

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Second Month, 2016

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

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

Connections

Co-Clerks

Lea Sutton 642-2327
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 Council

Kirk Read

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Christina Davis 518-0784

Religious Education

Adults: Arthur Fink
arthur@arthurfink.com
207 615 5722
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

Newsletter

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"Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are you faithful and punctual in attendance? Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? Do both silent and vocal ministry arise in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit? Do all other activities of your meeting find their inspiration in worship, and do they, in turn, help to uphold the worshipping group?"

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

Calendar

- February 27:** 10a-4p Men's Day, Portland Friends Meeting
- March 18-20** Junior High Yearly Meeting retreat, Wellesley Monthly Meeting
- March 18-20:** Young Friends Retreat, Hartford Monthly Meeting
- March 18-19:** Falmouth Quarter Women's Retreat, Portland Friends Meeting
- March 27:** 9-10:15a Easter Breakfast

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, btczyz@gmail.com, 207 899 5937
- 2nd & 4th Sundays:** Adult Religious Education, First Day School

*From Earth & Spirit's
Gathering for Those
Who Love Words to
revel in this glorious
season / Winter ~*

*We were especially
touched by our
Young Friend Martin
Eller Fitze's sharing
of his own poem ! A
great inspiration for
one and all ~*

If You Don't Have Winter, by Martin Eller Fitze

If you don't have winter, you can't see snow
If you don't have winter, you can't feel the cold wind blow
If you don't have winter, you get hot
If you don't have winter, you'll get caught by the hot
If you don't have winter, you can't wear a hat
If you don't have winter, you might get a twister or something
like that
If you don't have winter, you might have less water
or get baked like a tater tot-er.

Portland Friends Meeting for Business
February 7th 2016

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began with 16 members and attenders present, when co-clerk Lea Sutton read the Query that begins: "Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance?" We spent a while in silent and expectant worship.

2. The minutes of January 3rd 2016 Meeting for Business were accepted apart from the correction of the spelling of Karyl Sylken's surname.

3. Treasurer's report: Kathy Beach reported that this month's income was \$2300 or 3% of budget, and expenses were \$3294 or 5% of budget.

An increase in our water and sewerage charge has occurred because of the imposition of storm water charges by the City of Portland, but we are attempting to get a credit because of the design of our water run off from the roof into the Peace Garden.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses
One month — 8% of 2016**

Year-to-date Income	\$2,300
Percent of Budget	3%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$3,294
Percent of Budget	5%
Balance	(\$994)

4. Building and Grounds report: Syl Doughty reported on the excessive use of gas for heating.

Consumption gradually increased starting in November/December 2014, and by April/May 2015 had trebled over prior years. With a mild December 2015 and with January not in yet, there will not be a good readout for any of winter 2015-16 to report yet, the 12/22/15 reading being the latest, but the numbers so far seem to indicate the same increased pattern.

According to Unitil the meter is not faulty. The meter had a remote reader added sometime last year. Rolf at Rudi the Plumber inspected the boiler, which appears in good condition, and he will be cleaning it later this year. It was discovered that one thermostat was left up on Saturdays, so several people are monitoring the thermostats for irregular settings. The oldest thermostat, in the meeting room, has been replaced out of caution. They are normally set back to 57F when the building is not being used, and appear to be normal.

We are waiting for Rolf to contact Unitil to possibly have the meter and/or the remote reader replaced. We will continue to monitor thermostats, which all appear to be behaving themselves. We don't have a final answer yet but we are eliminating possibilities.

It was suggested that we put a small one-line notice by the thermostats reminding people not to touch the reset buttons.

5. Chris Beach reported for Ministry and Counsel. There was a membership event for which there was a good turnout, and there was a wide range of opinion expressed. A sub-committee of Ministry and Counsel is producing new membership material. There are two clearness committees under way. The current clerk of Ministry and Counsel is Kirk Read.

