

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Ninth Month, 2016

**Meeting for Worship:** Sundays 10:30a

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



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

## Connections

### Co-Clerks

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### Treasurer, Contributions

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### Treasurer, Operating Account

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### Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 749-9706

### Special Needs Funds

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### Ministry and Counsel

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### Pastoral Care Coordinators

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*"Friends are advised to consider our possessions as God's gifts, entrusted to us for responsible use. Let us free our time and our abilities to be able to follow the leadings of the Spirit. Let us cherish the beauty and variety of the world. Friends are urged to speak out boldly against the destruction of the world's resources and the difficulties that destruction prepares for the future generations. Let us guard against waste and resist our extravagant consumption, which contributes to inequities and impoverishment of life in our own and other societies. Let us show a loving consideration for all God's creatures. Let kindness know no limits."*

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

## Calendar

**September 25:** 9am Adult Religious Education resumes

10:45a First Day School resumes, all youth gathering

**September 30 - October 2:** Junior High YM Retreat, Framingham, MA

Young Friends Retreat, Leverett, MA

**October 2** World Quaker Day observance

**October 8** 1p An especially called Meeting for Worship in memory of Bea Wehmeyer

## Monthly

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

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

**2nd Saturday:** 5-8p Youngish adults potluck  
Bart Czyz, [btczyz@gmail.com](mailto:btczyz@gmail.com), 207 899 5937

Join with Friends in the parlor for light refreshments at Rise of Meeting on **Sunday, October 2**. Then come to the worship room for a short program about what Friends around the world are doing concerning Climate Change.



The minute from the International Representatives Meeting in Pisac, Peru will be presented followed by a 5 minute video of the conference and the epistle. The response of New England Yearly Meeting to the FWCC minute will be shared. How is our faith inspiring our witness about care of the earth? What have we learned that we can share? What is left to do?

*Program sponsored by Friends World Committee for Consultation.*

**Portland Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Business  
September 11, 2016**

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m. with 15 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Lea Sutton read the Advice on Stewardship from Faith and Practice of NEYM 1985, which begins "Friends are advised to consider our possessions as God's gifts, entrusted to us for responsible use."

1. Minutes The July minutes were accepted without change.
2. Financial Report Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are two-thirds through our budget year and our deficit is about \$6,000 (similar to last year), which we need to close by the end of 2016.

Our income for August was \$3,205, with \$1,805 of that coming from donations and \$400 coming from rent or use of the Meetinghouse. Our expenses were \$3,375. This gives us a balance of (-\$170) for the month of August.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses  
8 months — 67% of 2016**

Year-to-date Income	\$31,122
Percent of Budget	47%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$37,459
Percent of Budget	56%
Balance	(\$6,337)

Our income Year-to-Date is \$31,122 and our YTD expenses are \$37,459. This gives us a deficit of \$6,337.

Committee clerks should begin consideration of needs for next year as the budget process begins in October.

Friends renewed our discussion of the amount, frequency and method of contributions, including an online option. Financial Oversight Committee continues to work on improvements. There is information on the website about how to contribute. They expressed thanks to our contributors, of whom approximately one-third do so monthly.

3. Adult Religious Education Report Judy Spross reported for the committee as follows:  
Clerk; Judy Spross, co-clerk Sandi Jensen; other members are Arthur Fink and Muriel Allen; group would welcome one or two more members. Topics and dates will be in the newsletter.

Dates/Topics for Adult Religious Education for Fall 2016--2nd and 4th Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m.—

9/25 Creating healing spaces for healing collective trauma--Facilitated by Anna Barnett and ARE members

10/9 and 10/23 Parts 1 and 2 focused on using the metaphor of pruning to allow more spiritual light into our lives.

