

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Summer, 2015

Meeting for Worship: Sundays, 5pm through 9/6, 10:30a resumes 9/13
Wednesdays 5:30p

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



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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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address change details

Tony Scilipoti
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"Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? Are you sensitive and obedient to leadings of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek to follow Jesus, who shows us the way? Do you nurture your spiritual life with prayer and silent waiting and with regular study of the Bible and other devotional literature?"

New England Yearly Meeting, 1985 Faith & Practice, III: Advices and Queries

Calendar

September 10 -13: Friends General Conference Development
Committee meeting at Portland Friends
Meeting. (Details inside.)

Sunday, September 13:

9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
10:30a Meeting for Worship regular schedule resumes
10:45a First Day School resumes

Sunday, September 20: 9a Adult Education resumes

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

Suggestions for your monthly bank draft to Portland Friends Meeting

\$5.00 = one latte = \$60.00 annually
\$10.00 = one movie = \$120.00 annually
\$20.00 = one lunch = \$240.00 annually
\$50.00 = one dinner = \$600.00 annually
\$75.00 = one concert = \$900.00 annually
\$100.00 = dinner for two = \$1,200.00 annually

Thank you!

That which makes a people blessed and happy, is, that they hear and obey the still small voice, which says, this is the way, walk in it. This is the voice of the true shepherd, and the sheep know it, follow it and obey it, and a stranger they will not hear nor follow.

~ William Shewen, 1631-1695

Portland Friends Meeting for Business

July 26, 2015

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began with 17 members and attenders present, when co-clerk Liz Maier read the Query that begins: "Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life?" We spent a while in silent and expectant worship.
2. The minutes of June 7th 2015 Meeting for Business were accepted.
3. Lea Sutton reported for Ministry and Counsel:
In joy at the presence of the new building for the Friends School of Portland, we will have an additional opportunity for meeting for worship at the new campus on Sunday, September 20. The meeting for worship at the Friends School will begin at 11:00 am.

For those who prefer to worship in meetinghouse, meeting for worship will take place as usual at 10:30. There will be childcare available at both locations.

We could have a pot luck at the new school after worship if Friends would like.

Ministry and Counsel expressed thanks to the staff of the Friends School and to the School Resource Committee.

4. Treasurer's Report : At the time of today's meeting we have not completed July, but these are the figures to date in for the month of July, and will be updated at our September business meeting. Despite some very generous donations in June and July we are getting further into the red. The camperships were a big item for this month.

For the months of June and July, donations were \$2,250 and \$2,354 respectively. Expenses for those 2 months were \$3,806 and \$5,253. This leaves us with a budget deficit of \$672 for June and \$2,016 for July (to date).

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses Seven months — 58% of 2015

Year-to-date Income	\$25,352
Percent of Budget	38%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$35,750
Percent of Budget	54%
Balance	(\$10,398)

Our YTD budget deficit is \$10,398. At this time last year, we were in the black for the months of June and July.

Our expenses for the month were \$5,821. In addition to our monthly contribution to NEYM of \$1042, we also contributed our annual amount of \$1500 to Friends School of Portland.

Friends were reminded that monthly donation directly via checking accounts is the most efficient and helpful way to help contribute to PFM expenses.

5. Dorothy Grannell reported that Falmouth Quarterly summer meeting was held Saturday, July 25 at the location of the Friends Community of New England, a newly formed intentional community of Friends. It is located on 5 acres of property in Bath within easy walking distance of the Kennebec River. Thirteen Friends from 3 of the monthly meetings in our Quarter met for food, fun and fellowship. The members of the new community spoke out of the silence about their experience of forming this community. We all considered what having this group within our Quaker community may mean for the work of the Spirit for the individuals and for our Quarter. Tracy Booth announced a critical need for facilitators for Alternative to Violence Programs that are held in Maine prisons. She suggested that interested Friends contact Margie Schoeller for information and to learn about the Security Training at Windham Prison in mid September which is the first step in the process to become a group facilitator.
6. Dorothy Grannell reported for the Events Committee. Friends are reminded that 15 members of the Development Committee of Friends General Conference will meet here at Portland Friends Meeting from Thursday, September 10 – 13. Our committee is seeking assistance in a variety of areas. First is that an additional 4 to 6 beds for single individuals will be needed in order to provide the overnight hospitality for those evenings. Secondly different food items will be needed for a pot luck meal on Sunday noon, and lunches and snacks during their meeting times. The group will have 2 meals out of the building and hosts are asked to provide breakfasts for their guests. Thirdly, the group will do some sightseeing on Friday, Sept 11 during the day and local guides would be helpful. Some

6. (cont-) suggested tours are: A tour of the lighthouses, Portland Underground Railroad, Historical sights on the peninsula, A tour of Falmouth Quarter Meeting houses. The group may not decide on which tours they would like until the Friday morning or if they would just like to roam freely.

