

Portland Friends Newsletter

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FIFTH MONTH 2011

First Day schedule

Meeting for Worship
8am and 10:30am

Religious Education

Children & Adults 9:30am
2nd & 4th Sundays except
during summer schedule

Friends to contact

Co-Clerks

Tom Antonik 879-0241
Muriel Allen 874-9523

Treasurers, Operating Account & Contributions

Kathy Beach 741-2940
14 Drew Road
South Portland 04106

Sue Nelson 780-0349
58 Hillis Street
Portland 04103

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 883-0573

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940
Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Beth Bussiere-Nichols
939-8247

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor 774-2578
David Spector 518-9723

Religious Education Coordinators

Adults:
Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Children:

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698

Clerk: Lyn Ballou 865-3888

Use of the Meetinghouse

Dorothy Grannell 878-8698

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414
mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com



I am a part of all that I have met. — Alfred Tennyson

Query Five—Outreach

Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meetings? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Do you seek to share and to interpret the faith of Friends and to cooperate with others in the spreading the Christian message? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?

Upcoming Events

Preble St. Soup Kitchen fourth Friday every month. Aaiyn Foster, 766-9762
Local clergy Peace Vigil Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Monument Square, Portland

May 12 Maine Civil Liberties Union dinner, Harraseeket Inn, Freeport, 6pm

May 14 Youngish Adults Potluck, 5pm

May 15 LOVE YOUR MEETINGHOUSE DAY, noon-4pm

Some committees meet

May 22 Singing, 9am; Adult and Youth Religious Education, 9:30am;

Youth Religious Education Workshop, noon-2pm

May 29 Extended worship, 8-11:30am

June 5 Meeting for Worship for Business, 9am

June 11 Youngish Adults Potluck and Family Game Night

June 12 Singing, 9am; Adult and Youth Religious Education, 9:30am

End of Year Celebration, noon

June 17-19 New England Young Adult Friends retreat, Monadnock Meeting, NH

June 17-22 Quaker Spring, The Meeting School, Rindge, NH

June 18 25th Annual Pride Festival and Parade, downtown Portland

Aug 5 New England Yearly Meeting 350th anniversary celebration

Aug 6-11 New England Yearly Meeting sessions

There are members and attenders who need rides to Meeting and other support during times of difficulty. If you need or can provide rides, food, or your silent presence at home meetings for worship, please leave a message for Shannon O'Connor, 774-2578.

Newsletter Contributions

Please mail items to:

Anna Barnett
140 W. Pownal Rd.
North Yarmouth, ME 04097

OR email items

to Anna Barnett
abarnett@gmail.com
Phone: 523-0314

Send address change

details to Tony Scilipoti
tscilipoti@maine.rr.com

Deadline for receiving newsletter items: Friday after business meeting or sooner!

Minutes of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting May 1, 2011

Portland Friends Meeting gathered in meeting for worship to conduct business on May 1, 2011 at 9 a.m., with 19 members and attenders present. We began in silent worship, during which co-clerk Tom Antonik read the Fifth Query from Faith and Practice concerning Outreach. It begins, "Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting?"

1. We found the minutes of our April meeting to be in good order.

2. **Clerk's Comments.** Co-Clerk Tom Antonik rejoiced at the beginning of spring and asked for forgiveness of anything he has done inadvertently or otherwise which has done harm in our community. He also suggested we should all search ourselves and compassionately embrace our own shortcomings to answer the question how to make our hearts a better community, answering that of God in each of us.

3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Kathy Beach reported that we are 4 months, or 33% into the budget year. Income stands at \$20,930.32 or 30% of budget, and expenses are \$14,788.79, or 21% of budget, resulting in a positive balance of \$6,141.53. Friends remarked on the encouraging fact that our contributions have been coming in at a rate higher than before.

4. **Ministry and Counsel.** Beth Bussiere-Nichols expressed for Ministry and Counsel their appreciation for all the quiet, wonderful care given to members by Pastoral Care Committee, and recognition of the bounty of informal circles of caring beyond the committees that rise up in times of joy and need.

Ernest and Mathilde's family from Burundi continues to need help for the children with their studies, and for the adults to practice English. Jane Herbert is the person to contact.

