up like an Indian and riding in the parade as part of the MollyOckett Day Festival (that celebrates an Abanaki woman from 1740-1816). I asked that we replace it with an Essay Challenge that would have local high school students respond to a prompt question. The winning essays, published in the local paper and archived in the historical society, would reveal the truth about our shared history. It would create an opportunity to educate Maine people about what really happened and what continues today for the Wabanaki in Maine.

Perhaps the most exciting part of my job as Community Engagement Coordinator, which began in July 2013, is the development and implementation of the Ally Trainings. We have offered six so far with three more scheduled and more to come. These grew out of the awareness that for Euro-Americans to really support this transformation that the TRC was presenting, people needed a venue within which to be educated and process their un-metabolized emotions in response to what they learn. There is a lot of work to be done in the white community regarding white privilege, micro-aggressions, responsibilities of being a good ally, understanding the history and how to share this information with others. The trainings produce on going groups that continue to learn and process. We are also exploring how organizations and groups can be trained to become allies.

Finally, I want to share that the most powerful gift of this work has been the friendships that have grown from working with my Wabanaki colleagues. Building trust, making and owning mistakes, shifting my understanding and perspective through these friendships have changed me and created moments of tiny redemptions. It has also been by experiencing what a **tribe** means, that I have come to realize how much I miss being near my own family. This has led to the decision to return to Bucks Co., PA this summer. It's very hard to leave this work, and the people I've grown close to. I'm determined to find a way to stay connected to the work long distance.

My most heartfelt gratitude to Portland Friends Meeting for being "my family" in these 29 years in Maine.

You are invited to
A Joyful Awakening: A retreat for the women of the Falmouth Quarter

Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, 2015

Portland Friends Meetinghouse, 1837 Forest Ave, Portland

It's time again to connect, to explore, and to learn something new about ourselves and each other. We encourage you to clear your calendar and attend the entire retreat so that the connections we make may flow and be strong.

Friday after supper we will first meet in our small groups and then gather all together.

Saturday will begin with breakfast, and conclude by 4:00.

Feel free to bring a sleeping bag and stay overnight at the Meetinghouse on Friday, or ask for hospitality in the home of an attender living near the Meetinghouse.

If you have questions, contact Meg Nobel at 207-245-4504 or megnobel@gmail.com.

2015 Women's Retreat Registration to be returned by February 28!

Please return this form with a check for \$15 made out to Portland Friends Meeting.
(You are welcome, even if you cannot pay that amount.)

Mail to: Sydney McDowell, 7 U.S. Rt. 1, Falmouth, ME 04105

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

(A confirmation letter with further information and work and food assignments will be emailed to you.)

Indicate whether you would rather buy _____ or cook _____ a food contribution for our meals.

Are you an early riser who could help prepare Saturday breakfast? Yes _____ No _____

Will you arrive by 5:30 on Friday? Yes _____ No _____

Please list any dietary restrictions: _____

Do you want hospitality? _____ Can you offer hospitality? _____

See you there!

Dorothy Grannell invites you to help her and the New England Representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation prepare spiritually for the Section meeting where major changes for the organization are being considered.



Spiritual Preparation

The theme for the Section Meeting is inspired by Colossians 2:2: "Friends Woven Together in God's Love." There is a growing sense God is weaving together Friends of different cultures, language groups and worship traditions. This tapestry of love will connect Friends in transformative ways, expand traveling ministries, strengthen local meetings and churches with new resources, and empower Friends with a renewed call to service and prophetic witness.

The approval of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan is challenging Friends to envision the work of FWCC-SOA in new ways. This, along with the upcoming Section Meeting in Mexico City, gives us an opportunity to capture the spirit of the Valiant Sixty and strategically position FWCC as part of a dynamic movement of God's Spirit. For this to occur, we need to be prayerfully ready and spiritually prepared.

As part of this emerging tapestry, Friends from the Arctic to the Andes are invited to prepare for the Section Meeting and this greater work of God. For ten days before the Section Meeting Friends are urged to spend at least 15 to 20 minutes in prayerful centering and spiritual preparation. You may want to invite others to join you for a local opportunity to consider the queries together. Notice the readings for the first five days focus on the same verses from Colossians 2. Friends may find it insightful to read from different translations each day. Friends are also encouraged to keep a journal of insightful reflections and thoughts.

