

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Sixth Month, 2015

Meeting for Worship: Summer schedule (starts 6/21) Sundays, 5pm
Wednesdays 5:30p

Adult Education, First Day School: resume in fall, 2nd & 4th Sundays



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103
portlandfriendsmeeting.org
207-200-6544

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: Sarah Peterson, 504-0974
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
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Newsletter

submissions
Heather Denkmire
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"Do you seek the leadings of the Light in meeting for business as you do in worship? How do you prepare your heart and mind for meeting for business? Do you make an effort to maintain your awareness that God is with us as we work?"

New England Yearly Meeting Queries, preliminary draft

Calendar

Sunday, June 21: summer schedule begins

Sunday, July 12: Weaving the Tent event from 3 - 5pm and following pot luck. (Details inside.)

Saturday, July 25: Falmouth Quarterly Meeting (Details inside.)

Sunday, July 26: 7p Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

Wednesday, July 29: 9p summer newsletter deadline

August 1 - 6: New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Castleton College, Castleton VT registration deadline is June 30. Register on line at www.neym.org

September 10 -13: Friends General Conference Development Committee meeting at Portland Friends. Look for announcements about providing hospitality.

Sunday, September 13: 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

Monthly

Every Sunday: 5pm Meeting for worship, followed by a potluck supper (summer schedule)

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for worship

1st Thursday: 4-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen
Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

2nd Saturday: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck
Bart Czyz, btczyz@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

[2nd & 4th Sundays, resuming on Sept 13:

Adult Religious Education and First Day School

1st Sundays, resuming in October:

9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business]

**Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting
June 7, 2015**

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on June 7, 2015 at 9 a.m., with 23 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which Co-Clerk Liz Maier read from New England Yearly Meeting queries, preliminary draft, as follows: "Do you seek the leadings of the Light in meeting for business as you do in worship? How do you prepare your heart and mind for meeting for business? Do you make an effort to maintain your awareness that God is with us as we work?" She reminded us that in order to allow Spirit to work in us we must listen for it in each other, leaving time to consider what each has just said.

1. **Minutes.** There were no corrections necessary for the May minutes. However, we noted we do still need to print Ruth Bowman's memorial minute in the newsletter.

2. **Treasurer's Report.** Kathy Beach reported that we are 42% of the way through our budget year, and Friends have responded well to our call for contributions, so that we finished the month with a small positive balance. Expenses for the month of May were \$5,342, and income was \$5,549, leaving a positive balance of \$207. Year-to-date expenses were \$26,691, and income was \$18,981, leaving a year-to-date negative balance of \$7,710.

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses Five months — 42% of 2015	
Year-to-date Income	\$18,981
Percent of Budget	28%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$26,691
Percent of Budget	40%
Balance	(\$7,710)

3. **Ministry and Counsel.** Lea Sutton reported for the committee. The Committee recommends the following summer and early fall schedule:

- On June 21 Meeting for Worship will be held at 5 p.m., followed by a pot-luck supper. There will be no morning worship. This will continue through September 6.
- On July 26 there will be a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business at 7 p.m. following the pot-luck supper.
- Wednesday evening 5:30 p.m. meetings for worship will continue after June 17 if those involved decide to continue and establish who is responsible for opening and closing the Meetinghouse and communication of dates and hours through the list-serve and the website.
- If Friends want to hold a Sunday morning worship at 9 a.m., similar decisions need to be made by those interested. It was suggested this might instead be an opportunity to visit and worship with other meetings in our quarter. Dorothy Grannell will put a list of other meetings in the newsletter, together with their times and contact information.
- It was suggested there be a sign at the meetinghouse to inform worshippers from out-of-town of our evening meeting and to invite them to worship in the meditation garden. Tracy Booth undertook to make a sign. We could also put this information on our website and the yearly meeting website. It is in Friends Journal.
- The first fall Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business will be September 13 at 9 a.m. First Day School will also start that day.

4. **Pastoral Care Committee** Chris Beach reported for the Committee on their proposed Circle of Friends. He presented a one-page summary. There is a more detailed three-page version which has been posted in the Meetinghouse and is available from the Committee.

The committee has developed the Circle of Friends to respond more effectively to real or perceived needs of members and attenders. It establishes a system of whom to contact if you need something, or think another Friend needs something (the Clerk or another member of Pastoral Care Committee), and a protocol that is then followed to find an appropriate person in the Meeting to approach the Friend with a need and discern what might be done to assist. Sometimes it may be found that there is no desire for help from the Meeting at that time. If, however, there is, the request will be followed up on in appropriate ways.