Ministry and Counsel is recommending Andrew and Dorothy Grannell as Released Friends preceding, attending and following the 2012 Salt and Light Conference of Friends World Committee for Consultation. Clearness committee found them to bring particular gifts to this ministry, which will look to find common ground in the world community of Friends focusing particularly on care of the earth. Dorothy is an official delegate; Andrew plans to go but does not have an official capacity at this time. Ministry and Counsel will appoint an ongoing support committee to help with spiritual support and coordinate requests for funding and fundraising events.

By recognizing Andrew and Dorothy Grannell as Released Friends, Portland Friends Meeting would be

--recognizing their leading to carry out this specific ministry.

--committing to:

- provide an ongoing support committee during this ministry
- provide some financial support for their travels
- help with fundraising events

--expressing our own willingness to engage in

- exploring the connections between Friends worldwide
- examining our own individual and community responsibilities to heal the broken world
- taking care of any responsibilities in our community that the Grannells have had.

Friends spoke to the wonderful gifts of Andy and Dorothy to do this work, our need to hold them in the light as they go forward, and the prospect of challenges they may bring back to us. The Grannells clarified their stepping down from committee and other positions, including Dorothy as Youth Religious Education Coordinator as of December 31, 2011. We then approved the recommendation that Andrew and Dorothy Grannell be released Friends for the above-described purposes and time.

5. **Quarterly Meeting.** Dorothy Grannell reported on the dynamic All-Maine Day yesterday at Friends Camp in South China, including Arthur Fink's excellent program on art and spirituality, improvements at the camp, and larger than usual attendance. Also described were the exchange of state of society reports from various meetings, a report on the Friends Committee for Maine Public Policy (which communicates information on the legislative process in Augusta), and efforts to fund a scholarship at the Ramallah School on the West Bank.

The question of where the July quarterly meeting will occur has not been decided. Falmouth Quarter has proposed the program for the day should be Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream, a traveling workshop presented by Young Friends. The theme of this workshop relates to topics being explored both at New England Yearly Meeting in August and at the Friends World Committee on Consultation Conference in 2012. We support this program in whatever venue is deemed appropriate, and approve holding it here if necessary.

6. **Friends World Consultation Conference.** Dorothy Grannell described the work of the World Conference and proposed a Salt and Light Event here during the weekend of October 28-30. These events are designed by Friends World Committee to engage local Friends with the theme of the 6th World Conference. Two Friends from Australia, Valerie Joy and Abel Sibonio (the former pastor of Ernest and Mathilde), will bring their stories to share. The event could involve refugee participation and Burundian food. She asked the Meeting to support the event. Friends approved.

Minutes, continued from page 2

7. Recorder's Report. Recorder Lise Wagner reported that we began the year with 111 members. We had four new members.

Ministry and Counsel has been working this year on clearing our membership rolls, as we have a number of members who have not been to meeting in many years. As a result, the recorder's report this year includes four losses due to death, nine losses due to discontinuance and resignation, and two losses due to transfer of membership.

The total of members, therefore, for 2010 is now 100. Ministry and Counsel continues their much-appreciated work.

Mahoosuc Mountains Worship Group, which is under our care, reported an average attendance of five, with six active attenders. These numbers are added to our averages for totals of 68--average attendance on Sunday, and 68--number of active attenders. Our average attendance at meeting for business is 22.

Friends accepted the report with thanks. It will be posted in the parlor. .

8. Buildings and Grounds. Syl Doughty reported on window and drainage work, and the Committee's continuing attention to limiting our consumption of energy. Brad Bussiere-Nichols summarized the completion of the kitchen work, which came in at slightly over budget, partially due to improvements recommended by the electrician. The Committee has created a list of needed items Friends can purchase or sponsor. Friends expressed their appreciation for the wonderful work done on the kitchen and how well it functioned for the Easter Breakfast.

We closed in silent worship at 10:33 a.m. with 26 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on June 5, 2011, God willing.

