

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Ninth Month, 2015

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

**Adult Education, First Day School:** 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  
[mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com](mailto:mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com)

### Newsletter

#### submissions

Heather Denkmire

[pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net)

#### address change details

Tony Scilipoti

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*"Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation?"*

*Do you try to protect the natural environment and its creatures against abuse and harmful exploitation?*

*Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust, and do you part with them freely to meet the needs of others?*

*Are you frugal in your personal life and committed to the just distribution of the world's resources?"*

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

## Calendar

**Sunday, September 20:** 9a Adult Education resumes

**Wednesday, October 7th:** 9p Portland Friends Meeting newsletter deadline

**Friday, October 9:** Rise Up Singing benefit concert, Friends School of Portland

**Saturday, October 17:** Climate Advocacy Training, Portland Friends Meeting

**Saturday, November 7:** Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, Portland Friends School

## Monthly

**Every Sunday:** 10:30a Meeting for Worship

**Every Wednesday:** 5:30p Meeting for Worship

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

**1st Sunday:** 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

**2nd Saturday:** 5-8p Youngish adults potluck

Bart Czyz, [btczyk@gmail.com](mailto:btczyk@gmail.com), 207 899 5937

**2nd & 4th Sundays:** Adult Religious Education and First Day School

### Suggestions for your monthly bank draft to Portland Friends Meeting

\$5.00 = one latte = \$60.00 annually = monthly electric bill

\$10.00 = one movie = \$120.00 annually = support Portland Friends School

\$20.00 = one lunch = \$240.00 annually = one campership

\$50.00 = one dinner = \$600.00 annually = Religious Ed coordinator monthly

\$75.00 = one concert = \$900.00 annually = monthly winter fuel

\$100.00 = dinner for two = \$1,200.00 annually = monthly NEYM contribution

**Thank you!**

**Portland Friends Meeting for Business  
September 13th, 2015**

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began with 32 members and attenders present, when co-clerk Liz Maier read Query number 9 on Stewardship that begins: "Do you revere all life and the splendor of God's continuing creation?" We spent a while in silent and expectant worship.
2. The minutes of July 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 Meeting for Business were accepted without any changes.

3. Treasurer's report: Kathy Beach reported good news this month in that our income was more than our expenses. Generous donations by Friends totaled \$4,754. We also had rental income of \$400 and our usual endowment income of \$883.33, giving a total of \$6,037.33 for August.

| <b>Quick Summary of Income and Expenses</b> |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Eight months — 67% of 2015</b>           |           |
| Year-to-date Income                         | \$31,389  |
| Percent of Budget                           | 47%       |
| Year-to-date Expenses                       | \$38,651  |
| Percent of Budget                           | 58%       |
| Balance                                     | (\$7,262) |

Expenses, including utilities and care of the meeting house, payroll and contributions amounted to \$2,901, leaving a positive balance of \$3,137.

The budget balance for the Year-to-Date is a negative \$7,262, so we still have some catching up to do.

4. Youth Religious Ed: Sarah Peterson reported that The Youth Religious Education Committee (YREC) is seeking approval for their plan regarding the Nursery Coordinator position. Jessica Eller has indicated that she would like to phase out of this position by June 1st, 2016, if not sooner. She has done an amazing job with the care of the youngest members of our community, and we thank her for all her hard work and dedication to this important job.

The current annual salary is \$3400 per annum, which works out to around \$13.08 per hour for time spent on Sunday at the meeting house and administrative time during the week. YREC propose raising the hourly wage for the position to either \$15 per hour or \$16 per hour, which would work out to \$3900 or \$4160, respectively. They propose that this raise be effective starting the first day of the next month following approval at business meeting, which will allow time for the change to be processed by the payroll company.

This will not affect the overall YREC budget for the 2015-16 year, as there have been significantly fewer youth scholarship requests this year, and there are sufficient funds to cover the raise. Going forward, however, they anticipate that this would increase the YREC overall budget by up to \$760 dollars, although they will evaluate if there are other areas of budget that could be reduced. The vibrant youth presence at our meeting is due in large part to our YRE coordinator Anne Payson and our nursery coordinator positions, the major components of our budget, and YREC feel that supporting our youth and youth programs is of the utmost importance.