Pastoral Care Committee (cont-) The summary will be published in the newsletter. We may want to share this idea with other meetings. We were reminded of the words of Mary Hillas and Barbie Potter, to the effect that asking for help creates community.

5. **Earth and Spirit and Peace and Social Concerns Committees** Aaiyn Foster and Rob Levin reported for the committees in regard to the Climate Stewardship Initiative presented at the May Meeting for Business. Since that time a threshing session was held on May 17. The initiative itself, and detailed queries about it, have been posted on the website. The committees plan to respond to the queries but have done yet done so.

At our May meeting we noted our appreciation that the committees had made clear this initiative is for those who are willing to engage, not necessarily all of us. It is an invitation, not a mandate. We encouraged continuing work in the directions described and envisioned a future of being asked to take single small steps on various parts of the initiative.

Rob reiterated the committees' desire not to impose a mandate on the Meeting. He reviewed the key points of the initiative, which is viewed as a package of actions to consider one by one, sometimes with other committees such as Buildings and Grounds and Financial Oversight. They would like the Meeting as a whole to be a part of the process and invested in it, rather than leaving it as action of two committees. If we can speak as a Meeting, we will be more powerful. At the same time, they are not asking that the Meeting elevate climate change as more important than other social issues. They seek unity on the initiative. They are not today seeking approval of any of the particular actions, such as divestment of funds in companies dealing in fossil fuels.

Friends struggled with what is being asked of us. It was pointed out that we have already decided the Meeting will not focus on any one social issue after two years of discernment through Ministry and Counsel. Is this instead simply a request to honor and encourage the work of the committees? How does the Meeting "speak?" What is God asking of us as stewards of this beautiful creation? How have Quakers found unity in the past, and on what issues? Several Friends indicated they were not comfortable with the process asked for.

The committees then modified their request for unity at this time and asked instead for continued encouragement of their work, and welcomed all of us to participate. The Clerk asked that we prayerfully hold these issues in the Light as we are not ready to take action today.

We closed with silent worship at 10:30 a.m. with 40 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again on Sunday July 26, 2015 at 7 p.m., God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

"Weave the Tent" at Portland Friends Meeting July 12, 3 - 7p

The "Journey Loom" will be set up outside and provide members the opportunity to weave a piece of fabric into a panel that will be included in the Welcoming the Stranger Exhibit, a multi-media installation by artist Jo Israelson, September 3 – October 26, 2015, Maine Jewish Museum, Portland, Maine.

Materials will be provided. However, you are invited to bring a piece of fabric - 1" x 24" + that has meaning to you and that you would like to add to the weaving.

Based on the history of the House Island Quarantine and Immigration station, the exhibit will tell the stories of the immigrants' struggle to establish a new home in a strange land in the 1920's and today.

Welcoming the Stranger: building understanding through community based art is a forum for the greater Portland community and arts-related organizations to explore the theme of immigration, belonging and "building bridges" of appreciation and understanding with people of all backgrounds.

Like us on Facebook: [welcoming the stranger art](#)

Follow us on Instagram: [#weavethetent](#)



How to become an Evergreen Friend of Portland Friends Meeting

Friends, I often have excellent intentions. Following up on them? Not so much.

There may be other people who share my problem combination of busy life, procrastination and sloth, so I want to share with you a simple way to ensure you only have to follow up on your good intentions once.

You intend to support your meeting. I know you do, or you would not be reading this. Your budget is limited and there are many calls on it. Every time you think about donating to the meeting, there is another, more immediate, need. And then, at the end of the year, when it is Christmas and your budget is already overstretched, the Treasurer announces our shortfall and you rush to donate.

- Friends, it doesn't have to be that way. Here is an easier alternative.
- Look at what you donated in total last year. Divide the total by twelve. Consider if you could afford that twelfth portion every month, and adjust the sum accordingly until you are comfortable with it.
- Contact Kathy Beach or Sue Nelson and ask for the routing number and account number of PFM's bank account.
- Next time you go to the bank, ask the teller to set up an electronic funds transfer from your account to PFM's account every month for your chosen donation, and give the bank PFM's routing and account numbers. Alternatively, you can do this online if you use online banking.

That's it.

Doesn't it feel good, having your good intentions fulfilled every month without any further effort from you?