Lyn Ballou, Co-Recording Clerk

From Our Released Friends

We would like to express our deep gratitude to Ministry and Counsel and Portland Friends Meeting for the process and care taken to clarify our leading to undertake a ministry with Friends World Committee for Consultation. The statement of release offered to the Meeting provided clarification and direction for the work we will undertake. It gives us a charge to follow and with which to measure ourselves. It is with a sense both of excitement and of gravity that we accept the status of released Friends. Our prayer is that this ministry will be a time of stretching and growing for all of the Meeting and that, with the ongoing support and guidance of Friends, we may all be part of the healing process for our broken world. When Friends spoke to the release statement and the challenge for our Meeting for its involvement in Living the Kingdom in a Broken World we were reminded of Edwin Markham's poem "Outwitted".

Outwitted

He drew a circle that shut me out
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout
But love and I had the wit to win;
We drew a circle that took him in.

With deep appreciation,
Andy and Dorothy Grannell

Meetinghouse Coordinator Needed

Dorothy Grannell would like to lay down her work as Meetinghouse Coordinator as soon as we identify a volunteer to take her place. Dorothy and Patricia Pyle (who served in this role in the past and who will serve as the back-up meetinghouse coordinator going forward) will be happy to help the new volunteer learn the ropes of scheduling use of the building. Please, speak with Chris Beach of the Nominating Committee or Dorothy herself if you have any interest in serving in this way or if you have an idea of someone whom you think we might ask.

Maine Council of Churches Report

Maine Council of Churches has undergone a challenging year concentrating on our priorities of economic, social and environmental justice. We have focused on prison conditions, especially solitary confinement, immigration reform, becoming a more welcoming state and local foods. We continue to advocate for the state budget as a moral document protecting our most vulnerable Mainers and for respectful engagement in the public arena, with our Covenant for Civil Discourse. We seek to engage congregations and build community, to explore our common heritage of Hebrew and Christian scriptures and to influence public policy for the common good.

After several years, we have found a project for the Ewell Fund, created by gifts in honor of Tom Ewell at the time of his retirement as Executive Director of the Council. We are partnering with the Center for Preventing Hate and organizing a series of Community Conversations with Muslims to make Maine more welcoming to these new arrivals and lessen the effect of anti-Muslim sentiment. We are seeking other funding to hold similar programs with Hispanic Mainers.

The council was a beneficiary of a large bequest many years ago which is now almost spent down, and we are at a point where we need to build a solid development effort to sustain our work. Board responsibilities have changed and require more fund raising and administrative support; the Public Policy committee is now where most of the issues and strategy are discussed. We currently have openings on the Board, Finance and Development Committees for 3 year terms beginning in 2012. Please contact me if you are interested.

Our office recently moved and is now located at Immanuel Baptist Church in downtown Portland, in the heart of the city, opposite the Eastland Hotel and around the corner from Congress St. It was fascinating in preparing for the move to see how our priorities and concerns have remained constant over the years, based on years of Minutes and correspondence.

Friends, it has been a wonderful experience serving as our representative. I know these are challenging financial times, but if there is room to support or increase your contributions to the Council, it is money well spent. Please visit our website and please hold us in the Light as we seek common ground while working for the common good.

Leslie Manning, 592-2659



Survey Said...

Please join the Adult Education class on May 22 to find out what the Youth Religious Education survey tells us about or Youth First Day School program. The class starts at 9:30am, and we invite all interested adults and teens to join. There was a good return on the survey: 39 adults and children completed the written or online version. You may be surprised at what we have learned.

Youth Religious Education Committee will sponsor a light lunch on May 22 and will follow this with an exploration of what expectations we have for our First Day School program. We hope to brainstorm ideas about approaches and outcomes. Should we meet at different times?

Do we need to be more project or hands-on oriented? How can we involve more and different people? What topics resonate with our young? Should the program be more intergenerational? Have more community service? How are we introducing our children to worship? YRE will take what is learned from the Adult Ed class, the survey results and the workshop and develop a plan for our Youth First Day School program for the next year. We anticipate that the outcomes will be different from what we have now and involve people in ways we have not in recent years. Join us for one or both parts of Youth Religious Education Day, May 22, 2011 at 9:30 am and at the rise of Meeting.