They plan to advertise first among the Friends School of Portland (FSP) community, feeling that a qualified FSP Community member would be likely to share Quaker values but not have the inherent conflict of having to choose between being in the nursery and being at meeting. Thanks were expressed to Jessica for giving the extensive notice to permit YREC to proceed cautiously and thoughtfully with each step of this process.

The job description was then read out. We were reminded that assistants were paid \$10 an hour, and the need for a raise for the co-ordinator was expressed. The need to frequently review PFM's child safety policies was also expressed. The suggestion was made that the job description should be revised to reflect attenders as well as members of the meeting.

5. Financial oversight: Jo Linder reported that they had discussed the YREC proposal and recommend that the meeting approve a raise to \$16 an hour, retroactive to September 1st. They will review the budget for next year at their fall meeting. The meeting approved the raise to \$16 an hour effective September 1st.

They would like to have budget requests for all committees sent to them by October 19th.

6. Ministry and Counsel reported that we have been invited to FSP for a meeting for worship at 11am next Sunday, though there will be meeting for worship at the meeting house at 10:30am as usual. Child care will be available at both sites. After meeting for worship at FSP there will be a potluck lunch. Friends are asked to bring eating utensils, ideally ones that might be contributed to the school, though plates and cups will be provided. Carpooling is encouraged as parking on the grounds is limited, though there is parking on the shoulder of Rte 1 available. The address is 11 Rte 1, Cumberland.

7. Dorothy Grannell sent a letter thanking the meeting for all they have done for welcoming and hosting Friends General Conference Development Committee this weekend and thanked Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan for their presentation on music and the lovely concert including our own musical Friends Pam and James Grumbach, Jennifer Frick and Meg Nobel.

She asked whether PFM wants to do anything special for World Quaker Day Oct 4<sup>th</sup>? She suggested that we could get a date free banner made that could be hung from our sign the week of World Quaker Day that could be re-used next year (cost about \$35), then have a group photo of meeting members on the front steps with the sign and send it out on the FWCC World site as a greeting to other meetings. A video is available that could be shown on that day.

Views ranging from 'why?' to 'why not?' were expressed. It was suggested that we publish the description of World Quaker Day in the newsletter and allow people to examine the details and inform themselves. One potential purpose is to allow people to know who Quakers are and what Quakers stand for as ignorance about Quakers is wider than many Quakers realize and there are people who are Friends but don't know it. Focusing on attraction rather than promotion was suggested. The proposal to publish the details in the newsletter was approved. We were reminded that FGC has programs to help Quakers with outreach.

8. The meeting expressed gratitude for the continuing recovery of co-clerk Andy Grannell from his recent heart attack and continues to hold him and his family in the light.
9. A minute of appreciation for this last weekend with Portland Friends Meeting was read by Martha Roberts of the Development Committee of Friends General Conference on behalf of herself and her companions.
10. Another minute of travel and introduction for Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan from Heartland Friends Meeting was also read. When they have a scheduled block of time for singing and meeting for worship, the worship begins at the start of the singing.
11. Announcements: We were reminded that the newsletter deadline is this Wednesday at 9pm.

Today is the first day of First Day School, and because of the weather this will be held downstairs so we were reminded that there might be a noise impact.

The second and fourth Sundays of the month at 9am are scheduled for Adult Religious Ed. Child care is available on request.

At 10:00 on those Sundays and on the third Sunday, we sing.

We closed in silent worship at 10:05 am.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Jenny Doughty, co-recording clerk.*

The **Money and Spirit workshop** for Monthly and Quarterly Meeting Treasurers, Clerks and Finance Committee members to be held on **November 7<sup>th</sup> at Wellesley Friends Meeting**. Everyone else with an interest in finances is invited to attend as well.

The workshop will be from 9:30 to 3 with opportunities for sharing success stories and challenges from your own experience, hearing from other meetings and quarters as well as discussing Yearly Meeting priorities and budgets. Lunch will be brown bag with soup and coffee/tea provided.

**Falmouth Quarterly Meeting will have its fall meeting November 7, 2015 at Friends School of Portland from 9-2.**

Ministry and Counsel will meet at 9:15 to 10:15 am. Worship will be from 10:30 – 11:30.

A tour of the new facility will be held following worship. Lunch will follow the tour. Friends are asked to bring their own lunch and beverage and dessert will be provided.

