

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Third Month, 2016

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

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



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portlandfriendsmeeting.org  
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## Connections

### Co-Clerks

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Kathy Beach 741-2940  
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### Treasurer, Special Funds

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### Special Needs Funds

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### Ministry and Counsel

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### Pastoral Care Coordinators

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### Religious Education

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### Newsletter

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## *"Query 12: Peace and Reconciliation*

*Do you "live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars"?*

*Do you faithfully maintain Friends' testimony against military preparations and all participation in war, as inconsistent with the teachings and spirit of Christ?*

*Do you strive to increase understanding and use of nonviolent methods of resolving conflicts?*

*Do you take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?*

*When discouraged, do you remember that Jesus said, "Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears"? John 14:27 NEB"*

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

## Calendar

**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

**April 2:** Falmouth Quarter Meeting, Windham Friends Church

**April 9:** Friends School of Portland auction celebration

## 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](mailto:btczyz@gmail.com), 207 899 5937

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

## Come to the Annual Easter Breakfast! Sunday March 27, 9:00 - 10:15am

Please join the First Day School children for a delicious brunch to celebrate Easter. Donations collected will continued support of projects the children have selected.

At the breakfast we will collect donations of new and gently used adult-size socks and new adult-size underwear for Preble Street Resource Center, and dry and canned cat and food for the Westbrook animal shelter. Your donations are appreciated!

**Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting**  
**March 6, 2016**

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on March 6, 2016 at 9 a.m., with 23 members and attenders present. Jennifer Frick held us in the Light. We began in silent worship, during which Co-Clerk Liz Maier read from Query No. 12 on Peace and Reconciliation, which begins "Do you live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?"

1. **Minutes.** There were no corrections necessary for the February minutes.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** Sue Nelson reported that our month of February this leap year was positive, with a balance of \$161. Expenses for the month were \$4629, and income was \$4790. Two months into the year, year-to-date expenses were \$7923, and income was \$7090, leaving a negative year-to-date balance of (\$833).

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses**  
**Two months — 17% of 2016**

Year-to-date Income	\$7,090
Percent of Budget	11%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$7,923
Percent of Budget	12%
Balance	(\$833)

We approved the Treasurer's report.

3. **Ministry and Counsel.** Sue Nelson reported for the committee.

She presented the draft State of Society Report for 2015. Copies were distributed and Sue read the report aloud. Comments were solicited, with a view toward a final report being approved at April Meeting for Business. Friends praised the draft and made a few suggestions in regard to the work of Ministry and Counsel regarding annual retreats, the specific organizations benefiting from money raised by our youth, description of their business meeting process, clearer articulation of the range of youth served, and adding reports about the leadings committee and about our relation with the Friends School of Portland. Dorothy Grannell pointed out that this draft will be read at Quarterly Meeting (rather than the final version) and we approved reading the draft.

Mary Tracy will draft a final version incorporating the suggestions and have it published in the March newsletter.

Sue also reported that the committee has revised and updated our membership packets and drafted a brochure highlighting the process in brief form. They hope to have the brochure available in the lobby and the packets, which are more in depth, in the library. The Committee also hopes to revise materials on the website to harmonize with the brochure and the packets. Their goal is to complete this work by the end of March.

The Committee has found Heather Denkmire clear for membership. Friends warmly approved.

4. **Membership.** Lise Wagner read a thoughtful letter from Arla Patch expressing what Quakerism and Portland Friends Meeting have meant to her. She has requested transfer of her membership to Doylestown Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania and that was completed on February 4 by the Clerks. Friends expressed gratitude for the work Arla has done with us, and for all Mainers with the Truth and Reconciliation project.
5. **Buildings and Grounds.** Syl Doughty reported on his investigation of our increased gas usage and distributed a written report and chart detailing the problems and the steps in the investigation. He read the report aloud. The investigation was conducted by Syl, with the assistance of Rolf Casparius of Rudi the Plumber. Through their persistent and thorough work, the gas company was persuaded to test and replace parts, which has probably corrected the basic problem-- a defective or dirty gas pressure regulator. Gas usage will continue to be monitored for a couple of months to assure that the problem has been truly fixed.  
  