Jenny Doughty

Pastoral Care Committee's (PC's) Work with Friends & The Concept of Forming a "Circle of Friends"

June 7, 2015 Summary (A more detailed description is posted in the Parlor and is available from PC)

1. You sense that a member of Portland Friends Meeting (PFM), let us call her Constance,* may need support from PFM.
2. We ask that you take this concern to PC's Clerk or one of its members.
3. PC then chooses a Friend, let us call her/him Fran,* to speak with Constance. Fran may be a friend of Constance, or particularly good at speaking with folks about their life situations, or a concerned member of PC, or all of the above.
4. Fran speaks with Constance long enough (this might be 30 minutes, an hour, or even require two meetings) to discern whether Constance has a need (e.g., for rides to meeting, for occasional worship at her own home, for counseling or medical care, for home repair, or something else) and that she wants PFM's help with this need. This is a critical step; for quite often PC has found that the person about whom others are concerned either does not have a need or does not want help from PFM, or might even have a different concern than what was originally brought to PC's attention.
5. Fran thanks Constance for speaking with her and then reports back to PC.
6. If Constance has indicated she has no need or wants no help, PC makes sure that fact is communicated to the person(s) who brought the concern to PC, and PC may check back with Constance at a later time.
7. If Constance has indicated that she has a medical, counseling, home repair, or other need requiring the services of an expert, professional, or experienced person, then PC discerns if there is someone in the meeting who might be approached either to provide those services or, equally likely, to help Constance find those services in the wider community.
8. If Constance has identified a need that requires regular help from the meeting (e.g., needs a ride to worship each Sunday or for occasional worship services at her home), then PC will try to form a **Circle of Friends** who will take turns providing what is needed. For example, five Friends might be found to bring Constance to Meeting for Worship, each Friend signing up for a different Sunday of each month. The idea here is both to share the burden of this task so that no one person becomes overworked and to widen the circle of Friends with whom Constance shares time and friendship. Those who are asked to help might be Friends who live relatively close to Constance or they might be those of Constance's friends who want to help.
9. As time passes, PC will check in on Constance and Friends who have been helping, to see how all is working and if there is any need for further help or different Friends to step in for awhile, giving some of the originals a break.

*Constance and Fran are fictitious names, referring to no particular person at PFM

Where to Worship This Summer

If you should choose to attend worship at a time other than at 5 pm on Sunday afternoons with Portland Friends, there are a number of nearby options that provide opportunities to meet other Friends in the region. Directions to the meetinghouses are posted on the www.neym.org web site.

Brunswick Friends Meeting, 10 am Sunday, waiting worship, 56 Elm St., Topsham, ME, Julie Zimmerman clerk, 207-833-5016

Durham Friends Meeting - 10:30 am worship Sunday, semi-programmed, 532 Quaker Meetinghouse Rd., Durham, ME 207-725-0411

Southern Maine Friends Meeting 9:30 am twice monthly in individual homes (usually but not always the 1st and 3rd Sundays), Waiting worship, Contact Linda Lyman, clerk 207-850-1934

Windham Friends Church 9 am Sunday, programmed worship (NO AUGUST WORSHIP), 374 Gray Road, Windham, ME, Janice Beatty, pastor 207-892-5422

Quaker Ridge Meeting 10:30 am Sunday, waiting worship SUMMER ONLY June 21 – Sept 6, 141 Quaker Ridge Road, Casco, ME 04015

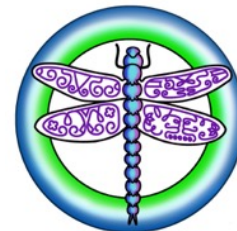
Lewiston Friends Meeting 10 am Sunday, waiting worship (DOES NOT MEET IN JULY or AUGUST), 161 Wood St., Lewiston, ME, No contact number. Could contact Janice Beatty at Windham Friends.

Mahoosuc Mountains Worship Group, Sunday 9:30 am, waiting worship, Whitman Memorial Library, 28 South Main St., Bryant Pond, ME, Dick Stratton clerk, 207-824-8669 call ahead to be sure they will meet on the specific Sunday

You may find other Maine and New Hampshire Meetings at the New England Yearly Meeting Web site www.neym.org or at www.fwccamericas.org. Travel instructions and maps are linked to the New England Yearly Meeting web site for ease of locating the meetinghouses.

No Word for Goodbye

In my work with the Wabanaki I've learned that Wabanaki and Ojibway languages (maybe others) have no word for "goodbye."