Young Adult Friends Spring Retreat, June 17-19

The Spring Retreat for Young Adult Friends of New England Yearly Meeting is a weekend gathering of Quaker-types aged 18-35ish. This year it will be held at Monadnock Meeting in Jaffrey, NH, June 17-19.

The dates and location of the retreat were chosen so that YAFs could participate in Quaker Spring, an inter-branch Quaker conference held from June 17-22 in Rindge, NH (see below).

At the retreat we will also eat yummy food, play games, do a little hiking, get to know each other, relax, and have fun.

The retreat begins at 7:00 PM on Friday, June 17th and ends on Sunday June 19th at noon. Although we hope you can attend the whole thing, we realize that for some folks this won't be possible.

The suggested cost of the retreat is \$60, which covers the expenses of nutritious food, retreat materials, and use of the Meetinghouse. We offer a sliding scale and ask that people only pay what they can. We hope that interest, not cost, will determine your attendance. For those with funds to spare, contributions are always accepted.

To Register: Please email Nia, the YAF Coordinator, at yf.yafcoord@neym.org Include your name, address, phone number, dietary restrictions, and carpool information (where you are coming from and if you can offer a ride). Registrations are strongly encouraged BEFORE June 10th.

Quaker Spring Comes to New England Experiencing the Inward Christ Together Rindge, NH, June 17-22

Quaker Spring invites all Friends hungry for spiritual community, of all ages, to spend time in worship, reflection, conversation, and play. We hope to bring together Friends from all branches of Quakerism, to share what Spirit-led Quakerism is about at its core--and to experience it together.

The last 4 Junes, Friends from over 20 yearly meetings drawing on all branches of Friends have gathered together in Barnesville, Ohio. These have been described as truly "gatherings with a difference" - with most of the week left unplanned and open to the leading of the Spirit.

This year, for the first time, Quaker Spring will be meeting in New England. Sessions will be held at The Meeting School in Rindge, NH. The New England Young Adult Friends gathering is only a few minutes away at Monadnock Meetinghouse, and many of the attending YAFs are expected to join in worship and other activities during the first couple of days of Quaker Spring.

Friends are welcome to attend part of the gathering. Please come for whatever portion of the week you are able and feel led to attend.

The "un-preprogrammed" daily program includes:

--Bible reading and study

--Waiting worship

--Afternoons free for rest, play, workshops, opportunities for clearness & support for ministries.

--Evening time to reflect/search together for God's voice around issues of concern to Friends arising out of the group.

Families are welcome. There are children's programs each morning and childcare available in the evenings. Children are also welcome to take part in ANY of the regular sessions.

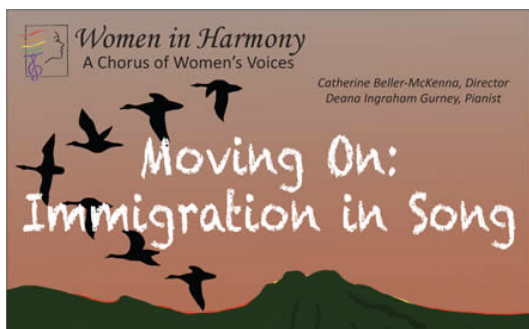
There will be a variety of housing options, including staying in home-style bedrooms & camping on campus. Cost: a guideline of \$20-50/day/adult (including meals) is provided, but no one should stay away because of limited means.

More info and registration: www.QuakerSpring.org

Questions: Quaker Spring planning group, quakerspring@gmail.com, or Deborah Haines, 703-706-8176.



Photo: Quaker Spring



The Women in Harmony choral group will sing with some international guests May 14-15. Sandi Jensen is part of the group. She writes:

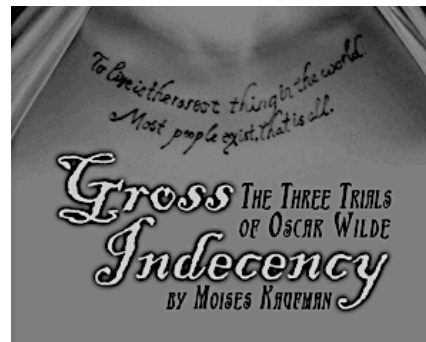
The theme is 'immigration' and it will include a song cycle commissioned for us from one of our prior members, Erica Quin-Easter. Our special guests are Pihcintu, a chorus of girls age 9-19 from all over the world.