The Annual Meeting for the Quarter will be held at 1 pm. This is the meeting where all the major decisions are made for the year. Please make every effort to attend.

Also, parking is limited so please car pool where possible.



## Rise Again Benefit Concert

Please join us on **Friday, October 9 at 7:00pm** for a 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, and Magpie (all of whom have songs in the new book), and *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!

Mark your calendars now, and please join us! More information and tickets are [available online](#).



## Dakota 38 Film Screening

Please join Friends School of Portland for a screening of the film *Dakota 38* on Columbus Day (Oct. 12) at 7:00pm in FSP's meeting room. This important film follows the 330-mile journey of a group of Native and non-Native riders as they honor those killed in the largest mass execution in U.S. history (on December 26, 1862). Filmmaker Silas Haggerty will join us for a discussion of the film afterwards. Please [click here](#) for more info on the film and to view the trailer. Not recommended for students younger than 7th grade.

## World Quaker Day October 4: Living the Transformation

Join Friends meetings and churches from around the world in celebrating World Quaker Day (WQD) on October 4, 2015. This year's theme is "Living the transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Romans 8:19). We are gathered together on this day by Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).

There are many ways to bring the theme home in your meeting. Perhaps it prompts a person or persons to speak on how their lives have been transformed by faith. Perhaps there is opportunity for children to lead the meeting in an activity or conduct a multi-generational activity about God's transformative power. The theme may open us to consider how we are part of a world family of Friends and the encouragement this gives us. More ideas are posted on the World Quaker Day website at [http://worldquakerday.org/wqd\\_framework\\_us2015.pdf](http://worldquakerday.org/wqd_framework_us2015.pdf).

Please share a highlight of WQD in your meeting with others through FWCC — a description, a poem, a short video from a mobile phone, a few photos — and see what other meetings and churches were doing on the same day. Email items to [harrya@friendsworldoffice.org](mailto:harrya@friendsworldoffice.org) or post them to the FWCC World Office Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/fwccworldoffice> or on Twitter, <http://twitter.com/WorldQuakerDay>, hashtag #wqd.

Consider taking a collection or offering or ask your monthly meeting to support FWCC's ongoing work. All contributions that are sent to the Section of the Americas (<http://www.fwccamericas.org>), marked WQD, will be shared between the Section and the World Office.

For more information on World Quaker Day, or Friends World Committee for Consultation - New England, contact Cynthia Ganung, [cganung@gmail.com](mailto:cganung@gmail.com), or Judy Goldberger, [quakerchild@gmail.com](mailto:quakerchild@gmail.com).



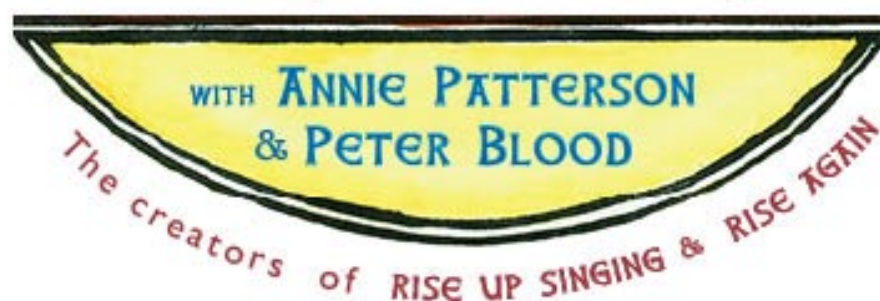
As the sun rises in each area of the world, we want to remember that Quakers are worshiping through every time zone, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. We are united in love and can accompany each other on this special day that draws us together. As we worship, let us hold each other in prayer and thanksgiving, and let our hymns of praise resound across the world.