6. New renters: Dorothy Grannell reported that the Maine Peace Singers would like to use our meetinghouse every other Tuesday night from 6:30pm until 8:30pm until early June. One member of this group is a former attender of this meeting. The Maine Peace Singers are volunteers who perform mainly at nursing homes and assisted living settings. They have no income or budget. They have proposed as payment doing a fund-raising concert here at the meetinghouse for the benefit of PFM. It would include peace and environmental songs and a sing-along section. Friends were asked whether we approve of accepting this form of payment and whether we are willing to organize and publicize it. It was asked whether this had been co-ordinated with Financial Oversight so as not to overlap with other fund-raising attempts. This has not happened so far. It was pointed out that the likely audience would be members of this meeting, therefore we would be paying for it ourselves. They could sing for us without there being an expectation of it being a fundraiser.

However, it was also pointed out that there could be a nominal donation of \$20 to at least cover the costs in heating and lighting. The sense of the meeting was to approve the clerks negotiating the level of donation.

7. The Ad Hoc Communications committee report: Dorothy Grannell reported that they have met and are working on a survey for all meeting members and attenders to take regarding the meeting's various means of communication. The committee is grateful for the information that was shared by communications volunteers who so faithfully keep us connected. The committee expects to have the survey available on paper and electronically before the end of February. They plan to offer an open discussion later this spring concerning communications goals for the meeting internally and externally. Gratitude was expressed for the work of the committee, including the presence of a 'donate' button soon on our website.

(continued from page 2)

8. Report from the Friends World Council for Consultation: Dorothy Grannell reported on the World Plenary of Friends, which was held in Pisac, Peru, from January 19-27 2016 and involved 320 people from 37 countries, 77 Yearly Meetings, 9 independent Monthly Meetings and two worship groups. The event was multi-lingual. The theme was "Living the transformation: creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God". Ninety of the representatives were under 35 years old, making this the plenary with the widest diversity of ages ever. The strand that captured the most attenders was the one relating to climate change and earth care. The World office will shortly post the minute that describes the action that the plenary endorsed for all Friends everywhere, including 27 actions individuals can take, and three that all Yearly Meetings are called to take within the next 12 months. These are as follows:

a) Initiate at least two concrete actions on sustainability.

b) Support individuals and groups in their meetings who feel called to take action on sustainability.

c) Support the work done by Quaker organizations such as the Quaker UK Office and Quaker Council for European Affairs to ensure that international agreements and their implementation support sustainability.

Friends are urged to look for documents relating to the results of the plenary on the internet at www.FWCCWorld.org/ Peru and on Facebook #FWCC2016 for specific information.

9. Update on Friends concerns for Burundi: Dorothy Grannell reported on the current violence in Burundi and the request for funds for the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams. Friends Peace Teams is seeking approximately \$55,000 for three major programs in Burundi and in refugee communities in four US cities. The Healing and Reconciliation in Our Communities (HROC) programs are based on the Alternatives to Violence program processes but modified to deal with PTSD and mental health, and they are aiming to do ten workshops this year. Since May 2015, more than 400 young people have been killed in the capital city of Bujumbura over ethnic violence. Information on how to donate will be posted in the newsletter and on the bulleting board.

Dorothy also reported that Elie Nahimana will be traveling in the US during April and May, raising funds but talking about the current situation in Burundi today. His topic is "The Crisis in Burundi and the Quaker Response". He asked if Portland Friends are interested in having the program in Southern Maine and hosting the visit.

Concern was expressed about there being too many events as there are already some scheduled events. However, there are few resources for adult sufferers from mental health issues in this community, and it is the children who are suffering.

The meeting asked Dorothy to find out more details and report back at the next business meeting, and to see if there is any way the burden of caring for this issue can be shared with other faith communities.

10. We closed in silent worship at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jenny Doughty, Co-recording clerk

Men's Day at PFM

Saturday, February 27 is Men's Day at PFM. Please join us for an informal, personal and playful day with other men. Our day will include large and small groups, eating and playing. Through speaking from the heart, by being heard, and by listening deeply, we better understand how our own experience mirrors or contrasts with other men. We start at 10am and close at 4pm. Please bring some food to share. Contributions are requested to cover costs. Please RSVP so we can gauge attendance and email you information in advance: Jim Maier at jim.liz.maier@gmail.com (email preferred) or 883-5420.