11/13 Bridges of Hope: a presentation developed by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill on how faith communities can support individuals who live with a mental illness and their loved ones (October is Mental Illness Awareness month)

11/27 Thanksgiving Weekend--no class

12/11 The Hicksites and Gurneyites (Quaker History)

12/25 no class

Plans for spring 2017 include continuing discussion of eldering with attendees having some "homework" to do (reading Pendle Hill pamphlet #392)--information on accessing the pamphlet will appear in October newsletter (library will have 7 copies to circulate)

The ARE would like to initiate a Spiritual and physical Journey series (4 or 5 times a year) to offer some programming on different days and times and give members a chance to share some aspect of their spiritual journeys--more information and a call for individuals/groups to share a spiritual journey will be in the Newsletter. These would not be on Sunday morning.

The Committee is also thinking about a survey to find out how to increase attendance. Related to that is the question of time and place for adult religious ed. Gratitude was expressed for the work done by this Committee since it was almost laid down last year.

A suggestion was made that offering food might attract more attenders—"donuts for weighty Friends?"

(cont-)

(continued from page 2)

#### 4. Ministry and Counsel

Lise Wagner read a report from Jennifer Frick on the **wedding of Karin Wagner and Bernard Mohr** on August 13, 2016:

"The setting of the meeting for worship for the marriage of Karin Wagner and Bernard Mohr was a great example of the Quaker testimony of Simplicity. The small, very remote church near the end of Petit Manan peninsula with its unadorned wooden pews lent itself beautifully to the occasion.

The meeting for worship began with a heart-warming rendition of the Beatles' song "I Will," followed by a brief explanation of a Quaker marriage ceremony to the mostly non-Quaker gathering of close to 60 friends and family.

Out of the silence, Karin and Bernard shared their vows with each other, exchanged rings, and signed the marriage certificate, which was then read aloud. Deep silence and many wonderful messages followed their sharing. It was a pleasure and an honor to witness this union and to participate in the gathering at the Eagle Hill Institute afterward."

The marriage license was duly filed with the City of Portland.

Chris Beach reported that **Al Norton** died this past Sunday September 4 at Brentwood Manor in Yarmouth. Several of us had been visiting with him regularly. He had expressed to Chris his sense that "it was in God's hands". Chris has been in touch with members of Al's family and is clear that they wish us to schedule a memorial service here, and notify them of the date. Al's family will scatter his ashes off the beach near Parsboro, Nova Scotia and hold their own service. Friends asked Ministry and Counsel to decide upon a date and notify us accordingly.

Friends also discussed the recent passing of **Chris Gunderman** and the possibility of a memorial service. We are exploring how to help her grandson Cameron stay connected to the Meeting. We will be reaching out to the family through Lise Wagner and Mandy Morrish.

5. Midweek Meeting for Worship Co-clerk Lea Sutton questioned whether there continues to be energy to hold a midweek meeting. Muriel Allen volunteered to be a contact person and explore setting up responsibilities, starting in October. Notices about the meeting will not appear in the September newsletter. Heather Denkmire will communicate this information as it evolves to interested parents at the Friends School. In September, Friends are free to set up Wednesday worship on a week-to-week basis.

6. Announcements Announcements appear below.

7. Other business.

We would like Ministry and Counsel to address the issue of memorial services.

It was remarked that our Meeting today demonstrated a lot of deep listening, and gratitude was expressed for our process which allows this.

Next week is our dual meeting with Friends School of Portland. 10:30 here, 11:00 there. Child care at both locations.

Sarajane Elliott reported that Dee Kelsey is settling in at The Woods at Canco. Unfortunately she has another infection in her foot. She would appreciate visitors.

We were urged to continue our efforts to discern God's will in regard to our responsibilities to the wider world, as articulated in the Advice which began our Meeting.

