

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Fourth Month, 2015

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a
Wednesdays 5:30p

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

“Do you seek the leadings of the Light in meeting for business as you do in worship?”

Do you take care to consider, in a patient, loving and prayerful spirit, the perspective of those with whom you disagree?

When the meeting comes to a decision, do you accept it as "our" decision rather than "theirs"?"

NEYM Faith and Practice, III: Advices and Queries

Calendar

April 12: 9a, Adult Education, “What do all these Quaker terms mean?”

April 17-19: Young Adult Friends retreat, Hartford Meeting

May 3: rise of Meeting, reading of the memorial minute for Ruth Bowman

Monthly Events

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

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for worship

1st Thursday [New day!]: 4-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen
Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

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



The Easter celebration breakfast was delicious and fun for all ages!

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting

April 1, 2015

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on April 5, 2015 at the rise of Meeting for Worship, with 13 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship.

1. **Ministry and Counsel.** The State of Society Report, as amended since our last meeting, was read. It was suggested to change the words "Third annual" to "Continuation of" in regard to the all-Meeting weekend retreat description. The suggestion was adopted. Friends approved the report with that change and it will now be sent to Falmouth Quarter and Yearly Meeting.

2. **Treasurer's Report.** Sue Nelson reported for Treasurer Kathy Beach. Our year to date deficit of \$6,468.53 is higher than usual, due in part to snow removal, increased heating costs and a capital investment to improve our phone/alarm system to make it less expensive to maintain in the future. Financial Oversight urges Friends to increase contributions at this time to bring this deficit down. Friends also suggested that we continue our efforts to publicize our needs and how to contribute.

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses Three months — 25% of 2015

Year-to-date Income	\$9,282
Percent of Budget	14%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$15,751
Percent of Budget	24%
Balance	(\$6,469)

3. **Adult Religious Education** Arthur Fink reported from the Adult Religious Education Committee that the lack of child care or First Day School at the time of adult religious education classes has resulted in little or no attendance by parents. They are requesting that Ministry and Counsel re-open the question of scheduling to find a way to permit parents to attend adult religious education classes.

It was suggested that Youth Religious Education and Adult Religious Education Committees consider this together, rather than referring the matter to Ministry and Counsel. We decided to refer the matter to Ministry and Counsel (which is meeting this Thursday) to decide how to proceed.

We closed in silent worship at 12:10 a.m. with 13 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on Sunday May 3, 2015

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

First Day School News

Thank you to all who came to the Easter Breakfast and shared food on that special day, and donated so generously! We raised \$892! The First Day School will use this money to support a student named Bradley in Kenya (through Friends of Kakamega); Friendly Water for the World, a Quaker organization that provides inexpensive water purification systems in rural villages in Africa; Heifer International; and scholarships for Friends Camp.

Thank you to all who donated socks for Preble Street and animal supplies for the animal shelter.

For parents of First Day School children, scholarship applications are available to support your child attending Quaker youth programs such as Friends Camp, NEYM Sessions, and NEYM youth retreats during the school years. Forms are on the bulletin board downstairs or contact Anne Payson annepayson10@gmail.com for more information.

Please Hold Kenya in the Light

The following is an update from the attacks last week that took place in Kenya. Please hold the students and their families in the Light.

Dear Friends,

We have just received word from Churchill Malimo, Secretary of the Africa Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation, that two of the students killed in the recent attack at Garissa University were members of one monthly meeting in Nairobi Yearly Meeting. A number of the others came from Western Kenya, where most Kenyan Quakers live, so there may be other Friends among the dead.

This has been very difficult for Kenyan Friends, both because of their huge investment in educating their young people (which in Kenya is very expensive, from primary grades up) and because of their many years of work to build a culture of peace in their country. Churchill writes, "This has been the darkest Easter we have had in Kenya in the recent past."

Please hold our Friends in the Light in this difficult time.

Betsy Cazden, Clerk
FWCC Central Committee

Hello Everyone!

Earth & Spirit and Peace and Social Concerns are in the early stages of exploring the possibility of having the Meeting and individuals starting a *Community Solar Farm*. This is an area of land where solar panels are established and then hooked up to the electric grid.

One next step in making this happen is to find land. In particular, we are looking for at least ¼ acre of land with full sun on a flat or south-facing exposure. We are putting the word out to see if anyone in the Meeting might be interested, or knows someone who might be interested. A donation of the use (through a long-term lease) would be ideal, but there's also the possibility of getting compensated.

Anyone who is interested in exploring this with us, please contact David Travers, dhtravers@myfairpoint.net, 854-4683.

Thanks!

E&S, PSOC

Newsletter notes:

Let meeting know who you are! Even if you've been a member for decades, we don't all know each other. If you might be willing to write about yourself for the newsletter, let me know and I can send sample questions.

Do you know how to use Pages? We should have a backup newsletter creator in the event I'm not available. Contact me with questions.