Come to the Annual Easter Breakfast!!

Sunday March 27, 9:00 - 10:15 AM

Please join the First Day School children for a delicious brunch in anticipation of Easter. Donations collected will provide continued support of Bradley, student at Kakamega in Kenya (through Friends of Kakamega), and other organizations the children will select.



Light Your Fire and Keep it Burning



How do you light your fire? Let's gather together, explore our passions,
and tap into our own capacity to keep our fires burning

**A retreat for the women of the Falmouth Quarter
at the Portland Friends Meetinghouse**

March 18 and 19, 2016

Friday evening 5:30 p.m. (supper) – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 7:30 a.m. (breakfast) – 4:30 p.m.

Please respond by **February 28** by sending the registration form and check for \$15 to Sue Calhoun,
7 Pine Ledge Ter., Portland, ME 04103. The check should be made out to **Portland Friends Meeting**.
Scholarship funds are available; please make your request on this form.

For more information contact Sue Calhoun at 761-4054 or Meg Nobel at 245-4504.
You will receive a confirmation e-mail with more information and your food and work assignments. (If
you don't have e-mail, please let us know and we will call you).

Optional fun activity - clothing swap. Bring up to 5 items of gently used
clothing to give away, and take something home that you like!
(all left-over clothing will be donated)

Please refrain from wearing strong perfumes for those who are affected by fragrances.

-----Cut here-----

Registration form - due by Feb 28 - 2016 Women's Retreat

Name _____ **Phone** _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____

For my food assignment, I prefer to ____cook something or ____buy something
(If cooking, please write the ingredients on a card, to inform those with dietary restrictions)

Will you arrive by 5:30 for supper on Friday? ____yes ____no

Need a place to stay (other than the meeting house)? ____yes ____no

____Fri. night ____Sat. night ____both

Have space for someone to stay? ____yes ____no

Are you an early riser for Sat. breakfast duty? ____yes ____no

Can you stay for Saturday afternoon clean-up? ____yes ____no

Do you need child care? ____yes ____no (If yes, we will call you for the details)

Member Profile, Doug Wagner

I am 15 years old and I live with my mom in Portland. I am a freshman at Casco Bay High School. Before that, I went to the Friends School of Portland from kindergarten through 8th grade. I liked it a lot. I think it's nice that Jonathan Ewell, who was one of my teachers there, can be at meeting with me, along with one of my other teachers, Mary Tracy.

I'm lucky because my aunt Karin lives right around the corner and my grandparents live not far away in Lewiston. I'm also lucky because my uncle is a soccer coach in Pennsylvania and I like going to visit my cousins there and going to his camp in the summer.

I really like doing art, reading, playing sports, and math (if it's interesting enough). Origami is one of the ways I combine math and art and it's also fun. I'm beginning to like baking too.

I started working in the nursery here and it's pretty fun. I've also just started a pet sitting business with my friend, Owen (who also went to Friends School and comes to Teen group here). We really like animals and it will be a good way to learn how to run a business.

I've been coming to meeting here since I was born (and before). I've gone to First Day School, retreats and Friends Camp since I was seven years old, and Yearly Meeting. I guess you could say I'm really Quaker.

"Peace is Possible" — Friends Journal article

Arla Patch is delighted to announce that two Passamaquoddy women, Esther Attean, Co-director of Maine Wabanaki REACH, and Denise Altvater, Wabanaki Committee for AFSC, and Quaker Elizabeth Koopman from York (PA) Friends Meeting and she are the co-authors of the article "Peace in Possible" in the February issue of *Friends Journal*. The article is available here: <http://www.friendsjournal.org/peace-is-possible/> A podcast of the article that Arla recorded will be available on line later this month.

¿hablas español? ¿leen español?