We are having a lot of fun with this group and will even join them in a rap song that they wrote (about being new to this country)—new territory for us!

If you want to attend and will see me before that weekend, I have advance tickets to sell. See below for all the details.

Hope you can make time for this lively musical event.

Woodfords Congregational Church, Saturday, May 14, 7:00pm and Sunday, May 15, 4:00pm. Pre-concert conversation with composer and poet: Saturday 6:15pm and Sunday 3:15pm. Sandi: sandij@maine.rr.com or 839-2372



Anna Barnett is in the cast of **Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde**, running June 2-12 at Portland Stage Studio Theatre. The play uses court transcripts, letters, memoirs, and 9 actors playing 37 characters to recreate the world of late-19th-century London that put Wilde on trial for homosexuality.

Details and tickets (on sale now): www.dramaticrep.org

Seeking Friendly Singers for NEYM Choral Performance

Friends are invited to take part in a choral performance at New England Yearly Meeting sessions in August.



The Fire & Hammer

a musical chronicle of George Fox's spiritual journey
Text by George Fox, music by Tony Biggin, lyrics by Alec Davison

This is an extraordinary choral piece created by members of the Leavers, the British Quaker arts fellowship. In the concert version it consists of dramatic readings of key portions of George Fox's Journal interspersed with songs based on these same passages. It chronicles George Fox's own personal spiritual journey from seeker to a central figure in the nascent Religious Society of Friends.

The plan is to distribute the score to the chorus in plenty of time to learn the parts. Choral participants need to be able to read parts choral music but do not need to be expert singers.

We are particularly seeking an excellent tenor to sing the part of George Fox.

John Sheldon, a choral leader and active member of the Leavers, is offering to come to the U.S. and teach and lead us in this performance without compensation. John led a wonderful weekend choral workshop for New England Friends in November 2006 using the British Friends songbook, *Sing in the Spirit*, which he edited. He has also led choral workshops using these songs at FGC summer gatherings.

NEYM Sessions Planning Committee has invited us to perform this piece in part because it is a wonderful work, musically and spiritually. On the occasion of our 350th anniversary this performance will also provide us with the opportunity as a YM community to share a vivid glimpse into the experience of first generation Friends, the same generation that founded New England Yearly Meeting in 1661.

Rehearsals and performances: There will be two days of mandatory rehearsals just prior to annual sessions, beginning Thursday evening, August 5. These will probably begin at Providence (RI) Meeting and then move to Bryant University campus beginning Saturday morning. There will be a brief performance at the Great Meetinghouse in Newport RI on Friday (August 6), a dress rehearsal late one afternoon at annual sessions, and a full performance Tuesday evening (August 9) for YM sessions.

Get involved: If you are interested in taking part or know of someone in your meeting who might like to take part, please email Peter Blood-Patterson of Mt Toby Meeting at peter@quakersong.org or call 413 256-8596.

Love Your Meetinghouse Day

Love Your Meetinghouse Day is May 15, starting at the rise of Meeting. It is a time to de-clutter as well as clean. If you have brought books, literature to share, or odd items to recycle, and they are still in the Meetinghouse after some weeks, please reclaim them and recycle them in a different way. The kitchen renovation points out the need to look at our space with fresh eyes, perhaps the eyes of a person who is considering renting the space, and see what needs to be repaired, taken away, straightened up, organized or replaced. The hope is to start this process on May 15 as well as clean the windows and yard. So bring your lunch, your cleaning supplies, your energy and your organizational ability.

New Kitchen Adoption Opportunity

Our wonderful new kitchen needed just a few items to make it function perfectly. The list is given below.

If you would like to “adopt” one of the new items in the kitchen, just sign the list and give a check or cash to Kathy Beach or Susan Nelson. You may remain anonymous by paying for the item and then crossing the item off the list.



If there is no price next to the item that means it is still to be purchased. If you purchase the item, put it in the kitchen and cross it off. This list is posted on the bulletin board in the front foyer of the meeting house. Be sure to write the item on the memo line of your check.