8. Silent Gratitude

We closed at 10:20 a.m. with 26 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9:00 on October 2, 2016, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lyn Ballou  
Co-Recording Clerk

(cont-)

## Announcements

### Tier I Our meeting community

- Tuesday, September 13 – deadline for getting news to Heather for the September newsletter. She invites contributions to this and future editions – about our lives, concerns, projects, passions, etc. She would like a wide variety of contributors.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – dual meeting for worship at the Meeting House at 10:30, and at the Friends School at 11:00. Childcare both places.
- September 25<sup>th</sup> –Adult Religious Education at 9:00; more details at the business meeting; Youth Religious Ed at 10:45.
- October 2d - Meeting for Business and World Quaker Day observance; details for both will be forthcoming.
- October 8<sup>th</sup> – an especially called meeting for worship in memory of Bea Wehmeyer at 1:00.
- Financial Oversight will be starting the budget process in October. Committee clerks, please have proposed budget requests ready soon.

### Tier II Wider Quaker fellowship

- Friday, Sat, or Sunday Sept 23-25 Common Ground Fair: Again this year Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting is hosting a table in the Social Political Action area and it is time to learn who might be led to join us for three-hour shifts. This will earn you free entrance to the fair. Contact Mark Rains, 293-3967 Cell 500-9131 [mainerrains@gmail.com](mailto:mainerrains@gmail.com)
- September 23-25 Building Facilitation Skills Authentically, a workshop at Powell House, a Friends conference center in New York state. More info @ [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org)
- October 1 Friends Committee on National Legislation Executive Secretary, Diane Randall will be at the Friends School of Portland for a reception from 2:00-4:00. RSVP by 9-23 at [fcn1.org/nowisthetime/rsvp](http://fcn1.org/nowisthetime/rsvp)

### Tier III Individual passions, offerings, possibilities

- Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – Facing the Surge, discussion addressing climate change solutions, 1st Parish UU Church, 425 Congress Street at 7:00pm
- Through Sept. 23d - Black Lives Matter is collecting money and supplies for victims of the flooding in Baton Rouge. We are invited to contribute. There is a labeled box in the entry.
- Sept. 25th Concert Across America Against Gun Violence on Congress St. in Portland from 1:00-4:00. Lise Wagner has more info.



Eat pizza at Flatbread on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to support Friends School of Portland! A percentage of sales of small and large pizzas purchased at dinnertime (5-9pm) will go to FSP. Take-out orders also count towards the fundraiser. Invite your family, friends and coworkers! The [Flatbread Company](#) is located at 72 Commercial Street in Portland.

**Family Open House at Friends School of Portland, Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12noon.** Tour the new, net-zero building, meet the teachers, spend time in classrooms, and talk to current parents and students. Learn more about Quaker education and get a feel for our culture of joyful learning. Have a conversation with our Head of School and Director of Studies. This event is for families with children entering preschool through grade 8. Prospective students and their siblings are welcome! If you would like to attend, please [click here to RSVP](#) or email Jen McNally, Admissions Director, at [jen@friendsschoolofportland.org](mailto:jen@friendsschoolofportland.org).

Grand Start  
of First Day School!  
Sunday, Sept. 25 10:45-11:45 AM

A Fun-Filled Gathering  
for all First Day School Youth!

We always play "Big Wind Blows!"

Food, singing!

Outdoors if the weather is good,  
otherwise downstairs

Questions? Anne Payson

[annepayson10@gmail.com](mailto:annepayson10@gmail.com) 781-2501

## Adult Religions Education (ARE)

The ARE committee wants you to know about classes and topics for this fall and other plans. Adult Religious Education classes are still held on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Sunday of each month, from 9 am to 10 am. When that Sunday comes on a holiday weekend, there will not be a class. Since this is a short time to be together, we encourage you to come promptly or even early.

### Topics for the fall

9/25 — *Creating Collective Healing Spaces* -- Facilitated by PFM member Anna Barnett with the ARE committee

Description: What if healing the trauma in our collective past is creating new possibilities for the future? As both victims and perpetrators of oppression, how do we heal and find freedom beyond our scars? Can spiritual and body-based practices help at a deeper level than cross-cultural dialogues or diversity training? Anna Barnett has been exploring these questions at a recent gathering of activists, healers and facilitators, and will lead a discussion at A.R.E. on September 25.