## SING-ALONG CONCERT

**CELEBRATING THE RELEASE**  
of their long awaited 2nd songbook



FRIDAY  
**OCTOBER 9, 2015**

**FRIENDS SCHOOL  
OF PORTLAND**

11 U.S. Route One  
Cumberland, Maine

**EVENING CONCERT  
7PM**

**ALSO FEATURING:**

**Bill Harley  
Charlie King  
Magpie**

**TICKETS:**

\$20 (Adults)  
\$10 (under 18)

**A BENEFIT FOR:** Portland Friends School *(Celebrating their new building!)*

To order tickets go to

**[WWW.RISEUPANDSING.ORG/TOUR](http://WWW.RISEUPANDSING.ORG/TOUR)**

For information: School Office [information@friendschoolofportland.org](mailto:information@friendschoolofportland.org) (207) 781-6321

## Rita's Confession

I have to confess that I have set up an automated monthly bill pay to make my donations to Portland Friends Meeting. For years I have resisted the urgings of my loving (but sometimes just a little pushy) spouse to do so.

But I have finally decided to place my (slightly balky) objections aside. Perhaps I am doing this from the perspective of what is best for the Meeting. Or perhaps I am simply worried that I will forget how much money I have given along the way and one year give too much (oops, I meant too little) to my beloved Portland Friends Meeting.

I write this to inspire you, if you are not already doing so, to contribute to our Monthly Meeting with an automated payment.

Rita Clifford

*Contemplation is a choice about what we will have on our minds. Sometimes contemplation is a choice to step back, wait and to tolerate the withdrawal of not satisfying every appetite and desire.*

*The contemplative option may be a choice to face into our own insatiability and discern what truly satisfies from what leaves us numb, jittery and still hungry.*

*There is no getting around it. The contemplative life is a sacrifice. Our yes to God is likely to mean a no to something else.*

*—Loretta Ross; from the Holy Ground Newsletter of The Sanctuary Foundation*

## Job Opening — Nursery Coordinator Job Description

Portland Friends Meeting provides childcare every Sunday during Meeting for Worship for infants, babies and young children up to 9 years old. The childcare room is staffed by a Nursery Co-ordinator who is hired and paid by the Meeting, and an assistant(s) who is either a paid teenager or a volunteer parent/Meeting member or attender.

The Nursery Co-ordinator reports to the Youth Religious Education (YRE) Committee. Children use the nursery room and sometimes go outside, weather permitting, to use the play set equipment.

### Nursery Co-ordinator Duties and Responsibilities

1. Manage the nursery room on Sunday mornings from 9 am - noon from September through June, and Sunday afternoons 4:45 - 6:00 pm from July through August.
  2. Provide a safe and loving environment for the children
    - Complete registration sheet for each child
    - Follow PFM's child safety policies.
    - Oversee space for appropriateness for age group
    - Report any nursery room or playground equipment safety issues.
  3. Develop a simple planned activity for the children as appropriate and support imaginative play of children in attendance.
  4. Recruit and schedule assistants for the Nursery room, either a paid teen from the Meeting, parent, or person from the Meeting community.
    - Maintain a data base of youth workers and volunteers who can work as assistants
    - Identify and train assistants
    - Develop a schedule
    - Communicate on a regular basis with assistants
    - Provide nursery assistant time sheet to Treasurer
  5. Meet with the Youth Religious Education Committee on a monthly basis to provide input, discuss ideas and review policies as needed.
  6. Compile and report enrollment numbers to YRE Committee at end of school year.
- Background check required.

# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN AUGUSTA AND IN WASHINGTON

## Climate Advocacy Training: Time to Take Our Planet Back!

October 17, 2015  
12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Portland Friends Meetinghouse  
1837 Forest Avenue, Portland, Maine

**Now is the time for crucial action on climate disruption — let's reclaim the lobbying process and press for action! Learn how to make your voice most effectively heard in Maine and in Washington.**

This exciting workshop will give you tools for citizen lobbying at both the federal and state levels. You'll receive training, sample materials for lobbying visits, and hands-on sessions to practice your new skills. We'll also take a snack break for one of the best parts of the workshop — getting to know each other.

The workshop will be led by Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker lobbying organization in Washington, D.C. and by local experts from Citizens Climate Lobby and the Maine Legislature. The skills you'll learn will serve far beyond lobbying on any bill or issue. Even if climate is not your main issue, please feel welcome to attend with your issue or legislation in mind.

All are welcome, but please let us know you are coming so we can prepare.

**RSVP to:** [PortlandFriendsPSOC@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandFriendsPSOC@gmail.com)





Dear Portland Friends Meeting,

Greetings from Heartland Friends Meeting, which is affiliated with Great Plains Yearly Meeting (FUM) and with Friends General Conference, as a direct affiliate. This letter is a Minute of Travel for Heartland member Aaron Fowler and a Minute of Introduction for his wife Laura Dungan, an active member of Wichita's University Friends Meeting.