Instead of purchasing more mugs, you may add to our current collection by bringing your “extra” mugs from home and adding them to the mug shelf above the coffee urns. The same would be true if you have mismatched dinner plates and would like to donate them for use for retreats and dinners. The plates are stored on the shelves below the coffee urns. Please, no cracked or chipped mugs or plates.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Pancake turners for non-stick pans | |
| Hand operated crank can opener | |
| Basic spices, salt, pepper, cinnamon, garlic, oregano, etc.; perhaps a spice-holder set | |
| Rolling Pin | |
| Spatula Set | \$9.99 |
| Dish Drainer | \$9.29 |
| Drain Board | \$9.99 |
| 4 cup Pyrex Measurer | \$5.54 |
| Measuring Spoons | \$1.99 |
| 12 qt. Spaghetti Cooker | \$34.99 |
| Peeler | \$3.99 |
| 3 Mesh Colanders | \$14.99 |
| 8 Drawer Organizers | \$48.00 |
| Draw and Shelf Liner | \$60.00 |
| Brown Eco Cutting Board meat | \$19.99 |
| Brown Eco Cutting Board meat | \$19.99 |
| Green Eco Cutting Board vegetables | \$19.99 |
| Green Eco Cutting Board vegetables | \$19.99 |
| Case (48) Glasses | \$76.78 |
| Trash Can/lid | Liz Maier |
| Recycle Bin | \$45.92 |
| Rolling Cart | \$92.65 |
| We could use another Rolling Cart | |
| Spoons (24 pack) | \$4.78 |
| 40 Cup Urn | \$34.99 |
| 7 Table Cloths | Dorothy Grannell/ Youth Rel. Ed. |
| Electric Griddle | Tracy Booth |
| Mixer | \$6.94 |
| Dishwasher Rack | \$24.89 |
| 12 Cup Coffee Maker | Dorothy Grannell |



Greening the Meetinghouse

Last month PFM was visited by Curt Bartram, P.E., who talked with us about ways to reduce energy consumption at our meetinghouse.

Curt is a long time friend of Syl Doughty and a mechanical engineer who is now a specialist in energy conservation systems, including solar and geothermal. He began by saying that for the size of our building, our energy consumption in general is quite reasonable. He said that our timed thermostats to set back the heat are the most cost-effective thing we have done. Restoring the windows (a project begun by the Buildings and Grounds committee last year) is also a big energy saver. The thermal curtains and timed thermostat on the water heater are other good things that have already been done.

Our gas boiler, which was new in 1995, is fairly efficient. A new one would be about 20-25% more efficient than what we have. Replacing it would be the next most cost-effective thing we could do to save on energy consumption. It may have about five more years of service life. When we do replace the boiler, we should get one like the Rinnai (<http://www.rinnai.us/boilers/>) to get the energy savings mentioned above.

Curt has had seven years experience with geothermal systems, which use a heat pump to take energy out of, and put heat into, the ground. The best system in our case would be an open-loop system that takes water from a well and then either takes heat from the water for heating or puts heat into the water for cooling, using an electric heat pump. Heating and air conditioning would be distributed through fan coil units, which would replace existing baseboard heating. He said that it would be tough to justify such a system in our building as the payback would likely take decades at current energy costs. This is because we only use the building a few times a week.

Curt has also had a lot of experience with solar energy systems both for hot water and for electricity. At present solar photovoltaic panels are 8-10% efficient. The technology is changing and there are roofing products coming on the market that are solar collectors, but they are extremely expensive at present. We use very little electricity, so we would have to see about a setup where our excess electricity would be sold back to the power company. PFM would get a credit but would also pay an \$8 monthly servicing fee. There is a question about available solar input on the building roof due to its configuration and tree screening.

Using solar energy for heating hot water is more efficient, but the load has to be large enough to justify the system. For example, a gym, which uses lots of hot water daily, would be a good candidate. Radiant heat under floors can also be a good use for solar hot water, but it has an installation cost.

Other energy conservation considerations for the wider community:

Some municipalities are looking into putting solar collectors on landfills. There are streetlights being made now that have their own built-in solar collectors.