Friends appreciated Syl's clear and thorough report and the time he has taken to investigate the gas situation. It was asked whether we can recoup from Unitil (the gas supplier and servicer) any of the extra expenses for gas we incurred because of the faulty regulator. Syl is expecting to follow up on that, since the problem was brought to the company's attention several months ago and they failed adequately to investigate.
6. **Report on Book Group** Mary Tracy reported on this group, which has been led by Mary and Dorothy Grannell. Eleven Friends have been reading and discussing Doug Gwyn's book *A Sustainable Life : Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation*. Doug is the pastor at Durham Friends Meeting.

(continued from page 2)

6. (Book group continued) As a closing activity, the group brainstormed lists of actions to take with their Meetings in three areas, spiritual growth and Quaker education, strengthening sense of community, and addressing climate change. There will be follow-up with the Co-Clerks and pertinent committees.
7. **Quarterly Meeting April 2.** Dorothy Grannell requested nomination of two representatives to this meeting. The program is from 9:30 till 2 at Windham Friends Meeting, Gray Road, Windham. State of Society Reports from all meetings will be read. Barbara Rose McIntosh and Andy Grannell volunteered to attend.

The Windham Meetinghouse is one of the oldest, but the meeting community is dwindling.

8. **Other.** Co-clerk Liz Maier reported that she and Lea Sutton learned at Pendle Hill Clerking Workshops about having the end of Business Meeting consist of discussion of different aspects of Quakerism and Quaker history--"Quaker 101". They started that practice today. A brief summary of what we learned about appears below.

As we closed in silent worship, Co-Clerk Liz Maier reminded us to be kind and to support one another. We closed at 10:20 a.m. with 30 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again on Sunday April 3, 2016 at 9 a.m., God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

### **Quaker 101**

*History* Our first topic was the history of dividing men from women in this Meeting. Lea Sutton recalled that the separation was for Meeting for Business, not for worship. One of the wheels which controlled the wall is in the back classroom. There was a stage in the worship room because we had a pastor and a programmed service. You can see the division more clearly at Windham Friends Meeting. It is possible that the removal of the dividing wall in our meeting room led to the collapse of the ceiling in the 1990s. Roger Roy related how the present design was achieved by architect Chris Wriggins.

A request was made by Anne Payson to display the wheel better, so that more can see it and read the information about it.

*Eldering/Nurturing* Sandy Jensen and Judy Spross led two recent sessions on this with the adult education class. The history was summarized and queries were distributed for us to consider today. In early years elders served as pastoral care-givers as well as spiritual advisors. Friends were always concerned to avoid titles or set some Quakers above others. Nevertheless, eldering grew to have a negative connotation because it resulted in one Friend telling another s/he had not behaved in an appropriate way. Still, the process of helping and nurturing is valuable and worth pursuing. Everyone has gifts which could help others, and recognizing them strengthens our community. The queries were distributed as a starting point to address that.

It was also suggested that we relabel the work as "nurturing" since the term "eldering" has too many negative connotations. It was pointed out that age is not the qualification--many times wisdom comes from our youngest attenders.

Friends cited instances of how modern "elders" have contributed to the spiritual life of meetings, including counseling those leading activities, helping remove a disruptive worshipper speaking from mental illness, supporting someone asked to share very personal details with others, holding business Meeting in the Light. Many of these situations are addressed by Ministry and Counsel Committee.

Friends thinking of "eldering" others need to ask themselves whether it is necessary, it is truthful, it is done with compassion. In order to avoid speaking only from ego and promote rather the will of God. Letting time elapse for things to season is also recommended, as well as not acting alone.

Anyone interested in having the Meeting community pursue articulating our various gifts for nurturing should send suggestions to Sandi Jensen, Judy Spross, Glen Pichet and Arthur Fink.