On Saturday, September 12 we are planning a New England Bean Supper that will require beans, salads and desserts. This will be followed by a musical program provided by two members of the Development Committee, Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan. We are asking some Portland Friends to join in with that program. Everyone is invited to attend the Bean Supper at 6 pm and then stay for the program beginning at 7 pm. This could make a lively kickoff event for the fall. We recognize that this event falls on the evening that the Youngish Adults meet and we hope that the group might consider joining in the meal and festivities at the meeting house for this event in place of the regularly scheduled Youngish Adult meeting. Friends from throughout the Quarter will be invited to be a part of the evening and donation baskets will be present to make contributions to be shared with FGC and Portland Friends.

A signup sheet for volunteers will be posted in the newsletter and a poster will be in the meetinghouse foyer as well. Members of the Event Committee can also be contacted.

7. Rob Levin for Peace and Social Concerns and Earth and Spirit reported that they have decided to lay down the climate stewardship initiative as a large bold project for the meeting to approve, but to continue with individual parts of it. They discerned a groundswell of support for the concerns but hesitation to commit the meeting as a whole. They have asked Adult Religious Education for time in the fall to talk about divestment on a personal level. They have also asked for a session on the voluntary carbon tax, which is another element of the initiative. They will be hosting a lobbying training on October 17th at the meeting house to learn about lobbying legislators.

Discussion followed in which those present at the meeting expressed agreement with the climate initiative, and expressed concern that the skeptical concerns on the website did not speak for the meeting as a whole or even a majority of its members. A request was made that the newsletter was used to share information about climate change. It was agreed that the issue of communications policies would be brought up at the September business meeting.

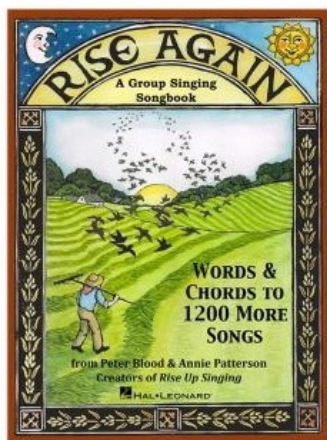
Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Doughty, Co-recording clerk



New school update:

Every day the new Friends School of Portland grows more and more complete! We love the warmth that the wood from our own pine trees brings to the hallways and beautiful meeting room.





Rise Again Benefit Concert at the new Friends School of Portland, October 9th, 7:00pm

Singalong concert with Annie Patterson & Peter Blood, the creators of [Rise Up Singing](#), celebrating the release of their long-awaited 2nd songbook [Rise Again](#) - empowering people to create a better world through singing together. Annie and Peter will be joined by [Bill Harley](#), [Charlie King](#) & [Magpie](#) (all of whom have songs in the new book). Rise Again songbooks will be available to borrow or buy the evening of the concert.

This concert is a benefit for Friends School of Portland and is also a celebration of the opening of our new building! Our students will work with 5 folk musicians that day, with a focus on social justice. Mark your calendars now, and please join us! More information and tickets are available online: <https://www.riseupandsing.org/events/rise-again-portland>.



Field Academy visits Portland Friends Meeting, Friday to Monday, July 10-14th

About July 7th, Liz Maier received an unexpected request from leaders of the five week summer touring group representing this summer's Field Academy. Receiving advance word that the option of camping at an area state park was not advisable, the search turned to other alternatives. At Jasa Porciello's suggestion, Liz received this request from Field Academy's Portland coordinator, Heather Foran, "Could PFM provide accommodations for ten youth and four adults for four nights?"

Andy Grannell actively explored all aspects of this proposed visit. This included conversations and e-mail exchanges with Field Academy's co-founder, Jen Lazar of Vermont and local Portland based co-ordinator Heather Foran. Following these conversations, Liz and Andy decided that this was a good fit.

The fit between Field Academy needs and PFM's space/time needs was immediately obvious. But more, there was another dimension of spiritual seeking, openness to experience, and diversity of the group (from all over the US and from widely varying backgrounds) that the PFM's c0-clerks found attractive.