Aaron Fowler is a seasoned Friend and member of Heartland Friends Meeting. He served for six years as our Presiding Clerk. For years, Aaron has led our meeting in song on Sunday mornings and on numerous special occasions. Aaron is a songwriter, a teacher of children, youth, and adults who has been given spiritual gifts for public ministry. We commend him to your care as he ministers among you in word and song.

Laura Dungan, a seasoned Friend, is also a gifted minister and musician. She has recently served as Presiding Clerk of Great Plains Yearly Meeting and is currently a released Friend leading GPYM's Leadership Development and Renewal Initiative.

Our prayer is that you will experience grace and peace at Portland Friends Meeting as you listen to the Spirit of God, love one another, and serve others. We have observed that the spiritual power of music can increase the ability of faithful people to do all these things!

Peace, love, and joy in the Spirit,

Angela Young, Presiding Clerk  
Heartland Friends Meeting

*Wanted: Women to help plan the 2016 Falmouth Quarter Women's Retreat*

Last March the women's retreat was revived after a 5 year hiatus. It would be wonderful if we could make this retreat an annual event again.

Do you think you might be interested in helping to plan the retreat, or do you have a specific idea or talent to share?

For more information, please contact Meg Nobel at [megnobel@gmail.com](mailto:megnobel@gmail.com).

At present, there are 4 of us from last year's retreat who have signed up to be on the planning committee but we definitely could use more women.

#### Newsletter submissions request:

Thank you for sending in your announcements, articles, and events information! When I agreed to help with the newsletter, I was worried I'd have to spend time soliciting the content. You've all made those worries melt away.

I do have a couple requests. When you make your submissions, if you could either send completely unformatted text, or send a single graphic image formatted exactly as you'd like it, that would save me a lot of time. Laying out the newsletter is really what I do more than any "editor" duties. Related to that, and probably most important of all, please send the text exactly as you want it to appear. A forwarded email typically requires some careful reading and editing to fit the context of the newsletter. Thank you!

—Heather  
[pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net)

#### Quaker table at Common Ground Country Fair

Friends will be hosting a booth at the CGCF again this year, [September 25-27](#). Please share this with Falmouth Quarter Friends.

We need more volunteers for the table, sometime between 9 to 5, especially for Saturday and Sunday, and more are welcome on Friday. I have nine one-day passes for those who could spend a few hours and it would be great if others could stop by for less time in order for the regular person to have a break. The pass enables you to park and come in early before the lines, regardless of when your shift starts. We should have wi-fi access.

We again look to have a display that represents both Quaker faith and practice and challenges fairgoers to reflect on Right Relationships with each other and with the earth, to learn more about current issues of concern to Friends (such as individual-Maine-Wabanaki-individual relations), as well as to answer questions about Friends ("didn't they all die out, except for a few around Gray, ME?" "Where is the nearest meeting for worship?").

Here is the Fair schedule to help decide which days you might want to come, what hours at the table could fit around your interests, etc. <http://www.mofga.org/TheFair/ScheduleofEvents/tabid/106/Default.aspx>

Please email me with days, times available or questions at: [Firemarks@fairpoint.net](mailto:Firemarks@fairpoint.net). Or leave a message at [293-3967](tel:293-3967)

Thanks, Mark Rains

Farmington MM





## Member Profile: Meg Noble

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Crestwood, New York which is in Westchester County, north of New York City.

**Go to school?** I went to public school in the Yonkers, N.Y. school system through 9th grade and then attended a Lutheran high school in Bronx, New York. My parents were immigrants from Scandinavia and my father, especially, was a very strict Lutheran. After high school I attended the University of Rochester for two years, joined the Peace Corps and worked as a volunteer in Colombia, and then completed a B/A. at Georgia State University. Later I attended nursing school at U.S.M.

**What do you do for work?** In the early '70's my husband Mike and I worked as field staff for the A.F.S.C. All our work was related to bringing the war in Vietnam to an end. We got to know Arthur Fink at that time. In the late 70's I went to nursing school and from 1981 until I retired at the end of 2013, I worked as an R.N., first as a community health nurse, then as a school nurse, then in a nursing home, and finally for about 15 years as a hospice nurse.