## **PFM Adult Religious Education: Eldering**

### **Very brief summary of Eldering Part 1 (updated 3.9.16)**

On February 14, 2016 ARE's Sandi Jensen, with the guidance and participation of Ann Dodd-Collins, facilitated a discussion of Eldering in the Quaker tradition. Discussion focused on historical aspects of eldering which included not only sharing of Elders' spiritual gifts with individuals and groups but also Elders' roles in "admonishment" (Arthur noted the movie, "Friendly Persuasion," as having an example of eldering in this sense!) and mediating differences/conflicts. Sandi Jensen shared resources and aspects/ways of eldering discussed in these Quaker Resources. Ann Dodd-Collins shared her experiences of eldering. During the course of the conversation, the community shared ways in which Eldering occurs explicitly or implicitly at PFM—for example, in members' service or leadings on various committees, long ago established spiritual direction small groups, some of which continue to meet, annual retreats, and mention of smaller social gatherings/retreats which have occurred in Friends' homes. Chris B mentioned three criteria he is aware of for vocal ministry or eldering: is what needs to be said *true, necessary, and compassionate*. Other aspects raised at our first discussion included: one doesn't have to be a particular age to elder; children and young people may have spiritual gifts that contribute to eldering. Arthur invited us to consider consciously shifting our perspective regarding the word elder (do we think of it as meaning "crotchety or wise?") as a way of releasing its negative meanings. The discussion was vibrant and went over time, suggesting that there might be more to explore.

### **Introduction to Eldering Part 2**

Ann Dodd-Collins, who has experience eldering and has participated in retreats on this topic, shared a report with us that identified the myriad ways eldering is expressed in relation to individuals and community. To help us in our discussion today, we might think of eldering as the identification/discernment of spiritual gifts we bring to our Friends community and recognize how the eldership function is alive in PFM. Of the many ways Elders work (Ann's report had two pages of phrases), nurturing, spirit-led listening for God's presence, holding—a phrase that resonated with ARE members was:

"to nurture and guide; to be open and to love selflessly and self-fully"

*(Source: Building up the life of our meetings: A retreat for those with a call to eldering and a concern for vital worship. Eldering Consultation Report, January 2013, prepared by Ann Dodd-Collins)*

To generate the queries the metaphor of gardening helped us think about eldering and spiritual deepening and inspired the following queries.

#### Queries

1. If we imagine PFM 5 years from now, what spiritual deepening would we want to cultivate in our community?
2. What things in our lives should we be attentive to "weeding or pruning" to let the Spirit be a strong center and encourage our lives and our community to be as spiritually nourishing and vibrant as they can be?
3. Have I experienced eldering in ways that *were/are helpful* to deepening my spirituality?
4. Have I experienced eldering in ways that *were/are not helpful* to deepening my spirituality?
5. What spiritual nurture, deepening and encouragement are available at PFM/NEYM?
6. What spiritual nurture, deepening and encouragement are needed at PFM/NEYM?
7. How do we release or suspend personal consciousness to let God-consciousness reveal itself as we seek to be selfless and self-full in discerning and using our spiritual gifts?

### **Very brief summary of Eldering Part 2**

Rather than a narrative summary, key themes/ideas that were discussed in Part 2 are listed here:

- eldership is anchored in spirit
- Arthur quoted an adolescent who had asked Arthur to hold their teen meeting in prayer thanked him for being part of the group's God Squad
- eldering should be timely and grounded in spirit
- many experiences of positive (spiritual support) and negative (cliques, power) eldering were shared
- some comparing and contrasting of eldering with clearness committees
- idea of checking in when one has elderd: How did it feel to give and receive eldering?
- important to check in with oneself regarding to be sure eldering is anchored in spirit, not in one's personal consciousness or ego "How do we gather ourselves (or how does one gather oneself) in the best way to elder"

## Very brief summary of Eldering Part 2 (cont-)

- How do we let our Light/Lightness show?
- some discussion of how Barb and Mary nurtured the spiritual lives of the community at their gatherings
- as in session 1, there was discussion of whether eldering/eldership is the best word because of its negative associations; this led to a discussion of empowerment and authority--as in programmed meetings where a minister or pastor is in a role in which he or she finds themselves in sacred spaces in the lives of the community and its members. Might there be advantages to being in a specific eldering role? No conclusion
- everyone can notice gifts as a way of beginning to bring individuals' spiritual gifts to the fore (What is the treasures of one's inner being?; do we take our own or others gifts for granted?)
- in eldering or spiritual nurturing (some preferred this term)
- in the process of eldering/spiritual nurture, there was general agreement that both parties can experience spiritual deepening
- The Apostle Paul was quoted in relation to the apostles using their various gifts in community (Dorothy, maybe you can find that verse for us!)
- Spiritual gifts work together to lift our community
- Though Ann Dodd-Collins could not be at our 2nd discussion, she shared the following observation about eldering after seeing a draft of this document: "We (Leslie Manning and Ann) had been asked to speak about Friends United Meeting. Since I usually serve as an elder to Leslie, being a co-presenter isn't something I am comfortable with. But I was very aware of a long time F/friend who was spontaneously serving as an elder and who kept me grounded. Her care helped me to speak from my heart."