March 1: Encouraged in Heart

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – In what ways have you been encouraged in heart recently? What discouragement have you encountered?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Bolivia, members of the Nominating Committee

March 2: United in Love

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – When have you experienced deep, uniting love in a community? What does this kind of love teach you about God?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Peru, Friends with gifts of writing, speaking and publishing

March 3: Riches of Understanding

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – What does it mean "to have the full riches of understanding"? How are you continuing to learn from each other, and from new sources?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Colombia, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, International Members

March 4: Mystery of God and Christ

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – How did early Friends understand the mystery of God? Are Friends still open to this mystery today? Are you?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba, Finance Committee

(cont-)

Powering a Movement: Climate Disobedience and lessons from the Lobster Boat Blockade

A Spiritual Discussion with Jay O'Hara

March 15 – Rise of Meeting at the Meetinghouse (BYO Lunch)

Here's an article from The Nation that was published after the action:

<http://www.thenation.com/article/175316/new-climate-radicals>

And here's a video of Jay presenting at the Connecting For Change conference this fall after the trial:

<http://youtu.be/OHxwzo7BOMk>



Liz and Jim Maier and Mike and Meg Nobel did some finish work on the window quilts in the office, parlor, lobby and library. Here you see the men at work in the parlor. You can admire our work next time you are in the Meeting House!

**Coming Easter Sunday,
April 5**

**The Famous Easter Sunday
Breakfast, hosted by the First
Day School!**

New England Representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation (cont-)

March 5: Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – How has your life been enriched with wisdom and knowledge from our tradition? How are you sharing what you have received?

Prayer Focus – Friends from El Salvador, Youth programs

March 6: Set Your Hearts and Minds on Things Above

Reading - Colossians 3:1-4

Queries - How are you distracted from what really matters? How do you re-center your focus?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Honduras, Executive Committee

March 7: Taking Off the Old Self

Reading - Colossians 3:5-11

Queries – What keeps us separate from each other and from God? Can we name our fears and suspicions? What do we need to take off and leave behind in order to move forward?

Prayer Focus - Friends from the United States, Benigno Sanchez-Eppler and worship leaders

March 8: Clothed With Compassion

Reading - Colossians 3:12-14

Queries – How can we clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? How do we see it in others?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Guatemala, Regional Coordinators

March 9: Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Heart

Reading - Colossians 3:15

Queries – How do we channel the peace in our hearts that transcends the troubles in the world and the conflicts among Friends?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Canada, Interpreters and Translators

March 10: Let the Message of Christ Dwell Among You

Reading - Colossians 3:16-17

Advices - Take time in expectant worship. Come, prepared to sing, give thanks, and listen deeply.

Queries - Are you ready?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Mexico, Section Meeting Planning Committee



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

Ally Trainings

There have been six ally trainings offered so far starting last summer. We have two that are full in Orono on the next two weekends and one left in Portland on Feb 11th and 12th (two evenings instead of the day long program). There are some spaces left in that training.

These Ally Trainings give non-native people a chance to learn more about our shared history with the Wabanaki and provide a safe space to process what comes up through that learning. There are optional on-going groups following the trainings to continue to learn and process our understanding. Allies leave the training with several tools that they are empowered to use if they choose, under the care of REACH.

Please write Arla at arla@megalink.net if you are interested in the Feb 11, 12 training. The time is 5:30- 8:30 at the UU Church on Congress St.

The Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy (FCMPP) has renewed its efforts to bring Quaker values and testimonies to bear on state-level issues of concern especially as they come before the Legislature or Executive Agencies.

Founded in the 1980's, FCMPP focuses on two primary areas:

- 1) Criminal Justice, Mental Health, Incarceration, Death Penalty
- 2) Native American/Tribal Concerns, especially in relation to the Environment and traditional tribal rights

Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy has had a close relationship with the Maine Indian Tribal/State Commission [MITSC] set up after the 1980 Land Claims Settlement Act. Friends also contributed to creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission currently documenting abuses against Indian youth carried out for decades under state child welfare policies.

All Friends are welcome to attend FCMPP meetings and join in issue advocacy and education, especially back to local meetings.

Next FCMPP Meeting: Saturday, February 28th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a Bring-Your-Own Lunch

Location: Drew House, Augusta UU Community Church Corner of Winthrop and Summer Streets, AUGUSTA (Winthrop is a cross street on Western Avenue)

For More Information: Jim Matlack, Clerk 236-0903 jmatlack@roadrunner.com, cell: (207) 975-6543
Leslie Manning, Legislative Coordinator leslieam55@gmail.com, (207) 319-0342

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, March 4th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