10/9 — Pruning to let in the light: Using a gardening metaphor to tend to our spiritual lives (Part I)

10/23 — Pruning to let in the light: Using a gardening metaphor to tend to our spiritual lives (Part II)

Facilitated by Sandi Jensen and ARE committee members

Description: The concept of pruning as a gardening technique offers a rich metaphor for nurturing our spiritual lives. Learn more about the ways in which pruning nourishes and sustains gardens and engage in individual and joint reflection on its application to our spiritual lives.

11/13 — Bridges of Hope — a National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Program on helping faith communities support their community members who have a mental illness/brain disorder and their loved ones.



Facilitated by ARE member Judy Spross (and other PFM member[s] to be determined)

Description: October is Mental Illness Awareness Month Bridges of Hope is one of many resources from NAMI FaithNet. NAMI FaithNet "is an online, web resource of NAMI dedicated to providing and promoting the creation and exchange of information, tools, outreach materials and other resources which will help NAMI members and friends educate faith communities about mental illness and *the vital role spirituality plays in recovery*. NAMI FaithNet is not a religious network but a mental health education and awareness outreach to clergy and congregations of all faith traditions as well as to individuals who seek faith as a component of their recovery." (Emphasis added) To learn more, visit <http://www.nami.org/Extranet/Education,-Training-and-Outreach-Programs/Outreach-and-Advocacy/NAMI-FaithNet>

11/27 [Thanksgiving weekend — no class scheduled]

12/11 The Hicksites and the Gurneys (Quaker History)

Facilitated by ARE member, Muriel Allen; Description: to be published in the November newsletter

12/25 [Christmas no class scheduled]

### The ARE Committee's Class Plans for Spring 2017

In the spring, we plan to continue our discussion of Eldering. Please plan to read Pendle Hill pamphlet #392 on this topic. Seven copies are available in the meeting library. More details about the pamphlet and the sessions will be printed in the October newsletter

### Your ARE Committee

Our committee usually meets once a month, with fall meetings scheduled for 9/28, 10/19, 11/15 and 12/13. If you have ideas or suggested topics, please send an email to [jaspross@gmail.com](mailto:jaspross@gmail.com) at least one week before a meeting.

Members of the ARE committee are Judy Spross, Muriel Allen, Arthur Fink, and Sandi Jensen. Judy Spross and Sandi Jensen are co-clerks. We would welcome one or two additional members. Please contact any one of us to discuss your interest.



## Other News from the Adult Religious Education Committee

### **Spiritual Journey Series: Call for members to present some aspect of their spiritual journeys**

We would also like to offer a new opportunity for spiritual nurture and engagement - a series of Spiritual Journey presentations to be offered on a day other than Sunday. Our definition of a Spiritual Journey is broad--an experience or event that was spiritually significant, transformative, and/or transcendent. We recognize that what is spiritual and spiritually significant varies widely. Examples of journeys might be those undertaken by an individual or family and may or may not involve travel (for example, experiences of aging, work, nature, illness or parenting have as much potential for spiritual enrichment as a pilgrimage!).

We envision offering 4 or 5 Spiritual Journey sessions between September 2016 and June 2017. Note that we have not scheduled these sessions, preferring to work with the presenter(s)'s schedule and the availability of the Meetinghouse. If you have a spiritual journey you'd like to share, please use the following guidance to submit a presentation proposal:

1. A document with a *proposed title, a brief description (3 to 4 sentences), two queries for listeners to contemplate during the presentation, and suggested month, day of the week and time* that will work for you.. Note the presentation may be in a format that "fits" the journey--narrative, dance, poem, photos or some combination. We envision a 1 to 1.5 hour session, for a presentation, discussion, and some relaxed time for general sharing.
2. Send the document as an attachment in an e-mail with the following information in the subject line **Spiritual Journey Proposal from ...(your name) [jaspross@gmail.com](mailto:jaspross@gmail.com)**

#### How best to say "Thank You?"

... Thanks...  
... Gratitude...  
... Appreciation...