### Concluding questions:

- How do we build/foster discernment of gifts among our community members?
- How can we open up recognition and using these gifts?
- What is the process for disseminating this discussion to the broader PFM community? (suggested that it be taken to business meeting which we did on 3/6/16. Stay tuned for next steps.)
- Resources that informed our queries and discussion
- <http://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/defining-eldership>
- other useful links Included on this page
- *Spirit-led Eldering* by Margery Mears Larrabee Pendle Hill Pamphlet 392
- Tall Poppies: Supporting gifts of ministry and eldering in the monthly meeting by Martha Paxson Grundy, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 347

## Friends School of Portland Auction!

**The Auction is Friend School of Portland's most important fundraising event.** Proceeds go directly to FSP's Annual Fund, which supports the most essential aspects of FSP - among other things, our amazing teachers' salaries and classroom budgets, keeps tuition increases to a minimum, and supplements the tuition assistance program.

The online auction will be "open" for 7 days, and will be full of wonderful, creative items to bid on. You will be able to invite family and friends near and far to bid by sending out links via email or social media.

On Saturday, April 9th, our whole community of families and friends will be invited to gather at school from 10am - 1pm to pick up items that were won online and celebrate spring with a farm festival - including live bluegrass music, a petting zoo, seedling planting, delicious food, and other fun activities!

FSP is currently accepted donations for the online auction. **The donation deadline this year is Wednesday, March 30th.** If delivering in person, please bring donations to the main office, or direct any questions to Auction Coordinator, Rose Splint at [rose@friendsschoolofportland.org](mailto:rose@friendsschoolofportland.org) or 207-558-6214. Download a Donation form here: [http://friendsschoolofportland.org/sites/default/files/auction\\_donation\\_form2016.pdf](http://friendsschoolofportland.org/sites/default/files/auction_donation_form2016.pdf) or find more information here <http://friendsschoolofportland.org/10th-annual-auction>.

Thank you for your support!



## **2015 State of Society Report Portland Friends Meeting**

Portland Friends Meeting remains a vital and dynamic community, diverse in our paths to Meeting and worship and consistently united in our commitment to abide together as seekers of the Light and the continuing revelation of the Spirit. Our numbers are strong, with each week's meeting for worship consistently witnessing the loving embrace of visitors and "first timers" and the joy of welcoming those returned after periods away. From this body of Friends--attenders and members alike--the Meeting is fortunate to find such broad-based and deep participation in the many committees and individual callings that are necessary to keep our physical and spiritual home so welcoming and restorative. Here is a brief sampling of the evidence, the fruits of labor generously and lovingly shared together.

We continue to have strong participation in youth programs, from the nursery through high school. The dedicated and creative adults who work with the children have taken part in religious education workshops, and all returned in fall of 2015 for a second year of working with the children. Many children went beyond the Meeting to various retreats and activities, and the youth raised \$900 at the Annual Easter Breakfast to share with organizations they selected during their meeting for business: Friendly Waters for the World, Friends Camp scholarships, Friends of Kakamega, and Heifer International.

Active adult classes looked at the spiritual life of the meeting community, sometimes with a broad view and other times through personal lenses. Examples of topics include discerning God's will, understanding Quaker conduct of business, exploring Quaker guilt, and Friends' relationship with the Bible. Ministry and Counsel was asked to offer a consideration of vocal ministry and the collaboration with Adult Religious Education Committee was welcome and illuminating.