Now, in my retirement, I volunteer at the hospice house in Scarborough and I also tutor a Chinese student in English.

**What are your favorite things to do?** I love doing crafts although my compromised sight (I have macular degeneration) makes sewing and knitting challenging.

I love movies, theater, musical concerts and listening to audio books. I sing in a community chorus. Probably my most favorite activity is spending time with our children and their families. We have one grandchild, our son's daughter Aya, who lives with her parents in Brooklyn New York. Our daughter lives near Boston.

**Tell us about the spiritual journey that brought you to Portland Friends Meeting.** We moved to Maine at the end of 1969 and were very involved in the peace movement to end the war in Vietnam. In early 1970, there was a public service announcement on a local radio station about a "potluck supper for peace". We called the phone number they gave for more information and Bob Philbrook answered the phone. At that time he was working at a watch repair shop on the corner of Forest Avenue and Congress Street. He gave us directions to the meeting house where the supper was being held. We went to the supper and met Bob, his wife Sandy who was very pregnant with Obie at the time, and we also met Barbara Woodbury who some will remember as an active member of this meeting in the 70's. Barbara's home in Portland became a second home for us during our years of antiwar work.

We started attending Quaker meeting soon after attending the peace supper. I had grown up in a strict Lutheran home where you never missed church unless you were really sick. My husband grew up in a "culturally" Jewish home where attendance at a temple was not a regular occurrence but things like justice, community service, and activism were valued. Quaker meeting felt comfortable to both of us.

**What does Quakerism mean to you?** At my last job, a chaplain intern interviewed me about being a Quaker. I spent a lot of time talking with her about the concept of "that of God in everyone". I said that when I remembered to operate from that belief, my interactions went better with people I disagreed with or found difficult. At the time of the interview, I was having a particularly challenging time with a supervisor. Remembering to picture that of God in her was hard work.

I also spoke with the intern about "holding in the Light". What I would like to add as a corollary to holding in the Light is avoiding worrying about people. If we believe that surrounding people with an image of Light is effective, then when we worry about someone we are surrounding them with something else. I call that negative prayer. Ideally, you catch yourself when you are worrying about someone and make a conscious effort to use that time and energy to hold them in the Light instead. I learned this idea from Berit Wolcott, wife of Calvin Wolcott who used to attend our meeting.

The clearness process that Quakers use is also something I value very much. When I was first diagnosed with macular degeneration I requested a clearness committee and it was immensely helpful. Several years later I needed their help again and I was uplifted. I think people might be reluctant to ask for a committee just for themselves, but I can say with certainty, having participated on a number of clearness committees, that the people on the committee receive as much as they give. Maybe more. It is an honor and a privilege to help someone find clarity.



## Escalation of an Age-Old Conflict: Update from the trenches

(Sept 2015) Penobscots, this land's original people, have maintained a presence on their ancestral river for thousands of years. In 1775, colonial government acting in gratitude for Penobscot aid in the American Revolution agreed to preserve a portion of Penobscot aboriginal territory for the tribe's perpetual use, ensuring traditional sustenance life-ways for future generations. They further promised to protect Penobscot territory from future encroachment.

However over the course of history, Penobscots found themselves living on a mere fragment of their promised lands and in 1970, sued the State of Maine for theft of aboriginal territory which left their ancestors displaced, their fisheries destroyed, hunting grounds deforested, water degraded, and people impoverished. The 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act resulted and was intended to stop further taking of Indian Territory and to strengthen tribal sovereignty and tribal-state relations, but like all agreements preceding it, the agreement was broken and very little was settled.