#### "Thank you" for what?

... Discernment  
... Guidance  
... Helping hands  
... Good wishes  
... Excitement  
... Support  
... Love

#### To whom do we send our thanks?

...You!...All of you!

We send an array of thanks to you, our meeting community, for your caring embrace as we embark upon our marriage. Thank you for this wonderful gift.

With deep appreciation,  
Jane Mullen & Bill Jose



#### **Volunteers Needed**

Alternatives to Violence Project / AVP is a program operating in prisons in 40 states in USA and in countries where conflict exists. Trained volunteers facilitate experiential exercises which seek to: affirm oneself and others, raise self awareness, build community, and offer non violent ways to communicate. We do weekend workshops at Maine Correctional Facility / Windham. Contact Tracy Booth 202 262 2563 for information

Volunteers interested in this 35 year old Quaker originated program will experience our faith values embedded in these workshops and will see the transformative power of love and hope operating among participants.

Anyone interested will need to attend a security training for volunteers at Windham which is offered September 30th at 2:30 pm

Anne Harwood has moved to an apartment at OceanView in Falmouth:  
20 Blueberry Lane #L223  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
207-781-2994

For the time being Tom will stay on their farm in Bowdoinham. They expect there to be quite a bit of back and forth.

**Quaker Meeting at Bowdoin College resumes Wednesdays at 5 to 5:30 PM in Bowdoin chapel during school year**

#### **Calling all Hostas!**

I would like to establish a hosta garden at the back door of the Meetinghouse. I invite gardeners to bring some of your Hosta gems to plant on October 9th after meeting. Offerings can be brought wrapped in newspaper and well watered. Helpers to plant will be welcome too. —Tracy Booth

#### **Intergenerational "Odd Sundays"**

The Youth Religious Education Committee is seeking volunteers to be available to spend time with our younger members and attenders, those older than nursery age, on Sundays when First Day School isn't in session. Greet the kiddos, show them the shelf of crafts and games, and help keep the volume low as appropriate. Interested? sign up in the parlor or talk to Anne Payson [annepayson10@gmail.com](mailto:annepayson10@gmail.com) 781-2501



## Black Lives Matter flood relief drive

Black Lives Matter Cambridge is collecting donations and supplies to help victims of the 1,000-year flood in Baton Rouge. You can drop gift cards (Walmart, Whole Foods, Exxon, Circle K, cell phone reboost cards) and supplies in the box at the meetinghouse on Sunday, September 18. Or donate online at <http://www.youcaring.com/BLMforBatonRouge> #BLM4BR

BLM organizer DiDi Delgado is currently in Baton Rouge, and writes: *Being in Baton Rouge and seeing first hand how much folks who have worked so hard to rebuild themselves after tragedy struck with Hurricane Katrina and were displaced from their homes. This is something the media cannot describe for you. To sit and listen to these stories from folks who will have no place to go after the shelter at the River Center closes next Friday, so that the civic center can resume it's "entertainment schedule" just continues to showcase how we collectively turn a blind eye to corporate development and greed. As organizers, these stories hit close to home as many of us face personal traumas and have to constantly rebuild. I cried today: I'm not sure if it was to release what's been holed up inside of me or because I know these children who were grateful for something as simple as a hot plate of food, will go back to rebuilding, instead of being children. It costs money to rebuild, money that these folks most affected, don't have. Please consider donating what you can:* <http://www.youcaring.com/BLMforBatonRouge> #BLM4BR

More info on what supplies are needed, etc: Anna Barnett. [anna.s.barnett@gmail.com](mailto:anna.s.barnett@gmail.com). 503-953-2423

**HELP** **BLACK LIVES MATTER** **COLLECTION DRIVE @ THE DEMOCRACY CENTER**  
**AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2016**  
**BATON ROUGE**

### WE NEED YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS:

- School supplies
- Household items
- Gas cards
- Baby supplies
- Toiletries
- Gently used cell phones
- Clothes
- Art supplies
- Cell phones reboost cards