So I will say that I look forward to the next time I see each of you and I thank you for the wonderful, heartfelt and loving witness I received in Meeting for Worship this week.

If you weren't there I also want to share with you that the Obadiah Brown Grant for which PFM gave me a Minute of Support, and other individuals contributed to, was carried out on Penobscot and Passamaquoddy reservations in April and May. It included two talks on Art and Healing as well as two different art workshop/trainings plus the donation of "art kits" of the materials and equipment needed to continue the work. The workshops were well received and two participants are planning to bring the mask making workshop to the MicMac community this summer.

On June 14th the Commission (TRC) will be releasing their findings. They will be available on the Bowdoin College website along with the statements made by many people involved in native child welfare from both sides. Maine-Wabanaki REACH (Reconciliation, Engagement, Advocacy, Change and Healing) will be carrying out those recommendations. I hope many of you can become Allies to this group in the years ahead.

Again, thank each of you for being my family and tribe during my 29 years in Maine. I will stay in touch.

Arla Patch

Friends Camp—New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

Friends Camp is a caring and accepting camp community with Quaker values, creative activities, and lots of zany fun for youth ages seven to seventeen. You can visit the camp's new web site at www.friendscamp.org.

Our Yearly Meeting camp in South China, Maine will offer four traditional youth camps:

Jones Session – June 21 to July 4 for elementary school age

Dyer Session – July 5 to July 18 for middle school age

Fox Session – July 19 – August 1 (Full)

Fell Session – August 2 to August 15 for high school age youth.



Friends Camp is very please announce the Kathy Murray will be working at Friends Camp during the Dyer Session as our Naturalist. Kathy will offer educational activities that will be a fun and interesting way for our campers to learn about our camp environment. The Dyer campers will be able to enjoy exploring the back-forty of the Friends Camp property with a creative and informative naturalist.

During the Fell Session (August 2 to August 15) we are now offering a overnight camping and hiking program for teens.

To sign up, visit www.friendscamp.org. For more information: 207-873-3499 or director@friendscamp.org

Durham Friends Meeting annual
Kenyan Orphan Project Benefit

Chicken BBQ Dinner

with

Strawberry Shortcake

(offering a vegetarian option to the chicken)

To benefit the

**Kakamega
Orphan Care
Centre, Kenya**



Saturday, June 27th at 5:30

The Kakamega Orphans Care Centre is an orphanage run by Kenyan Quaker women. It is a highly successful grassroots effort that gives loving care and a chance for schooling to children in great need. The Orphan Project depends entirely on the generosity of others to give the care, education, and hope these children need for a healthy future.

Tickets: \$12/adult if ticket is reserved in advance (\$14 at the door)
\$ 10/seniors and teens if reserved in advance (\$12 at the door)
\$ 6/children Children under 5: free
\$25 for a family of 5 (\$30 at the door)

**DURHAM FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE
532 Quaker Meetinghouse Road
on the corner of Route 125 (Ward Town Road)**

To reserve a ticket, please call 318-8531 or email: sukierice@comcast.net

Starting Conversations and Drinking Tea Together

by Margie Schoeller

I first came to Maine from Minneapolis in 1977 to attend Bowdoin College. I grew up just a little too late to be a true child of the 70s and the antiwar movement at the end of the Vietnam conflict, but I knew how I felt about it as it all was happening. While at Bowdoin I read about Steven Biko's murder while in the custody of the South African police and Nelson Mandela was still jailed on Robbin Island; he was considered by some Americans stuck in a Cold War mentality to be a dangerous communist who wanted to incite violence. Imagining a peaceful end to Apartheid was very hard. In fact, Apartheid and the oppression of the people native to South Africa was not really a part of the mainstream American consciousness.

I joined with a small group of similarly minded Bowdoin students and we started calling for Bowdoin to take adopt an approach to effecting change: DIVESTMENT. The notion that American Educational Institutions might choose to divest of holdings in companies doing business in South Africa to encourage a dismantling of Apartheid was still fairly new and calling for it was considered both radical and fiscally irresponsible.

I think we understood divestment wouldn't happen overnight, but we could start by asking that our college not profit from businesses profiting in South Africa where native and other non-white people were being mistreated and where people were being silenced, jailed, deported or killed when they tried to bring attention to the situation. In the mean time we also held our movement, or at least I did, as an opportunity to talk about Apartheid in the broader Bowdoin Community; it was a conversation some people were more interested in than others.