If you so speak, read and write Spanish there a few of us at Portland Friends who could use your help. Some of us will travel soon to Central or South American for Quaker related activities and either need to brush up or learn very basic conversational Spanish. There is also a small need for some translation for some documents. Interested? Let's talk, contact Dorothy Grannell 878-8698 or dorothygrannell@maine.rr.com

Friends Committee on National Legislation Job Opening

The Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest, has a paid part-time organizing opportunity available -- from August 2016-May 2017 a small group of young adults nationwide will be selected to advocate, organize, and educate around congressional support for immigration reform and federal policies that help immigrants and their families. If you know of passionate individuals ages 19-30 who would be interested in this opportunity, please send along this email or this link: <http://futureadvocate.org/program/advocacycorps/>

Ethnic Violence Emerging Again in Burundi, African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) Seeks Support

Since May, 2015 more than 400, mostly teens in Bujumbura, Burundi, have been murdered. The Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) programs based on the Alternatives to Violence program. HROC works mainly helping victims and perpetrators dealing with post traumatic stress issues and learning how to live together again. The Burundian government challenges the programs because they say there only Burundians, not Hutus and Tutsis. There is a need for a safe place to offer the programs in Bujumbura and funding for 10 workshops. Elie Nahimana, Administrative Coordinator of HROC will be traveling in the US in April and May speaking about "The Crisis in Burundi and the Quaker Response."

In the United States much of the stress of ethnic violence, refugee camps and fleeing their homes has followed refugees from Rwanda, Burundi and Republic of Congo. In an effort to work with four cities here that have large numbers of immigrants from those country, AGLI is proposing to have one of the founders of the HROC program, Theoneste Bizimana, offer the programs within those refugee communities. He spoke here in Portland two years ago at the Friends School of Portland and with Portland ESL teachers. Social service workers here see the effects of the trauma when they work with the families and it is passed on to their children.

In all, approximately \$55,000 is needed for the projects. Interested Friends may learn more by visiting www.friendspeaceteams.org or www.aglifpt.org Donations of any amount may be sent to Friends Peace Teams- AGLI and mailed to Friends Peace Teams, African Great Lakes Initiative, 1001 Park Avenue, St Louis, MO 63104. The letter describing the programs is posted on the meetinghouse bulletin board. If you have additional questions please contact David Zarembka at dave@fptagli.org

AUGUST 3-24, 2016
TO SERVICE PROJECT TRIP TO KAKAMEGA, KENYA
THE USFW ORPHAN CARE CENTRE

Friends of Kakamega, the US partner to the Kakamega Orphan Project, run by Kenyan Quaker women (USFW), is announcing its **Summer 2016 three-week service trip to Kakamega**. This will be the 13th year that Friends of Kakamega has sponsored such a trip. The primary focus of the trip is working with the 50 First through Eighth grade children who live at the Care Centre and the 100 children who live in the surrounding rural areas and are being sponsored while living at home. The group also meets with the 60+ high school and college students in the program. It is a trip filled with laughter, music, wonderful new friends, impressions and experiences that will alter one's perspective on life forever.

CAMP: The service trip provides two one-week day camps held at the Orphan Care Centre to give the children a truly unique, exciting and enriching experience that is rare for Kenyan children. Activities vary with the skills and inclinations of the people going on the trip who become camp counselors. Some activities in the past have included: arts and crafts, journal making and writing, swimming, dancing, singing, storytelling, cooperative games, soccer and other active games, woodworking, candle-making and instruction on computers. We are assisted by capable Kenyan adults and young adults many of who are "graduates" of the Care Centre program. All are terrific and enjoy being a part of this exceptional annual event.

LANGUAGE: Kiswahili is the traditional language spoken in Kenya, however, all the Kenyan adults we work with speak English fluently. Most of the children over age 10 are pretty good in English as they learn it in school, and the Care Centre children learn it from us on all of our visits.

ACCOMODATIONS and SIGHT-SEEING: While in Kakamega, "trippers" live at the Care Centre. While in Nairobi, the group stays at the Comfort Hotel. Although the purpose for the trip is to work with the children and to learn about life in Kenya, trippers will visit the Game Park in Nakuru, and spend a few days in Nairobi getting to know its markets and other aspects of Kenya by visiting the elephant orphanage, the National Museum, and the Giraffe Park.