Nominating Committee reported on a stability in many individual positions and committees, although Youth Religious Education could use more members.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee, in collaboration with Earth and Spirit Committee, focused on climate change as both an ecological and social justice issue by proposing a Climate Stewardship Initiative, offering a lobbying training attended by over 50 people, exploring divestment from the fossil fuels industry, and researching the greening of the Meetinghouse. This work will continue in 2016.

Pastoral Care reports a year of continued outreach to Friends in both short and long term need of particular kinds of care, from carpentry to meeting for worship where they convalesce. Of note is the newly formed "Circle of Friends" network that has made use of technology to assist Friends better and avoid burnout.

Ministry and Counsel Committee worked to lovingly support the efforts described above, helped form clearness committees as needed, began actively clarifying the meaning of and process for membership in PFM, laid down for 2015 a meeting retreat, and in other ways held in the light the Meeting community and others.

The Events Committee, which coordinates the use of the Meetinghouse, reported a relatively quiet year with special uses occurring about once a month. Reports from the Financial Oversight Committee encourage us to promote the use of the Meetinghouse more robustly as a source of revenue.

The Library and Archives Committee expressed gratitude for donations of books, with two committee members cataloging them electronically. They continue to gather resources for archiving and are excited to welcome a 9-year-old member to the committee.

The Leadings Committee provided grants to support AVP work in prison and to help buy a printer for an artist's work with autistic children.

The meeting maintains a strong connection of support with Friends School of Portland through the FSP Resource Committee, donations, and participation in school events by individuals.

Many building projects were completed this year, with several continuing into 2016. Evaluating energy use and greening the building are important ongoing tasks.

Financially, we ended the year in the black, though there were some nail-biting months of encouraging people to help the Meeting meet its budgeted expenses. The 2016 budget represents minimal change.

We close in gratitude for the movement of Spirit within and among us.

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel Committee



## First Day School News

Spring is here! The Easter Sunday Breakfast is on March 27, 9:00 - 10:15 AM! Please come for a delicious breakfast!

The First Day School held their own Meeting for Business to decide where to donate breakfast money donations. Besides providing on-going support to Bradley at the Kakamega Orphan Project, this year donations will also go to the Kakamega Care Center, Heifer International, Friendly Waters for the World, and the scholarship fund at Friends School of Portland.

**COLLECTING GOODS:** The children are collecting dry and canned food for the Westbrook animal shelter, and socks and new underwear in *adult* sizes for Preble Street Resource Center.



**Arla Patch** has requested to transfer her membership to her childhood Meeting in Doylestown, PA. There she is a member of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and is also serving on the Native Awareness Committee at the Peace Center in Langhorne, PA. That committee is working to educate the community and move forward the issue of the Neshaminy High School's mascot of Redskins. The Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission has ruled that the school must "cease and desist" using that mascot name. The school has appealed that ruling and is continuing to have a "Mr. Redskins" contest. Arla's house in Woodstock, Maine has still not sold. Please share with anyone you think might be interested. <http://mreis.mlsmatrix.com/DE.asp?k=805858X5X2b&p=DE-3312496-283>



## Carrie Newcomer in concert

Carrie Newcomer, a celebrated Quaker singer-songwriter and activist, will be performing a rare New England concert on Sunday, April 3, at 4:00 p.m. at the Phippsburg Congregational Church in Phippsburg, Maine. Phippsburg is about 45 minutes north of Portland and 15 minutes from Rt. 1 (near Bath).

Tickets are \$18 and refreshments will be served. For more information, please call [207-389-1770](tel:207-389-1770).

Tickets are available online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2461807>

Details about upcoming events and conferences are available here: [http://www.neym.org/events/list?field\\_event\\_category\\_tid=30](http://www.neym.org/events/list?field_event_category_tid=30)



**NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING  
OF FRIENDS  
QUAKERS**

## Stoking the Fire, May 13-15, 2016

This is a gathering for those who have heard a call to ministry, who may struggle with that call, or who are embers waiting to burst into flame with the power of that call. In its second year, the gathering is hoping to draw Friends from around the continent into fellowship, worship and teaching with plenary speaker Mary Kate Morse and worship leader Kelly Kellum.

For more information, and to register, <http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/news/2016/01/20/stoking-the-fire-open-for-business/>

## The Adult Religious Education Committee is looking for one or several new members.

This is an inspiring and inspired group, searching the depth of our faithfulness, our curiosity, our ignorance, and our sense of how we can help us all experience the Spirit within.

