

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Fifth Month, 2017

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a

Adult Education: 8:45am, 2nd & 4th Sundays

First Day School: 10:45am following 15 minutes in Meeting
for Worship, 2nd & 4th Sundays

Connections

Co-Clerks

Jennifer Frick 939-1312

Lea Sutton 642-2327

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 391-6116

60 Shadagee Road, #2

Saco, ME 04072

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940

14 Drew Road

South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 749-9706

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940

Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Jane Mullen, 215-421-5257

jmmaine@aol.com

Mary Tracy, 207-749-8712

marytracy126@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Christina Davis 518-0784

Religious Education

Adults: Sandi Jensen 207-839-2372

Judith Spross 617-872-8817

Youth: Luke Hankins 207-200-6042

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Lise Wagner 232-1778

lise.r.wagner@gmail.com

e-group, send messages to:

portlandfriendsmeeting@yahoogroups.com

Newsletter

submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

address change details

Dennis Redfield

dennis.lee.redfield@gmail.com



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103

portlandfriendsmeeting.org

207-200-6544

"Is every aspect of your life open to the transforming power of God? What stands in the way? Are you open to the many ways Spirit may speak to you? Do you recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires?"

New England Yearly Meeting, 2014 (2015 edition) Interim Faith & Practice: Advices and Queries

Calendar

July 2: 5p, Meeting for Worship (summer schedule begins), potluck to follow

Monthly

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship

First Sunday: 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (open for all)

2nd-5th Sundays: 10-10:20a Intergenerational singing

1st Thursday: 4-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen

Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

2nd Saturday: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck

Bart Czyz, btczyk@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

2nd & 4th Sundays: 8:45a Adult Religious Education

10:30a Children in Meeting for Worship

10:45a First Day School

SUMMER SCHEDULE! Plan ahead for our...

Summer Sunday evening meetings for worship,

Post-evening-worship potluck meals, and

Summer "business meeting"

Mark your calendars!

First evening worship: Sun, July 2nd, 5pm, followed by a potluck

Final evening worship: Sun September 3rd, 5pm, followed by a potluck

July/August "business meeting": Sunday July 30th, after the potluck



Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
May 7, 2017

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m., with 28 members and attenders present.

Co-clerk Jennifer Frick read query #5 from the new interim Faith & Practice, asking whether every aspect of our life is open to the transforming power of the Divine, whether we are open to the many ways Spirit may speak to us, and whether we recognize divinely inspired insight (as opposed to our own needs and desires).

1. Minutes. The April minutes were accepted, and no corrections were noted. Lise Wagner noted that minute #6 from our March meeting for business should be corrected to say that, "We approved the transfer of member from Portland Friends Meeting for Marian Hall to Downingtown Friends Meeting in Downingtown PA,
2. Treasurer: Kathy Beach presented the treasurer's report. Here's the financial summary:

For the month of April:

Income: \$5,140
Expenses: \$7,321
Balance: (-\$2,181)

For the year to date:

Income: \$20,442
Expenses: \$23,347
Balance: (-\$ 2,905)

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses
4 months — 33% of 2017**

Year-to-date Income	\$20,442
Percent of Budget	30%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$23,347
Percent of Budget	34%
Balance	(\$2,905)

In addition to Friends' contributions to the operating budget, eighteen Friends donated \$627 to a carbon tax program that was set up by our Peace and Social Concerns. The money raised will go in equal portions to the organizations: 350 Maine, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Climate Disobedience Center.

The annual Easter Breakfast was also a fundraising success. \$845 was raised. \$360 will go towards school tuition for Bradley, who lives at the Kakamega Orphan Care Center in Kenya. The children of our Meeting decided to donate the remaining funds to the Telling Room and The Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) – each to receive a check for \$242.50.

Kathy and Sue Nelson met with our auditor, Beth King, in April to review our books for 2016. Our accounts were found to be in good order.

3. Adult Religious Education: Judith Spross reported for Adult Religious Education committee, on the rich program of classes and workshops that they have sponsored. We appreciated the work of this committee, and how much such education helps in our spiritual and social life together. Judith noted the assistance the committee has received from Ann Dodd Collins.

The entire report will be appended to these minutes, and printed in the meeting newsletter.

4. Ministry and Counsel: Jane Mullen reported for Ministry and Counsel, announcing the following schedule for our meetings this summer:

First evening meeting: First Sunday in July (July 2)
Last evening meeting: First Sunday in September (September 3)
Summer Meeting for Business: Last Sunday in July (July 30)

5. Falmouth Quarterly Meeting: Dorothy Grannell reported that eighteen Friends from four of the six Falmouth Quarter Meetings, including seven from Portland Friends Meeting, met in South China, Maine during the All Maine Gathering. There was general feeling that the Quarter should continue and not be laid down, but they did not come to clarity about how best to proceed, and, no leadership emerged to create a planning committee or take on a clerk's role.

At the suggestion of Noah Merrill, General Secretary of New England Yearly Meeting, five people agreed to take part in a conference call on May 11 with leaders of other quarters and with the Clerk of NEYM. Falmouth Quarter is in hiatus until further notice. Meetings in the Quarter are encouraged to read the State of Society reports in their meetings for business, and to continue the work of the visitation team by visiting other meetings in our local Quaker neighborhood.