DATES and COST: The group will leave **Wednesday, August 3 and return Wednesday August 24**. The fee for the trip is \$1000/person for the three weeks. This includes all housing and meals in Kakamega, the van, our guide and driver, and hotel accommodations (including breakfast). Additional costs are airfare (approximately \$1800), any lunches or dinners while traveling, the fee for the Game Park drive, and personal expenses. Other necessary costs are a valid passport, visa, immunizations, and malaria pills.

A COMMITMENT to help the orphanage financially is made by each person on the trip. Each tripper makes a commitment to raise a minimum of \$500 for the Care Centre. Although this may seem daunting to some, in reality, trippers have found they not only can raise that amount but often significantly more.

CONTACT: CARRA MCFADDEN, trip leader and board member of Friends of Kakamega at carra.mcfadden@gmail.com. The trip usually fills by April, so express your interest soon!

"Witness in hope for a nonviolent world"

Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, we will gather to vigil, hold signs and banners and to leaflet the workers at Bath Iron Works from 11:30 am to 12:30 and then continue it every Saturday of Lent at the same time. (February 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12, 19, and Holy Saturday March 26.)

We will gather across from the BIA administration building on Washington Street in Bath standing with signs calling for the end of the building of weapons of mass destruction by General Dynamics here in Maine.

Lent is a time to awaken to what we are doing that keeps us from healing our Mother Earth from all the violence our technological society continues to inflict upon us. The Aegis guided missile destroyers and the new Zumwalt 'stealth' destroyer are crimes against life.

Please join us for an hour on these Saturdays as we witness in hope for a nonviolent world through disarmament.

Smilin' Trees Disarmament Farm 763-4062



First Day School news

The Easter Sunday Breakfast will be happening before we know it (March 27!) The First Day School will be holding their own Meeting for Business to discuss where to donate breakfast proceeds. Do you have an organization you would like the children to consider? In the past, recipients have included organizations such as Friendly Water for the World, Heifer, and Kakamega Orphan Project in Kenya. Please let Anne Payson know (annepayson10@gmail.com).

Did you know that the First Day School has made a long-term commitment to sponsor an elementary school child at the Kakamega Orphan Project? His name is Bradley and he is about 10 years old, and the \$360 the First Day School donates every year allows him to go to school, eat lunch every day at school, and get new clothing as he grows. The Project, which the Kenyan government has approved as a model children's program based on UNICEF's best practice standards for international organizations, is a lifeline for AIDS orphans like Bradley. Look for a picture of Bradley posted on the bulletin board.

Friends of Kakamega, based in Freeport, partners with the Kenyan United Society of Friends Women Kakamega to help operate the Care Centre at the orphanage. They take items to Kenya every summer, including letters that our First Day School exchange with Bradley. We hear that the children are thrilled to receive letters from their sponsors.





Greetings from the FWCC World Plenary in Pisac, Peru January 19 -2 ,2016



Sacred Valley, site of Plenary



African and Bolivian representatives



Opening Worship led by Emma Condori, 4 NE Friends in the photo



Chris Jorgenson's Home Group



Living Ministry Worship

Want more? Read Epistle <http://bit.ly/1PDzSVh> Photos & videos: FWCC2016 Climate Change report <http://bit.ly/1ompfN9>

Praying in Aymara at the World Plenary, By Chuck Kleymeyer (Langley Hill Friends Meeting, BYM)

Member of Section of Americas Executive Committee, author of YESHU: A Novel for the Open-Hearted (a Quaker reframing of the New Testament saga)

I am currently in the stunning Sacred Valley of the Incas—some 9,000 feet above sea level in highland Peru, and feeling closer than ever to God. We are nearing the end of our nine-day World Plenary of the FWCC, and I've been asked to share a personal story that might open a window, however small, into this gathering of Friends from six continents and nearly 40 countries.