August 2012: State government sent a letter to Penobscot Nation redefining the boundaries of the Penobscot reservation. The state's new opinion is that the Penobscot Indian Reservation, comprised of over 200 islands in the Penobscot River, does *not* include *any portion of the ancestral River!* This egregious assertion hits directly at the core of Penobscot culture the river and the fisheries. Interestingly it also runs contrary to a previous Attorney General opinion which did recognize the river as reservation. (James Tierney, 1988) What has changed between 1988 and 2012? Nothing. Exactly where Penobscot inherent, treaty-reserved sustenance fishing rights apply remains a mystery since according to the state, there are no reservation waters. *Penobscot Nation v. Janet Mills* (2012 present) illustrates that territorial takings are not a thing of the past. U.S. Dept of Justice has intervened in the case siding with the Penobscots. Yet, Maine government persists. **A decision is expected in October 2015.**

July 2014: Penobscot Nation created water quality standards for reservation waters taking into consideration sustenance fishing and traditional practices. Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Patty Aho and Attorney General Mills sued the federal EPA insisting that Maine has jurisdiction over setting water quality standards in "Indian territory." In February 2015, EPA agreed that according to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act the State *did* in fact have that right but Penobscots have sustenance fishing rights which require water quality sufficient for safely eating fish. Gov LePage immediately responded to the EPA Regional Administrator, Curt Spalding, saying the state did not care what EPA said; they were not going to reduce pollution in the Penobscot River. And once again, threatened to sue the EPA.

August 31, 2015: Governor Lepage sent a letter "on behalf of the State of Maine" asking Maine's congressional delegation to intervene (interfere?) with the EPA's protection of Penobscot sustenance fishing rights: "Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Congressman Poliquin, and Congresswoman Pingree, I am writing you on behalf of the State of Maine and those businesses in Maine that must operate under the strictures of the Clean Water Act to seek your assistance in dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency's severe regulatory overreach..." the letter began. He expressed concern for businesses' ability to pollute versus the people's right to clean water and edible fish.

Penobscot Nation and the River they call home are under duress: A three-year legal battle to protect themselves from territorial taking at the hands of state government; a governor and DEP hellbent on protecting rights of polluters over people, water, and life, and the looming threat of industrialization: a privately owned East-West Industrial Highway Corridor and Pipeline has been proposed that would bisect the state and traditional hunting and gathering territories; a second, possibly related battle is brewing over a proposed expansion at the state-owned mega-dump, the Juniper Ridge Landfill, situated in a wetland just north of Indian Island. The plan seeks to add 8.4 million tons of waste to an existing mountain of trash and construct an industrial methane gas plant creating greater need for imported out-of-state trash to feed the facility. DEP Commissioner Aho has recommended that the Bureau of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over this expansion process instead of DEP, and Aho is leaving DEP to work with Senator Susan Collins whom Lepage is pleading with to interfere in EPA protections. Aho will be replaced by Pierce Atwood attorney Avery Day, reportedly a longtime lobbyist for Casella, the contracted operators of the state-owned dump. A public hearing is not expected to occur this year, according to Aho. Casella is represented by another Pierce Atwood attorney Tom Doyle. A tangled web indeed.

*Good People of Maine* does this industrialization plan, treatment of the water and the Penobscots represent *your* wishes? Why must Maine government wrest control of Penobscots' ancestral river? On whose behalf is this battle being waged? Certainly not mine. Maine government is essentially redefining an ancient reservation and people with the sweep of a pen. This injustice should be a concern to every social and environmental justice group. Contact your elected officials. Ask them to cease and desist this perpetual fight against Penobscots and their ancestral River. RESPECT WATER. Clean water and edible fish are good for ALL! Let's work toward living in Peace the way our ancestors envisioned. N'telnapem'nawak ~ All my relations...

"The Penobscots believe that the God of Nature gave them their fisheries,  
and no man alive has the right to take that away from them...." ~ ~ ><))'> ~ ~ ><)),>

Quote from an early 1800's historical petition to Massachusetts Colonial Government. Essay written by Maria Girouard, Penobscot historian, founder of Dawnland Environmental Defense.

Dear Friends and Allies of the Penobscot River,

Last week, Maine Governor Lepage escalated the river dispute between Penobscot Nation and state government by calling on our elected officials in Washington to "intervene" (...interfere...) in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) efforts to protect Penobscot fishing rights and ensure a clean, healthy river for all... For those who feel compelled to help Penobscots and the beautiful River we all love, addresses for our Washington delegates are provided below. I encourage you all to raise your voices. They heard from Lepage, now they should hear from the People. And if you'd like to send words of appreciation or a thank you note along to the Environmental Protection Agency for protecting the health of the Penobscot River [please do]. :) Please feel free to share this communication far and wide to help sound the alarm about the looming threat of industrialization and accompanying territorial theft at the hands of state government. There is a quote attributed to Elie Wiesel: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." I implore you to please do something.... for the Water, for the Grandchildren.