Some of the members of the faculty who had participated in student anti-war demonstrations while they were college students encouraged us saying that even when there were lots of students protesting, when protesting was "popular", the bulk of the work was done by a dedicated few.

The President of Bowdoin at the time was Leroy Greason. He invited the student leaders of the Divestment Movement to his office for tea. President Greason listened to us and told us he supported the ideals behind the nascent but widespread movement to end Apartheid that we were representing on the Bowdoin Campus, but he also told us that the Board of Overseers of Bowdoin was not going to divest.

We thanked him for his audience; we were starting a conversation. I appreciated then as I do now that I attended a college where the response to peaceful student demands for change was in part the president inviting us in for tea. We were planting seeds along with other students on other campuses and people in the community who were also directing attention to what was going on in South Africa.

When Leroy Greason passed away a few years ago his wife was quoted in his obituary saying that one of his proudest accomplishments during his tenure as the President of Bowdoin was when the College divested of its holdings in companies that did business in South Africa. A few years back when I first heard that there were students on college and university campuses calling for the divestment of companies dealing with fossil fuels my thought was that that was quite a radical notion, and then I smiled, thought of my friend President Greason and had a cup of tea.

A message from Kate Potter:

Jenny van West—an attender at PFM with her family about ten years ago—was walking on Congress st. with her guitar and saw a young man smiling at her - they said Hi, and in a brief chat she learned he also loved playing guitar, had just arrived from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and they exchanged cell phone numbers. I met Elijah this week and he used my old guitar to sing for us a heartfelt, musical *Amazing Grace*. He is a 26 year old with no money but good English (also French and other African languages) who is working his way to get asylum status, sleeping in a crowded shelter. I saw in him a strong spiritual centre, an educated sincere Christian (attends First Baptist church) who is willing to work hard. He needs support just now, and I attach an e-mail from Jenny.

After their first encounter, she helped Elijah with gifts from her wide network of friends (bike, helmet etc., a guitar) and contacts so he now works two mornings a week for the city, takes Adult Ed classes, has a place to store his small number of possessions. Please contact me (Kate Potter) or Jenny van West (332-6217) for more info if you can help.

WHAT'S NEXT:

(*Jenny van West*) is spreading the word that Elija needs a place to live. He needs a place in an apt or house he can rent for \$500 or less a month including utilities. If General Assistance is dropped by Gov. Le Page's administration there will be no \$ for rent as he will be unable to obtain a work permit until the end of the year.

IF YOU ARE ABLE to house Elijah for a few nights, a week, a month, the summer, or indefinitely, so that he can get out of the shelter and into a more restful situation while he works on schooling, volunteering, and applying for asylum, and are safe biking distance from downtown, please contact Jenny 332-6217.



Beacon Hill Friends House

Weed Memorial Lecture—June 28

Jada Jackson, Clerk, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting 6 Chestnut St., Boston, MA 02118, www.bhfh.org

Woodworking and Print Making Summer Camps at Skylark Studios

Jonathan Ewell, beloved Friends School and PFM First Day School teacher and, Celeste Henriquez, PFM attender and former FSP art teacher, have teamed up to offer two summer camp weeks—July 6-9 and July 13-16—



for ages 5-10. Exploring in and working with nature, campers will study printmaking and woodworking techniques. There are still spaces available, feel free to call Celeste at 650-8726 to learn more.

Since those early beginnings, Friends have continued to hold that their faith is one of first-hand experience of God in their lives. Spiritual life, they say, does not depend upon the acceptance of certain doctrines, nor the observance of certain rites, but comes as persons are obedient to the light of Christ within them. They feel free to reject much of the ecclesiastical structure of the times, including priests, church dogmas, outward sacraments, and external authority in religion, because they feel that for them these do not serve the life of the spirit.

— NEYM Faith and Practice (1985), Pt II Ch I

Wanted: member (or attender!) profiles for our newsletter.

If you are interested, email pfm_newsletter@grantwinners.net. I have a list of questions you can choose from, or you can simply write what feels right to you.

Remember, sharing yourself here isn't self-promotion—I know a lot of Quakers feel uncomfortable in the spotlight—it's a gift to the wider community.

Food, Fun, Fellowship
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, July 27, 2015
Noonish to 4ish

Pot Luck Lunch and Lots to do!