## Annual Sessions 2016 Talking Points



NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING  
OF FRIENDS  
QUAKERS

*Please share the news and joy from NEYM Sessions 2016 with Friends at home.*

The theme of the 356<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions was “Being the Hands of God: A Call to Radical Faithfulness.” Doug Gwyn, pastor of Durham Friends Meeting in Maine, offered the Bible half hours each morning. Through stories of early Friends reclaiming the power they encountered in the

Scriptures to build a world-changing movement in their time, we heard a call to take up the work of listening for and living in the guidance of that same Life and Power as we seek to be faithful now.

Nearly 600 Friends attended Annual Sessions in Castleton, Vermont. 83 of them—nearly 14%—were attending for the first time, a significant increase from last year. Youth attendance also continues to grow. We celebrated strong representation from each of the New England states, with the largest increase being Friends from Rhode Island. We were also joined by 48 visitors from beyond our Yearly Meeting, including Quakers from Kenya, Cuba and several other yearly meetings within the United States, as well as ecumenical representatives.

Here’s a summary of important news from the week:

We committed to action in the areas of work for racial justice, responding to the climate crisis and support for LGBT people in Uganda.

1. Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people: Continuing work brought to us from the quarterly meetings, New England Yearly Meeting publicly endorsed the work of the Friends Ugandan Safe Transport Fund, which supports Ugandans in providing safe passage to other Ugandans fleeing persecution due to sexual or gender identity.

2. Climate Change: Reflecting years of faithful work in our local meetings and the ongoing ministry of many New England Friends, Sessions approved a minute which begins:

“Friends...have heard a Divine call to the witness of addressing climate change. We affirm the overwhelming scientific consensus that greenhouse gases released by human activity are causing climate change, that these changes threaten life on our planet as we know it, and that we have a responsibility to address the very real threats that will impact both rich and poor. Those on earth who have contributed least to this crisis are likely to suffer most from it...”

Responding to a call from Quakers worldwide who gathered at the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary of Friends held in Peru in 2016, we corporately committed to take three concrete actions in the coming year:

- a. Support a working group of New England Friends led to participate in bold and prophetic nonviolent direct action consistent with the urgency of the global climate crisis
- b. Encourage all local meetings to prayerfully consider how they might further respond to the climate crisis, and to share news with the Yearly Meeting office to enable better communication and support for our collective witness
- c. Organize a consultation for New England Friends on our witness for sustainability and our response to the climate crisis in the spring of 2017

Racial Justice: Recognizing the urgency of work for racial justice and the ways in which white supremacy affects and is present in our Quaker faith communities, in the coming months the Yearly Meeting will explore concrete steps New England Friends can take to help us more fully realize God’s vision of the Beloved Community. To begin and inform this work going forward, we asked the Permanent Board of NEYM to explore an external audit of our cultural competency. We see that the work of change and recovery from the spiritual disease of systemic racism needs to happen in each of our hearts, within our organizational structures, and in each of our local meetings.

Expect to hear more soon about opportunities for your meeting to engage in this work, and please share ways you are already learning, healing and acting for racial justice.

Supporting this work more widely, we further committed to raise funds in support of the efforts of Friends General Conference—a North American association of Yearly Meetings in which we hold membership—to also undergo a cultural competency audit.



**Legacy Gift Committee:** With joy, Friends heard reports from the first year of grants distributed from the Legacy Gift funds. Grantees—including local meetings and individuals across New England—updated us on the fruits of their work through displays and small group conversations. For a complete list of recipients and the ministries being supported, and for more information, visit [neym.org/legacy-gift](http://neym.org/legacy-gift). The next deadline for applications to the NEYM Future Fund is November 1. Please send questions and inquiries to [legacy@neym.org](mailto:legacy@neym.org).