As a community, one of the best things we can do is to help each other tighten the envelope in our homes. Everything you can do to reduce the energy use of a home becomes savings in carbon emissions that continue year after year. Setting thermostats down and using timers also produces big savings. As a community we recognize that there is a value in symbolic gestures to encourage others. Putting solar collectors on our roofs and Priuses in our driveways is setting a good example, but is often too expensive for most people.

We also talked about power-correction devices that even out the amount of electricity coming in. These are useful for settings where huge machines are running all the time, but not useful for those who use small amounts of electricity.

Syl Doughty

'Being Salt and Light' Events

Being Salt and Light: Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World is the theme of the 6th World Conference to be held in Kenya in April 2012. In an effort to engage as many Friends as possible in the theme, Friends World Committee for Consultation is encouraging monthly and quarterly meetings to host Salt & Light events that explore topics related to the broken world and how Friends may work together to heal the brokenness.

The topic for the Falmouth Quarterly Meeting on July 23 or 24 will be the "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream." Young Adult Friends from New England Yearly Meeting will provide the leadership for this workshop. Plans have not yet been fully confirmed at this writing but please anticipate a day-long workshop with a film and small-group discussions. It deals with the environmental challenges our world is facing. YAFs are bringing this worship to as many meetings as they can in preparation for Yearly Meeting Sessions in August. Hosting and location of the July Quarter will be determined soon, so please look for future announcements and descriptions.

The weekend of Oct 28–30 will find Portland Friends Meeting hosting visitors from Australia. Valarie Joy, Executive of Friends World Committee Section of West Pacific and Asia will travel with Abel Sibonio, who is a Quaker Pastor from Burundi now living in Australia. They will bring their stories of how they came to be Quakers from different traditions, and Abel will tell his story of escape from Burundi and his ministry in refugee camps in Tanzania. He is the former pastor for Ernest and Mathilde and their family.

We don't have all of the details for this event, but it is possible that it will be a Friday evening and part of Saturday. It will involve worship that is both programmed and unprogrammed. Music will be an important part of it, as Valarie and Abel are bringing the new International Song Book, which will have songs in Kiswahili and Kirundi as well as English. We also hope to involve new Mainers in the program on in a worship led in Kirundi. Some of our new city of Portland immigrants know Abel Sibonio, and we may be able provide a service with him for them. We look forward to sharing some African and Australian food as well as song and story.

There will be a cost for this event to help defray the cost of bringing it, and we will be asking for assistance from some in our meeting. We will be looking for people to provide overnight hospitality for the speakers and other Friends who want to attend. If you would like to help with the planning for either of the Salt & Light Events or provide hospitality, please see either Dorothy or Andy Grannell.



Good Friday peace vigil, April 22, 2011. Photo: Brad Bussiere-Nichols

Portland Friends Meeting

1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103

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Organization
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Please recycle this newsletter.

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End of Year Celebration and Recognition (and Pizza Party!)

Save the Dates: June 11 and 12. June 11 from 5–9 pm will be a Meeting Game Night and Pizza Party. This is part of our End of the Year Celebration, but all are invited to attend. There will be Four Square, board games and storytelling for young and old. First Day School children are invited to stay overnight for a sleepover beginning at 9pm and ending with breakfast on June 12. Our celebration will continue through the education hour from 9:30–10:30am with volunteer recognition, advancing of our children to new classes and a review of the year (format unknown at this writing).

Following Worship at 10:30 we will have a finger-foods lunch followed by traditional games of balloon toss, egg race and Tug of Peace. We will end with watermelon and ice cream.

Please let classroom teachers or Dorothy Grannell know by June 5 if you plan to stay overnight in the Meetinghouse.



**FRIENDS SCHOOL
OF PORTLAND**

Mackworth Tour and Open House

There will be a Five Senses Tour of Mackworth Island, prepared by the 1st-2nd grade, and a Kindergarten Open House on Saturday, May 21, beginning at 10am at the school. Come meet the teachers, administration, current parents and students.

RSVP at jen@friendsschoolofportland.org or 781-6321.

For more information go to
www.friendsschoolofportland.org

Kindergarten Spots

Friends School of Portland currently has lots of room in Kindergarten and a couple of openings in other classes. If you know of any 5-year olds looking for a Quaker school community, please send them our way.