Thank you! —Heather Denkmire
pfnnewsletter@grantwinner.net



There will be a reading of the memorial minute for Ruth Bowman after the rise of Meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2015. All are invited to listen, worship and reminisce.

Preble Street Soup Kitchen date change!

Our day to volunteer at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen is now the **first Thursday of every month**, from 4-7p.

This is a great opportunity to join with all of the other spiritual communities in Portland to support the soup kitchen.

Please contact Aaiyn Foster ahead of time so the soup kitchen can be clear on the numbers of volunteers they have to work with that evening.

Your help is truly needed and will be greatly appreciated. Aaiyn Foster
207.831.1062

New phone number for PFM!

Messages left on 207-200-6544 will be forwarded to the clerk's email.

There is a new cell phone base in the meeting house connected to our old phone to use for for outgoing calls.



Adult Religious Education

Coming up on April 12, 9am

"Sense of the Meeting" "Standing Aside" "Minuting" "Standing in the Way" "Seeking Unity" "Threshing Session" "Minute of Exercise" "Unity"

What do all the Quaker terms mean? Why is "Business Meeting" often called "Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business"? What should you do when you feel that you disagree with an action that is before the meeting? How can you properly object? Might the matter be passed anyway? And can this happen in a truly friendly way? Is "Sense of the Meeting" really different from "Consensus"? And what is the role of "Weighty Friends" (who may not be all that heavy!)?

At our next Adult Religious Education session, Arthur Fink will try to demystify some of these terms and notions. Arthur has been Recording Clerk of Friends Meeting at Cambridge, Portland Friends Meeting, and New England Yearly Meeting, served on the New England Yearly Meeting committee that is revising Faith and Practice, and was one of the authors of the new chapter on "Corporate Discernment in Meetings for Business".

All are welcome (including teenagers), but newcomers are especially invited. Find out how Meeting for Business can be source of great Spiritual Joy.

We will hope to see many of you there on April 12th — promptly at 9 am.

Notes from March 22, 2015

How would you describe Quakerism to a friend who knew nothing about us, or to a newcomer who wants to know the basics? We used this adult class to gather responses to this question to form our own Portland Friends Meeting Quakerism 101 short form. After filling two large newsprint sheets with a wide variety of "nuggets", we tried to hone it down to the most important, say if you only had 5 minutes to give your answer.

These are the "nuggets" we agreed on to form that foundation, in no particular order:

We feel Divine presence--have no need of a minister or ritual

Silence in worship is for the purpose of listening inwardly and in community

Believe there is "that of God" in all people and all species/things

We are non-credal, though we use testimonies to articulate our primary principles

We believe in continuing revelation

We are a peace church

We aim to be lead by the Spirit by practicing individual and corporate discernment; for example in clearness committees and meeting for worship for the conduct of business, as well in meeting for worship and our daily lives

There are of course many more phrases and principles that were named as we expanded on the many aspects of being Quaker that are important to us individually. If you have comments on this list or other priorities to add, please respond to the A.R.E. committee through Arthur Fink or Sandi Jensen. Perhaps a dialog in the newsletter could follow this report.



Leadings Committee accepting applications for grants—deadline May 3, 2015

Guidelines for Applications to the Leadings Committee

1. The applicant should have a strong sense that they are being led by the Spirit to undertake the proposed project or work. They should be able to explain how they arrived at their conviction.
2. The applicant should have a sense that the time is right for them to fully commit to this leading and to give it their best effort.
3. The applicant should describe the project, being as specific as possible about the expected results and how they might benefit Portland Friends Meeting or the wider community. Please tell the committee of any independent corroboration of benefit you have received in regard to the project.
4. The applicant should submit a preliminary budget for the project substantiating the amount of the grant being requested.
5. The applicant should be aware that preference will be given to those applying for the first time and to members or attenders who have been active in our Meeting. Consideration might also be given to members and attenders who have been active in other Quaker meetings in the Falmouth Quarter. Applicants must be available to meet with the Leadings Committee to discuss their application if requested. Those reapplying are encouraged to consider other sources of funding as well such as grant writing or an annual fundraiser or other Quaker support for leadings such as the Lyman or Obadiah Brown Funds.



Applications can be emailed to Patricia Pyle (patricia_pyle@yahoo.com), or mailed to 350 Duck Pond Rd, Westbrook 04092. (Please include your mailing address with your application.)

Friends School of Portland's Parenting for Peace Speaker Series **SPEAKING THE TRUTH: The History, Necessity and Process of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission**

Wednesday, May 6 @ 7:00pm

102 Wishcamper Center, USM Portland Campus

The Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission seeks to create truth, healing and change for both Wabanaki and non-native communities in Maine.

Co-presenters Cheryl Schaffler (Giizhikgonikway) and Arla Patch will discuss the context for this truth commission historically as well as the process of its formation here. With the commission nearing its end, they will also talk about how the work for Maine-Wabanaki REACH is just beginning.