**Public Statements:** Friends reviewed the public statements made on behalf of New England Friends in the past year, and offered guidance to the presiding clerk and secretary for how to approach this work in the coming year. We heard strong support for continuing to lift up a clear and timely witness on issues of concern for Friends in these times. Monthly and Quarterly Meetings will be notified whenever such statements are made. Meetings are encouraged to share their news and work with the Yearly Meeting office in order to help us all stay connected and increase the visibility of Friends witness in the world. A summary of all statements is available on page 11 of the [2016 Sessions Advance Documents](#).

**Living Faith Gatherings:** Responding to calls for more opportunities for nurturing spirituality, fostering community and strengthening witness, New England Yearly Meeting is planning two daylong Saturday gatherings over the next year. Friends from across our region are invited to gather on November 5 at the Friends School of Portland, Maine; and on April 8 at Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island. To learn more, get involved with planning or share your gifts at this event, contact [livingfaith@neym.org](mailto:livingfaith@neym.org) or visit [neym.org/livingfaith](http://neym.org/livingfaith).

**Archives:** We heard that the NEYM Archives have been successfully relocated to the W.E.B. Dubois Library at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Attention will now turn to gathering records from local meetings and making the Archives more fully available both on site and online.

**Budget:** Sessions approved the fiscal year 2017 budget for the Yearly Meeting as an organization. This budget continues progress toward financial sustainability while eliminating reliance upon subsidy from Legacy Gift funds. We are not yet clear how new federal rules ensuring more equitable pay will impact our budget, but look forward to aligning our finances with our commitment to fair employment practices for Yearly Meeting staff. In the coming year, the Ad Hoc Long Term Financial Planning Committee will support development of multi-year budgeting and planning.

**Friends Camp:** We celebrated the 12-year tenure of Nat Shed at Friends Camp, and approved the appointment of Anna Hopkins as the new Director. We gave thanks for the completion of a review of governance and administration at Friends Camp, renewed our commitment to diversity and inclusion at the Camp, and heard hopes for even more integration of Friends Camp with the other vibrant youth ministries of New England Friends.

**Working Paper on Membership:** The Committee revising the book of Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting presented a working paper on membership in the Religious Society of Friends for consideration and feedback from local meetings and individuals. The document reflects significant progress in our conversation about commitment and what it means to be a part of our Quaker faith community. The working paper on membership can be downloaded at [neym.org/sessions/addocs16](http://neym.org/sessions/addocs16).

Further details, video & audio recordings and minutes will be posted soon at [neym.org/sessions](http://neym.org/sessions). To receive news and updates on the life and ministry of Friends across New England, subscribe to the new monthly email newsletter at [neym.org/mc-signup](http://neym.org/mc-signup).

“It’s said that this could be the Woodstock of 2016.” —Mike Weisser, Huffington Post, 8.23.16



On Sept. 25, 2016, the Concert Across America to End Gun Violence will happen at over 150 sites across the country. Portland’s event will be a free concert from noon to 3 pm at Congress Square Park. The Portland event is being sponsored by the Phoenix Chorale, Portland’s social justice choir. “It is right in line with our mission to change the world through song” comments Dr. Deirdre McClure, Artistic Director.

Concert coordinator Betsey Remage-Healey observes that “we’ve had such a string of recent gun tragedies from Orlando to St. Paul to Baton Rouge to Dallas. The Concert is a chance to honor the dead and energize the living. And in Maine, the cool thing is that we can do something in November with the background check referendum on the ballot.”

In addition to the Phoenix Chorale, performers will include Lyle Divinsky, Gina Allibrio, Wes Covey, Ronda Dale and Portland’s immigrant girls’ choir, Pihcintu. The concert will be introduced by Mayor Ethan Strimling, with additional remarks by the mother of a gun murder victim, Judi Richardson, and Nick Wilson, Executive Director of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition.

*The event is co-sponsored by the Maine Gun Safety Coalition, Maine Moms Demand Action, Remembering Darien and the Friends of Congress Square Park.*

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Tuesday, October 4th, 9pm

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