Current members who will be continuing are Sandy Jensen, Judith Spross, and Arthur Fink. Glen Picher will be leaving the committee. Speak with any of us for more information.

## Gardner/Landscape person wanted – March to October

We are looking for an individual to work with us on our outdoor area. Our lawn needs to be revitalized. We have had a soil test done already. We want our flower beds to be rejuvenated and expanded. We have shrubbery that would benefit from concerted attention. We are in Westbrook.

We expect this effort to start this month with planning and budgeting. Work to continue until the fall. Our two top priorities are green and sustainable options. Contact Patricia Pyle [patricia@presumpscott.com](mailto:patricia@presumpscott.com)

## Some musings about how I became a Quaker

by Kate Potter

Hitler's power, the terrible WW 2, changed the course of my childhood. I might today be a proper English grandmother. But in 1939 my New Yorker mother took her three daughters (I'm the middle one) over the Atlantic to stay with her large American family summering on the Maine coast (Gouldsboro). My patriotic British father joined us later. But war clouds darkened and he returned to London. My sisters and I were separated from him for four years.

His mother was a birthright Quaker - more about Granny later. The large family belongs to a peace-loving Church of England culture. But the rapid advance of the Nazi war machine threatened to take over beloved small green islands. It became a "just war" which politicians thought would be brief. Not so! My parents later taught us we had useful roles to play, fighting evil. After we sailed back to England in July 1943 (in a troopship zig-zagging over the Atlantic to avoid German torpedoes) I - at age nine years, I became anti-war and anxious. Hated the bombing and cruel destruction, the rationbooks, blacking out all windows, the tight-lipped bleakness of the indomitable British.



As a disgruntled teenager I questioned the loving God worshipped by my American Presbyterian family, (those halcyon summers, school in NYC, 1939-43). Why on earth couldn't He stop the horrors? Why did I have to say the ritual prayers ("We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs...there is no health in us") to a transcendent unreachable powerful divinity? Church services provided no answer. I blamed Men for the craziness, and disliked studying history because it seemed to confirm that winning battles was more vital than raising innocent women and children. Also, I loved English gardens, literature, architecture, music and art...and these treasures had to be protected from rapacious machines - Where was God Almighty?

My Granny ESB was a creative, wise, humorous lady and quietly understood my grumblings. She'd traveled in Europe before marrying an archaeologist in 1901. Her book about the history of Athens, her stories about 'digs' in Greek islands are full of curiosity and wonder. Then with her land-owning husband, properly Church of England, she raised six children in rural northern England. Sadly, suddenly widowed at age 60. (Three of her short poems are included in Cathy Whitmire's anthology Plain Living). Her letters had illustrations in the margins, full of fun.

From her Quaker childhood on she lived out the Testimonies. Her constant faith - I learned as an adult - was in the divine "seed" within every infant, in an ever-present Holy Spirit, in Jesus who called us to love and care for our neighbours, to speak out, to stand firm against cruelty. There really was no need for a cleric to help bring God closer. But in the 1950's I was too young and impatient to learn all this. The only Friends Meetings I attended with her happened in Falmouth, Cornwall where she lived her last decades. A few white-haired elders nodded heads by a warm fire, sometimes offered a phrase of message from the Bible. I thought that Quaker faith was for people in their last years!

My father was agnostic, like the American father of my three sons, and my mother was involved in studying C G Jung's psychological theories. Eventually she found comfort in the time-honoured rituals of the Church of England.

I obediently stayed in England thru university, tried using my fine-arts degree in Italy, but continued to long for the joys of those four childhood years in USA. Especially since so much of what I still love began then - drawing, singing in harmony, reading, writing, swimming, listening to stories. A quality of freedom. And this pull to Maine explains my move to Portland in 1990 with my retired husband George. A great tribe of cousins still gather every summer on the family peninsula opposite Mt. Desert, continuing traditions thru the generations. I am responsible for maintaining 'Trust House' which I designed in 1979 (built with inexpensive lumber) with the help of other members of close family. It is a "soul place" - hills, ocean, islands, shadows and light.