2:30 pm Worship followed by short program about the recently formed Friends Community of New England

4 Mast Landing, Bath, ME

The Friends Community of New England, an intentional community, invites you to come and enjoy their outdoor space on our annual Falmouth Quarter Fellowship Meeting. Bring food to share, there will be a grill should you want to barbeque. Volley ball, croquet, Frisbee, kayaking at the end of the road (bring your own) – come and enjoy a multi-generational event with Friends from all of Southern Maine. Bring your kids, your friends and any stray Quakers you can find.

If you come to Bath in the morning you could visit the Maine Maritime Museum or hit the beach at Popham Beach and then come to 4 Mast Landing and enjoy the 5 acres of woods and lawns. If you are looking for a landscaping project bring your boots and gloves and Leslie, Mary, Kristna and Ann will put you to work. The short program following a time of outdoor worship will explain how the community came to be and what the hopes and dreams for it are. If it rains we get to play ping pong and other games in the large 3 + car garage or visit Kristna's bookstore in the house. If you have an extra folding chair it might be good to bring and small games to play.

Poster, Map, Directions and parking options to follow. For more information contact Dorothy Grannell or Leslie Manning.

Memorial Minute for Ruth Bowman

Ruth Warren Baker Bowman died on December 13, 2014, at age 98, of what she termed "the inevitability of old age". A member of Portland Friends Meeting for over 30 years, she clearly lived the Quaker principles of plain speech, passion for peace and justice, commitment to education, community service, and using one's talents to help others. Friends remember her for the way she articulately spoke her mind, her curiosity about the world around her, her wonderful ability to be fully engaged and listening with every fiber in her being, her whimsical humor, and her generous use of her artistic gifts. One Friend said, "She is irreplaceable, one of the world's true originals."

Ruth grew up in Roxbury, Mass., the third daughter of Lila Jane Nichols and Dr. Lawrence W. Baker. She was raised in a Unitarian home where education, community service and justice were valued. One of Ruth's earliest memories is that of sitting on her father's shoulders at age four and watching her mother and Aunt Emma march in a celebration of the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Ruth said there was jubilation!

After graduating from Smith College in 1938, Ruth served on the home front in WW II as a Red Cross Hospital nurse's aide. After the war, Ruth's gifts for clear speaking and writing were put to work when she became an associate editor of Every Woman's Magazine, American Girl, and Yankee Magazine. Later she refined her word talents even further when, in 1970, she earned a Master's degree in Library Sciences from Pratt Institute in New York.

Ruth never let go of her interest in helping others to express themselves clearly. In 2001, when the College Guild was founded, Ruth became one of its outspoken proponents, and also one of its devoted correspondence teachers. Quoting from their website, "The College Guild is a nonprofit organization that provides education to prisoners across America through nontraditional correspondence courses." Using the pseudonym "Trixie", Ruth reviewed the writings of many, many prisoners, giving them generous, but encouraging, feedback in red pen in the margins of their writings.

In 1948 Ruth married Richard Bowman, a professor at Cooper Union in NYC. They made their home in Rye, NY for over 30 years, raising two children, Ellen and Tom. It was during this time that Ruth began to develop her gifts as an artist. She took part in many benefits, exhibits, as well as multiple solo shows. While living in NY, the Bowmans were active members of the Purchase Friends Meeting. During the Vietnam War Ruth supported her husband's draft counseling activities.

In 1975 Ruth and Richard traveled the world with a minute from the Purchase Meeting, visiting the campuses of the Friends World College in Guatemala, Japan, India, Kenya and London.

Ruth has said that her serious artwork started when she was in Guatemala, and her close friends would agree that her artwork was one of the main ways she expressed her spirituality. She frequently contributed her art to benefits for charitable organizations. Portland Friends Meeting once had an exhibit /sale of her work in its library and proceeds were donated to the Meeting. Many lucky members and attenders have her works on their walls. Here is a quote from a critic writing about Ruth in the Aug 4,2000 Portland Phoenix : "Seemingly inspired by Paul Klee, South Portland artist Ruth Bowman uses rich glowing color and a mosaic-tile composition to riff on the idea of flowers while creating something only remotely floral in appearance."

In 2005, Ruth was one of many people in the Meeting who were interviewed about what it meant to "hold someone in the Light." Two of her descriptions so capture her blending of art and the Spirit: She says, "I imagine them in, almost in a child's drawing...you know the way they draw the sun, with rays going out." And later she says, "...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."

In her obituary, which Ruth largely wrote herself, she said she regretted that her long life had been punctuated by so many wars but her faith was in the wisdom, imagination and energy of the next generations. She believed, "Peace must be possible and must start right here, right now."

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, July 29th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