Kci Woliwoni ("Great thanks")  
Maria

Diane Oltarzewski, FCMPP Recording Clerk and member of our Subcommittee on Wabanaki Concerns, responded to this appeal by drafting this beautiful and strong letter (below) to our Congressional delegation urging them to support the EPA's

THE FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON MAINE PUBLIC POLICY

September 10, 2015

Senator Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Representative Chellie Pingree  
2162 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Senator Angus King  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Representative Bruce Poliquin  
426 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Re: Governor LePage letter of August 31, 2015 regarding the EPA's intention to develop a Federal Implementation Plan for Maine's Water Quality Standards

Dear Senators Collins and King, Representatives Pingree and Poliquin:

For more than 20 years, the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy has tried to foster a better understanding of the aspirations of Maine Indians among other citizens in the state of Maine. As Quakers, we believe strongly in the human right to environmental justice, and the sacred right of indigenous people to pursue their traditional lifeways, free of harassment or obstruction by local government.

We write to remind you that both the Maine legislature and the Federal government of the United States have pledged to respect the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, including safe sustenance fishing rights. Both levels of government are thus morally obligated to respect those rights in word and in deed.

Contrary to the Governor's assertion of overreach by the EPA, that Agency commented, in notifying Maine of the inadequacy of its water quality standards, that only minor changes would be needed and that there was no reason these changes could not be implemented in an amicable, collaborative fashion.

The Governor writes that he is at a loss to understand what has prompted such "overreach." He fails to acknowledge established scientific evidence that tribal members consume three times more fish than non-natives, and that cancer rates are dangerously elevated in tribal communities. We support the Water Quality Standards developed by the Penobscot Nation as a baseline corrective to this serious situation.

All Maine's people deserve clean water and edible fish. We applaud the action of the EPA and urge you to do everything in your power to sustain its resolve to hold Maine's communities and industries to a standard consistent with the Clean Water Act, with all of its provisions for safe sustenance fishing.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience, to offer our perspective on the broader context of tribal/state relations in Maine.

Sincerely yours,

*James Matlack*

James Matlack  
Clerk

*Diane Oltarzewski*

Diane Oltarzewski  
Recording Clerk

cc: Mr. H. Curtis Spalding, Regional Administrator, USEPA Region I



(c) Bridget Desautels/Penobscot River Restoration Trust



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

LePage  
RNC

August 31, 2015

Senator Susan M. Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Angus S. King  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Bruce L. Poliquin  
426 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Rochelle M. Pingree  
2162 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Congressman Poliquin and Congresswoman Pingree:

I am writing you on behalf of the State of Maine and those businesses in Maine that must operate under the strictures of the Clean Water Act to seek your assistance in dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") severe regulatory overreach. I understand that your offices have been briefed by the EPA regarding that agency's impending decision to develop a Federal Implementation Plan for Maine regarding our State's water quality standards. As I am sure you can appreciate, this action is by the EPA is highly problematic for the State and the businesses located here.

As you know, Maine Department of Environmental Protection has been engaged in a protracted struggle with the EPA regarding the State's water quality standards. The EPA has taken unprecedented action by disapproving a number of Maine's water quality standards, including some that have been on the books since 1985. Much of the EPA's effort is focused on standards that relate to "waters in Indian lands." Unfortunately, the EPA appears to be trying to apply a one-size-fits-all model to Maine that completely ignores the applicability of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

You cannot understand my frustration and the frustration of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as we continue to try to exercise our delegated authority under the Clean Water Act. This move to develop a Federal Implementation Plan is just the latest overreach by the EPA. I am now evaluating all of the State's options as they relate to the Clean Water Act and am seriously considering relinquishing some or all of Maine's delegated authority under this Act. Obviously, the State must move in a deliberative fashion due to the disruption this would likely have on Maine-based businesses permitted under this Act. I, however, feel that the EPA is leaving us very little room to maneuver here.

I am at a loss as to what has brought this aggressive regulatory overreach about, but the State desperately needs your help to reign in this agency. I look forward to working with you all on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Paul R. LePage*  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:  
Wednesday, October 7th, 9pm

submissions: [pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net)