### **Kate Potter, Member Profile (cont-)**

Back to my spiritual journey. After tentative plantings in conservative Episcopal and liberal Unitarian faith communities, I felt the prayer book rituals and the sermons distracted from an inner deepening I'd found in meditation. Where was the mystery, the larger meaning? I had taken my three young sons in Houston Texas to a Sunday 'Christian Connection' - a small dry Episcopal whisper compared with PFM's First Day School! I felt despair at ever finding a spiritual community where they and I could grow. After a necessary, amicable divorce I earned a master's in family therapy. Then I began to practise what I was still learning in Texas and California during Jungian and Buddhist retreats and workshops. Sandtray play, non-verbal image making, helping families move thru divorce and remarriage gave me a focus. And it all complemented my childhood pacifist furies! Seeking truth and inner peace, I practised yoga. And continued to draw, garden, find pleasure in nature.

In 1990, with my recent second husband and guided by the Holy Spirit to Portland, I discovered PFM. It was then a dark, slightly mouldy building, the chairs too uncomfortable for George to join me. But the friendly people were lively, fun to meet. Then the worship room ceiling collapsed - at night, nobody hurt! I watched from the fringes how the community pulled together. They found the will, through quiet prayer and lengthy feisty discussions, to plan a renovation. After much hands-on hard work they achieved the transformation into the lovely light-filled spaces we meet within today.

Conversations with wise Elders helped me to grow roots in this place. I loved the social activist fabric beneath the historical Testimonies (prison reform, anti- slavery laws, global warming, justice for women and homosexuals...) Closer to my heart, I grew amazed by the mystical tradition of eighteenth century Friends. It had not been included in my English education, this knowing of the Bible as "continuing revelation" rather than a fixed set of laws to be obeyed. In Texas I had known the power of groups to transform lives - here was a community that put that into action. Silent in listening worship, sensing the flow of Spirit, I could relax into it all. And continue learning.

In my eighties I sadly can't continue the volunteer jobs (Center for Grieving Children, Alternatives to Violence weekend workshops in prisons, Hospice...) which have helped me to know the Portland world. But life continues to give me multiple blessings and I am grateful.

### **Falmouth Quarterly Meeting**

**Saturday, April 2, 2016 — Windham Friends Church**

375 Gray Rd

Windham, ME 04062

Schedule of the Day

9:15 am Gather

9:30 – 11:00 am Extended Worship

Reading of State of Society Reports

Memorial Minute, David Hall, Brunswick Friends Meeting

11:15 am – 12:15 pm Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

Action Items

- David Hall Memorial Minute to be forwarded to NEYM for reading at Sessions
- Is there a person who would like to attend the Annual Meeting of Beacon Hill Friends House in late June as a substitute for our representative Sarah Cushman

Discussion

- Maine Public Policy Committee update

12:15 – 1:15 pm Bring your lunch, beverages provided

1:15 – 2:00 pm GIVE KIDS THE WORLD Ron and Sandy Wayne, Windham Friends



**Parenting for Peace**

## **Save the Date!**

### **Wednesday, May 4**

**Amy Schalet, author of  
*Not Under My Roof: Parents,  
Teens, and the Culture of Sex***

Afternoon workshop for educators and  
free evening talk open to the public

## What is Quarterly Meeting Anyway? (Or understanding Quaker terminology)

by Dorothy Grannell

Friends do not have a ridged structure or hierarchy of leadership. Early in our history, Quakers found that they were going to have to have some kind of structure to determine right order or practice. The local meeting of Friends became the Monthly Meeting. Friends gathered once a month for Worship for the Conduct of Business. Out of worship they faced the needs of the worshipping community trying to discern a way forward in unity with one another and God.

Friends soon found that they had items in common with nearby congregations and formed into Quarterly Meetings for Worship for the Conduct of Business. The regional group would gather 4 times a year thus the name "Quarterly Meeting". The Quarter also became the place where Monthly Meetings would bring recommendations for the recording of gifts in ministry and new groups of worshippers would come to ask to be included in the Society of Friends. The Quarter was deemed to include a wider scope of Friends and thus might be able to bring unbiased minds with wider experience to the situations facing the monthly meetings.