Thus the two vans with ten teens and four adults arrived from Boston late Friday afternoon, July 10th. Andy welcomed and then oriented the group to the building. Field Academy leader Tom Wilson and Andy signed the contract and the extended weekend was launched.

In addition to touring Portland, three unique and unusual opportunities arose that were all located at the Meeting House.

The first opportunity was to join in on learning more about and participating in Jo Israelson's (and Jane Herbert's) program of 'Weaving the Tent: Welcoming the Stranger' Previously scheduled, this program provided an opportunity to begin to visualize how by working together, we could create an Abrahamic tent that would in turn symbolize our need to better welcome strangers, e.g. asylees.

The second opportunity was scheduled so that Academy members could to participate in Maine Wabanaki Reach training to learn better how to be allies with the Micmac, Penobscot, and Passamaquoddy peoples. We are grateful to all who worked to bring this about.

The third opportunity offered was to experience for the first time, worship under our 'tent' of silent waiting. Nearly all of the teens and adults elected to join us for worship. At my request several elected to offer their reflections on their 'first time ever' experience. Here are the student reflections on the 'Sunday Meeting':

"The meeting for me, was extremely enlightening. I loved just being able to sit with my thoughts and not worry about all the things I have to do and just really be present. I also liked the things the community had to share. Thank-you." GP

"The meeting was amazing. I learned some questions that I ask myself everyday (were) answered. Thank-you for everything and your ideas! Till next time." BF

"The meeting was very interesting and I'm glad I was a part of it. Thank you for allowing us to experience it." MC

At the concluding 'gratitude circle' on Monday, the team members and student expressed their thanks, and Andy also expressed his enjoyment and satisfaction with this visit.



Recommended: This American Life episode called "Abdi and the Golden ticket."

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/560/abdi-and-the-golden-ticket>

This was a show done for the 4th of July and I think it will become clear why that was a good choice. Abdi lives here in Portland and has been part of our family. He now will join Americorp in Portland and begin work with other New-Mainers. I think people will enjoy the story. —Sharon McDonnell

Spiritual Questions: Support for Refugees

Refugees applying for asylum in Maine are in a difficult limbo status -- unable to work, but their ability to receive government General Assistance is being questioned. Arthur Fink wrote these queries to help an interfaith group explore the spiritual questions underlying our efforts to provide support outside of the normal government channels. Arthur hopes that Portland Friends Meeting will labor with these questions — presented here just in draft form:

- What happens to our "golden rule" when we may see the need around us as huge, and our own resources as very limited?
- How can we keep giving when our support of those around us may act as a magnet, increasing the need that we see, while not increasing the resources?
- How do we overcome fear of those who are different, whose language is a barrier to us, and whose situation may be hard for us to understand or accept?
- When we believe that the needs around us can and should best be covered by other people or institutions, how can we find clarity to expend our own (possibility limited) resources?
- Do we experience a line between simple compassion and excess generosity? How do we find clarity about what we have to share?
- How can we come to understand those who are different from us as "family", and accord them the warmth and compassion we understand belongs in that relation?



Welcoming the
Stranger:
Weave the Tent

Portland Friends
Meeting, July 12



Fall Kick Off Event for the Entire Meeting – Where Will You Help Out?

Friends are reminded that 15 members of the **Development Committee of Friends General Conference** will meet here at Portland Friends Meeting from **Thursday, September 10 – 13**. The Events Committee is seeking assistance in a variety of areas. First, **4 to 6 beds for single individuals** will be needed in order to provide the overnight hospitality for those evenings. Second, *different food items will be needed for a pot luck meal on Sunday noon*, and **lunches and snacks** during their meeting times. The group will have 2 meals out of the building and hosts are asked to provide breakfasts for their guests. Third, the group will do some sightseeing on Friday, Sept 11 during the day and **local guides** would be helpful. Some suggested tours are: A tour of the lighthouses, Portland Underground Railroad, Historical sights on the peninsula, A tour of Falmouth Quarter Meeting houses. The group may not decide on which tours they would until the Friday morning or if they would just like to roam freely.

On Saturday, September 12th, we are planning a **New England Bean Supper** that will require **beans, salads and desserts**. This will be followed by a **musical program** provided by two members of the Development Committee Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan. Friends may view two videos of their performances one in Quaker Speak video - <https://youtu.be/x004IEwcYaI> And the other is a Coffee Shop video - <https://youtu.be/zjueuHiau0w> We are asking some Portland Friends to join in with that program.