Three nights ago, as our larger group hosted more than 60 local Friends from Peru and Bolivia, we exceeded 400 Quakers meeting in plenary, for worship and song. The large meeting room looked like the United Nations. There were Friends from Latin America, Canada and the US, Africa, Europe, Ireland and the UK, Asia, and the Western Pacific. Among us we spoke more than a dozen languages. We were also diverse, of course, in being programmed and unprogrammed, and in ranging from conservative to liberal, including all that lies between.

For some time I have been seeking answers to questions as to what is it that ties all Quakers together, and how can we bridge the gaps between our many styles of worship, and between our numerous languages, cultures, ethnicities, and countries of origin.

I pondered those questions as the evening's program began with silence, followed by three choirs singing arresting music in several languages. First there was a line of Peruvians and Bolivians singing in Aymara, followed by Africans singing in Swahili, and finally a choir performing in English and Spanish. Then the presenter called upon a Peruvian Aymara elder, of more than 80 years of age, to give a prayer. A small, humble-looking man approached the microphone, closed his eyes and began to pray fervently. I was struck by his expressive face, his earnest tone of voice, and the way in which one hand repeatedly rose toward the heavens, then fell, to be followed by the other.

As our time-weathered Friend prayed and prayed, I became increasingly entranced, until it began to become clear to me: although I was not understanding a word he was saying (other than Jesus and Cuaquero: Quaker) it simply did not matter! His message was penetrating straight into my heart and soul. And as I was drawn deeper and deeper into his powerful praying, to my surprise I found there, a profound and quiet centeredness of the kind that I experience in my own, unprogrammed silent meeting for worship. It was then I realized that although he and I were very, very different people, there was a bridge being built between our two hearts, and our souls were now interwoven. We were two Friends...inside of one overarching Friend.

Using other words, it felt to me that this meeting for worship among so many persons from such very different backgrounds had become gathered in a very special way. And this gathering together had ultimately been brought about by a very special Friend—one who had known the original American Quakers who had come to Bolivia on mission more than a century ago, and one who was able to reach across the gap and touch the hearts of every person in the room. With his stirring Aymara prayer, he had built a mystical bond that connected us all. At that moment and in this assembly, he represented for me the essence of our World Plenary and of our unwavering efforts to interweave our larger Quaker family.

Reflection on worship at the World Plenary reproduced with permission of author

Portland Friends may find the following report food for thought as we consider ministry with youth, membership and social change.

Report from the Living Ministries Convocation

Co-facilitated by Rachel Guaraldi (North America) and Janet Velázquez Hernandez (Cuba)

Report from Gayle Matson, executive committee

The queries we considered during the consultation sessions were as follows: How do we create Quaker communities that are active, vital, and full of energy? What is needed to have a Religious Society of Friends that is vital and growing? How do we, in spiritual community, open to new Light / to God's direction? How do we encourage membership and spiritual growth among young people and seekers? How do we encourage communities to accept generational change? How do we express the Living God collectively? How do we respond to the call to live our faith?

Brainstorming among up to 6 groups during each consultation session resulted in the sharing of many, many good and interesting ideas—far too many to convey in this report. However, several themes seemed to be repeated across the groups and queries, as follows:

1. Thriving Meetings are not about numbers; they are about the Spirit of the Living God. If at least some Friends do not share this experience openly, vitality will be lacking;
2. Meetings must be welcoming and inclusive, where every individual is respected. They must create opportunities to know one another deeply, and to actively nurture the gifts and talents of their members;
3. Meetings must be open to new ways of doing things and be prepared to make changes periodically in order to foster spiritual intimacy;
4. Meetings must find ways to orient and "bring along" newcomers, to share spiritual journeys and spiritual experiences more openly;
5. Meetings must find ways to create impactful experiences for children, teenagers and young adults. This is critical to retaining their active participation in the RSoF (Religious Society of Friends);
6. TALK about membership in the RSoF and why it is important;
7. Be obedient to the voice of God. Responding to God's call may involve stretching and discomfort, but may lead us to the heart of our collective expression of faith.

Portland Friends Meeting
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Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Thursday, March 10th, 9am

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