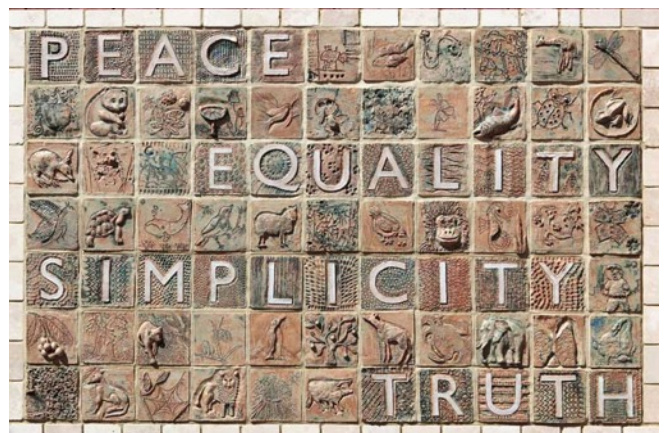
It wasn't long before Yearly Meetings for Business were created. This group meets only once a year for an extended time to consider issues and concerns that are of interest to a much wider regional group of monthly meetings. Thus, Portland Friends Monthly Meeting is a member of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting. New England Yearly Meeting (1656) has the distinction of being the first Yearly Meeting to have met together preceding even Great Britain.

It is important to note that not all Yearly Meetings function in the same manner. In New England, the Yearly Meeting provides support and guidance and requests reports such as our annual State of Society (*how are things going at Portland Friends*) Report. The Yearly Meeting may request that Monthly and Quarterly meetings consider a particular issue or receive a particular concern from those meetings, but each local meeting decides if it will do so. In some other areas of the world, the Monthly Meeting may be required to have a certain policy or practice. If the meeting doesn't comply, it may be released from the Yearly Meeting.

*What do these different meetings do?* Monthly meetings may conduct worship, marriage and memorial services; engage in witness to the testimonies of Friends, and determine membership in the Religious Society of Friends. Quarterly Meetings decide on whether a group meets the standards for being a monthly meeting or if it should be "laid down" due to lack of members or other serious reason. The Quarter also helps the Monthly Meeting decide if an individual has a gift of ministry (usually in terms of vocal ministry within worship). The Yearly Meeting provides a variety of support and advices for monthly and quarterly meetings but its primary role is to provide a guide to religious faith and practice in a particular region of the nation. Each Yearly Meeting determines what is considered right order of the Religious Society of Friends in its region. The people who attend sessions determine what goes into the document. All Quaker Meetings keep written records of their meetings for worship for the conduct of business.

There is no special ordination or education for any of the roles of individuals within the organizations. Our structure is dependent on the commitment of individuals acting in unity with each other to seek the common good under the guide of the Spirit.

A pope, bishop or synod may determine what should or should not be done more quickly than a Friends meeting. Quaker process, however, seeks to see what love can do to heal –that takes time, and concern for the whole community.



***Friends of Kakamega invites you to meet***



## **Pastor Ida**

**Administrator of the  
Kakamega Orphans  
Care Centre Project**

**Durham Friends Meeting: Sunday, April 10**  
**12:00 Pot-luck lunch    1:00 Presentation**

**Friends School of Portland: Monday, April 11 7:00pm**

### ***"The Spirit and Challenges of a Successful AIDS Orphan Project"***

**Pastor Ida** is a Quaker pastor who has lived and worked at the Kakamega Orphans Care Centre since 2008. He brings deep thoughtfulness, spiritual insights, energy and a loving perspective to his work with the children and Project.

**The Kakamega Orphan Project** is run by Kenyan Quaker Women. It is a highly successful project that helps children in need of love, care, food and education. Friends of Kakamega is the non-profit US partner of the Orphan Project.



**Join us for an inspiring time with Pastor Ida, get brought up to date about this very special Orphan Project, its amazing accomplishments, recent challenges, and plans for the future.**

**DURHAM FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE** is at  
532 Quaker Meetinghouse Road on the corner of Route 125  
**Contact: Sukie Rice (207) 318-8531    [sukierice@comcast.net](mailto:sukierice@comcast.net)**

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Thursday, April 7th, 9am

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