Everyone is invited to attend the **Bean Supper at 6 pm and then stay for the program beginning at 7 pm**. This could make a lively kickoff event for the fall. We recognize that this event falls on the evening that the Youngish Adults meet and we hope that the group might consider joining in the meal and festivities at the meeting house for this event in place of the regularly scheduled Youngish Adult meeting. Friends from throughout the Quarter will be invited to be a part of the evening and donation baskets will be present to make contributions to be shared with FGC and Portland Friends. **Let's make a night of it!!**

A signup poster will be in the meetinghouse foyer by the second week in August or please contact Kathy Beach. Other members of the Event Meeting can also be contacted (Dorothy Grannell, Jennifer Frick, Kiya Smith and Sue Calhoun).



Lise and Doug Wagner visited Marian Hall on July 4th for lunch and had a lovely time! She was impressed by Doug's growth and his short hair. She is doing well, living with her daughter in PA.

Friends School of Portland Wish List

We are really enjoying our new surroundings! We have noticed that there are a few items that would be nice to have. Might you have something we could use?

- 6'-8' stepladder
- loveseat for office, good condition, in a color that won't show the dirt
- round 10-12' braided rug for art room circle time, preferably red
- sturdy 3' tall bookcases 10"-15" in depth
- recommendations for a source of wooden outdoor benches
- mini-fridge for staff room (no freezer compartment needed)

If you have an item you'd like to donate, please first email (ideally with a photo of the item you'd like to contribute) to jenny@friendsschoolofportland.org or call Jenny Rowe at 558-6212.

Member Profile: From the Catholic Priesthood to the Quakers, Ed Robinson

From the age of fourteen until I left the lifestyle twenty years later, I was a Franciscan Brother for twenty years and a Catholic priest for nine. Ultimately, I left the lifestyle because of its demand for blind obedience, celibacy, and the re-entrenchment of traditional Catholicism after the "liberating winds of Vatican II Council." When I set out for new professions of teaching and landscape gardening, I inaugurated ten years of depth psychotherapy as a continuation of my spiritual journey. There I discovered I bought myself to the religious life and the priesthood because "I was running away from a challenging childhood."

When I became a First Order Friar of the Capuchin Franciscans, my Novice Master told us--back in the days of paint brushes rather than rollers--"Fratres, if the Superior tells you to paint the wall from floor to ceiling despite the dripping paint traveling down the already painted wall, that is the Will of God." Blind obedience. Even though at the time I was taking in almost everything I heard as the Truth, I clearly remember saying to myself, "No way!"

I remember reading Margaret Raymond's profile in our Bulletin when she wrote: "I really liked men." From the day I entered the Prep Seminary on my fourteenth birthday I *started* realizing I really liked teenage girls and women. This feeling did not abate, but became more and more urgent. Cold showers did not affect living celibacy. My austerities became excessive to combat the "concupiscence of the flesh." I did develop, however, an ability to have Platonic love of women. Today I have an almost equal amount of women as men in my close circle of friends and Friends.

The re-entrenchment of the Catholic Church caused 70% of American Catholic religious Sisters and 30% of Catholic Priests to leave their Catholic Church active ministries in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Our hearts are singing again these days, however, with Pope Francis at the helm. His outreach to old liberation theologians, like myself, is a wonderful blessing in our senior years. "A poor Church for the poor" is one of his mottos.

My Uncle John Mc Sweeney told me soon after I left the priesthood, "You should go back to the Padres because you do not know what you are doing out here." So I went to California for seven years "to find myself"--the hippie version of "Go West, young man." I wore a head bandana to be like my role model Willie Nelson. Pizza and beer were my substitutions for his pot and whiskey. I returned to Maine on a six week car trip across country. I had three springs that year - in Texas, in New Jersey, and finally in Maine. Then some years later my Uncle Terrence Mc Sweeney told me, "You have such a good education. What are you doing mowing lawns?" So I added substitute teacher and college adjunct instructor to my horticultural career.

Three philosophies pervade my life: Daoism for the health of my body, Neo Socratic encounters and Quaker Leadings for my spiritual and pastoral life, and Nature, God, studying, writing, and reading for my mental focus. My Sweet Carol is my on going personal growth and wonderful love life.

After five years as an attender I became a Quaker in spirit, and soon after, on the Sunday after the reelection of George Bush for a second term, I became a member. With tears, Chris Beech told us how much he loved his conservative brother. Another told us how God looks at every person on this earth. Another told us how the Will of God works. Not one mention of politics... Personally, during Meeting I constantly learn the holy realm of conscience, and That, which is "deepest in each of us."



Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, September 16th, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