Please join us for this important and informative presentation!



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



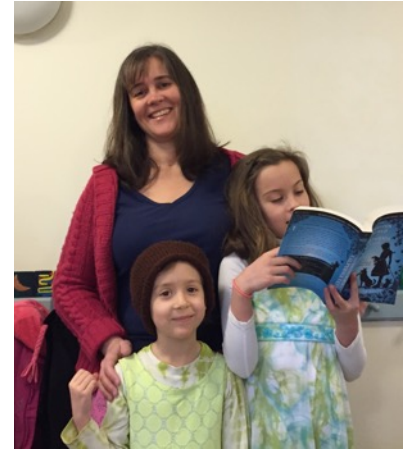
Friends School of Portland's Parenting for Peace program developed as an outgrowth of our overall educational vision – to encourage inquiry, reflection and action and to strengthen our community of learners. In accordance with Quaker values and process, we encourage speakers to share unique ideas and to offer queries that will promote discernment and dialogue among attendees.

ATTENDER PROFILE: HEATHER DENKMIRE

Where did you grow up? Until I was 11, my father was chaplain at Wellesley College and we lived on campus. After that, we lived in West Hartford, CT. Much of my growing up happened in the mountains of Maine, though. My parents have a summer place near Bethel.

Go to school? I went to Skidmore College. For a very brief time I was in grad school at the College of St. Catherine to get my Masters in Education and Montessori training, but I dropped out of the program before the first year ended.

What do you do for work? I'm a mother and a writer. I have two daughters (Maya, almost-12 and Althea, 6) who both attend the Friends School of Portland. My business, grantwinners.net, helps non-profits win grants. I also write a monthly column for the Bangor Daily News.



What are your favorite things to do? If I had a million dollars, I'd hang out with my daughters at home and out in any natural setting; I'd take care of our household; and I'd paint and write. Some of my paintings (serenebabe.net/art) will be shown at the Black Cat next spring. I mostly do those things, but I have to work for money, too. :-)

Tell us about the spiritual journey that brought you to Portland Friends Meeting. More than a decade ago my now ex- husband (and now good friend and co-parent), Josh Denk, and I brought our first little baby to PFM a few times. Growing up as a "preacher's kid," going to church on Sunday was something that felt like a good way to find a spiritual community. We lived in Sanford and then Saco and found the drive too much to do with any frequency.

I consider myself christian with a lower-case "c." I wrote about it here: <http://serenebabe.net/2007/12/17/christian-with-a-lowercase-c/> The more I have learned about the Religious Society of Friends, the more I've realized why it feels like home to be a part of the PFM community. I had the folder about how to become a member in my apartment for more than a year (sorry!) and at some point soon I will finally begin that process.

As an introvert in the extreme, after moving to Portland knew I had to find a way to build a community for my daughters outside the family. Getting involved in Meeting, and now at the Friends School, has been just right for us.

A note from the newsletter editor: See? I did it! Won't you consider sharing a profile of yourself with the rest of meeting in our next issue?

Easter Breakfast 2015 at Portland Friends Meeting!



All Maine Gathering of Friends

May 2, 2015, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

South China Community Church 246 Village St., South China, ME 04358
see <http://southchinacommunitychurch.org/directions.html> for directions



Schedule of the Day

- 8:30 am – Gather and Welcome
- 9:00 am – Worship
- 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Conflict Transformation for Friends Session I
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm LUNCH and Announcements
- 1:30 – 4 pm Conflict Transformation for Friends Session II

Program

This one-day workshop will explore commonly-arising situations Friends Meetings experience. The seasoned leaders will share insights into how they can be acknowledged, how they can be addressed, and how the meeting can use conflict as an opportunity for growth and transformation. For videos go to <http://www.nyym.org/?q=node/898>

New York Yearly Meeting Conflict Transformation Team Members Heather Cook and Peter Phillips, presenters.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED by April 27th

Program is appropriate for those ages 14 – adult, Child care offered, Lunch provided

Name (s) of those attending: _____

Address _____ Monthly Meeting _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Overnight Hospitality needed? Yes or No Friday? Yes or No Saturday? Yes or No # of people _____

MUST REGISTER NO LATER THAN MONDAY APRIL 27 in order to have overnight hospitality provided

Is child care needed? Yes or No. If yes, list names and ages of children _____

MUST REGISTER NO LATER THAN MONDAY APRIL 27 for child care (donations toward cost of care appreciated)

I/We have materials to display Yes or No Topic or Organization _____

Lunch will include gluten free and vegetarian choices

Other food or allergy issues that hosts need to prepare for. _____

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting participants only: I will bring a : Salad _____, Dessert or Fruit _____

Baked item for morning _____ (a serving for 6 people please)

RETURN FORM TO: Dorothy Grannell, 43 Delaware Ct., Portland, ME 04103 or stemp41@gmail.com

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, May 6th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