(cont-)

6. Peace & Social Concerns – Host Congregation for Great Portland Family Promise Program: Rob Levin presented a recommendation from Peace & Social Concerns committee, with assistance from Ellen Jackson and Bren Wilson of the Greater Portland Family Promise program.

Rob explained that the Peace & Social Concerns committee has been seeking meaningful local action that we can take as a meeting regarding the social disarray in the wider world and here in Greater Portland. They were excited to propose that we become a "Host Congregation" with the Greater Portland Family Promise Program, which is seeking thirteen congregations to take turns hosting families that are now in Portland's homeless shelter system. Each church, synagogue, or mosque would host families for one week at a time, approximately four times a year. One or two support congregations would be paired with each host congregation, and would provide volunteers throughout the week.

We can expect up to 14 people (1 to 4 families, most of whom would likely be children) staying overnight at our meeting house when we host. Families would spend daytimes at the Portland YMCA, where they would have support from a full-time social worker to help them find permanent housing and employment. Families would be screened by FP for suitability (e.g., no current active substance abuse or domestic violence issues). They would be at the host congregation for supper and overnight sleeping. Volunteers from PFM and one or two support congregations would help with cooking, cleanup, socializing, etc. Two volunteers would sleep overnight at the Meetinghouse, and a professional from FP would be available by phone 24 hours a day. Volunteers would not be doing any transportation or case management for the families, only providing hospitality.

Just like any other activity we undertake, volunteers from PFM would self-select, and anyone who does not wish to be involved would not have any responsibilities. FP would provide portable beds; we would provide linens. We would pick weeks that works for us well in advance.

Rob reported that Lise Wagner, our Meetinghouse Use Coordinator, does not anticipate substantial scheduling conflicts, as there are no regular weeknight uses of the building. There would be no disruption to our worship time, as the families would arrive on a Sunday evening and be out well before Meeting the following Sunday morning. An FP volunteer toured our building, and reported that it's a good fit for this program – particularly as we have several different rooms. Rob is in touch with our insurance agent, and is awaiting confirmation as to whether our existing insurance policies would cover our actions under the program, or whether we might need a policy endorsement. Most church liability policies around the nation have covered the program as part of the organization's faith activities. We could expect a visit from the Fire Department to make sure we are safe for such usage, and that we meet the city's fire code standards. This would probably require us to upgrade our heat detectors to smoke detectors, but this would probably be a modest expense, and it's something that our Building and Grounds Committee had been considering already.

FP asks for a one-year commitment (four hosting weeks) from host congregations, with details of our and their agreement spelled out in the Covenant printed below. At the end of a year, we could reassess.

Becoming a host congregation would be a big commitment for Portland Friends Meeting, but our Peace and Social Concerns Committee feels that challenging times call our Meeting to take on big challenges, and recommends that we do become a host congregation. Being a host congregation, they suggest, would be a fitting way for our Meeting to act as a faith community and to live out our belief in Welcoming the Stranger, in addition to the many ways in which we serve as individual witnesses for social justice issues. It would also be a way to share our beloved but underused Meetinghouse.

At least two Friends have expressed interest in serving as Volunteer Coordinators, which are the most important roles to fill as a host congregation.

We were assured that FP has the resources to thoroughly screen guest families, to support host congregations with issues that may arise, and to train all of our volunteers. The day program at the YMCA includes extensive case management resources. The FP organization is ready to provide assistance regarding cultural sensitivity, so that people feel comfortable in their host environment, are respected, and are not proselytized. FP could provide funds to cover fire protection and other expenses occupancy related expenses, and may have liability coverage that can assist us as well.

Portland Friends Meeting agreed to participate in this program as a host congregation, and authorized the clerk of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee to sign the covenant agreement below on our behalf – subject only to satisfactorily resolving any issues regarding liability and life safety.

(cont-)

6. Peace & Social Concerns – Host Congregation for Great Portland Family Promise Program: (cont-)

Covenant between Portland Friends Meeting and Greater Portland Family Promise

On behalf of Portland Friends Meeting, Hereafter 'Host Congregation'), a new host congregation for Greater Portland Family Promise, I understand that we will be accommodating up to 14 guests during our host weeks, and we agree to the following for a period of at least one year from the commencement of the program:

1. To identify two persons, a primary and an assistant coordinator, who will take the leading coordinating host volunteer activities. These positions should be no less than 1 year commitments, to facilitate consistent communications with volunteers within the congregation. These persons will attend at least two Greater Portland Family Promise Host Coordinator meetings per year.
2. The use of our facility for providing overnight hospitality to guests during the weeks prescribed on the annual 'Hosting Calendar', of at least two weeks per year, and no more than six weeks a year. We understand the average congregation typically hosts one week per calendar quarter. The 'Hosting Calendar' is coordinated with each congregation and by mutual agreement only. The Host Congregation dictates the number of weeks they host.
3. To provide twin-sized linens for each guest, to include: a fitted and a flat sheet, a pillow with case, and a suitable blanket(s). This bedding is for on-site use only.
4. To provide daily meals, to include: an evening meal, light breakfast and supplies for lunch. Note: Guests can participate in meal preparation and clean-up.
5. To participate with representative leaders from your community in two review meetings per year, with Family Promise Board representatives, in an effort to garner feedback about program performance, opportunities for improvement, and any additional feedback necessary for optimal host engagement.
6. To promote, support and encourage involvement by persons from the Host Congregation in Greater Portland Family Promise events.
7. To consider budgeting annual contributions to support the mission of Greater Portland Family Promise
8. To provide volunteers and welcome volunteers from outside the congregation to provide support for guest families from 5:00pm to 7:30am Monday through Friday, including two overnight hosts, and at least two (2) but up to six (6) volunteers at a time during those hours.

Family Promise, as the management body of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, will be responsible for:

1. The screening of all prospective guests.
2. Case management for all guests
3. Crisis management for any issues that arise with guests or in the facility because of the guests' presence.
4. Daily transportation to and from the host congregations, Monday through Sunday.
 - a. Note: Transportation scheduling may vary according to the needs of the guests.Generally, families will arrive at the host congregations in time for dinner and leave no later than 7:30am.
5. Providing a twin-sized bed, or blow up mattress, for each guest, as well as two twin sized beds, or blow up mattresses, for the overnight chaperones.
6. Training the host congregation volunteers, and assistance upon request, including on call assistance during your host weeks.

Together Greater Portland Family Promise and the Host Congregation agree to:

1. Create a loving, encouraging, and welcoming environment for guest families.
 2. Strive to be culturally sensitive to the various backgrounds of guest families.
 3. Refrain from proselytizing and to work with other faith traditions in partnership with Greater Portland Family Promise with respect and cooperation.
 4. Respect the dignity of each guest.
- Note: Guest families may be invited to attend activities with the host community including worship services but not be required to do so.
5. Ensure that volunteers that are trained, screened, and background checked as appropriate.
 6. Offer privacy, to the best of our ability, for guests within our facilities.

We understand that training sessions for our volunteers are mandated. We accept that the staff of Greater Portland Family Promise will provide training to them so that participating volunteers will understand how best to assist the previously homeless

(minutes continued from page 4)

6. Peace & Social Concerns – Host Congregation for Great Portland Family Promise Program: (cont-)

families that are guests in the network. This training will be provided at least one week, but no more than thirty (30) days prior to our first hosting session.

It is the Agreement of Family Promise that the first hosting week for this Host Congregation will be no less than forty-five (45) days from receipt of the signed covenant agreement.

We closed in silent workshop at 10:25 a.m., with 38 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again, God willing, at 9:00 a.m. on June 4, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Fink,
Co-Recording Clerk



A Climate Pilgrimage — Portsmouth, NH to Bow, NH — Week of July 9, 2017

www.climatepilgrimage.org

Friends, we are called by God in these times of impending climate cataclysm to make a witness to the divine power to renew all things. We invite you to join us in pilgrimage to the last remaining coal-fired power plant in New England operating with no plans or date for closing.

Beginning July 9th, we will walk, pray, share fellowship, sing and worship through southern New Hampshire, exploring how we may be called in these times to follow the prophetic examples of our forebears: to act in the truth in witness to the power of God breaking us out of our ordinary lives to be instruments of justice and peace. The 6-day walk will be Quaker-led and open to all.

We confess that the reality of climate change is overwhelming and we do not know exactly how to respond to the devastating truth that the world as we know it is ending. Yet, we also know that a stable climate requires an immediate phase-out of fossil fuel use. Given this reality, we must immediately shut down all coal-fired power plants and rapidly shift away from our region's dependence on natural gas and toward renewable energy.

We walk from Schiller Station, a biomass and coal plant in Portsmouth, NH, to Merrimack Station in Bow, NH, the only coal-fired power plant left in New England without a shut-down date.

We walk praying for clarity, determination and boldness to take the necessary next steps. We walk acknowledging that we do not yet possess the inner resources to live our lives fully into the reality that our understanding of the climate crisis calls us to. We walk creating a community of holy obedience, understanding that we need each other in these challenging times. We walk bringing public focus to the immorality of perpetuating the status quo, and to a genuine hope for a different future.

We walk to build together a beloved community, to see what faith in action looks like. Our hearts are on fire with divine love even though our hands are slow to repent and our feet are slow to change. This is a time for renewal and transformation.

If your heart is stirred to join us, sign up for more information on our website, or call 774-313-0881. If you are called to lend a hand in planning, please indicate so on the form and we will be in touch.

We cannot wait to walk with you.

In Abiding Love,

New England Yearly Meeting (Quakers), Prophetic Climate Action Working Group

Peter Blood-Patterson (Mt. Toby), Minga Claggett-Borne (Cambridge), Louis Cox (Burlington), Brian Drayton (Souhegan), Alice Grendon (Mt. Toby), Dunan Herman-Parkes (Mt. Toby), John Humphries (Hartford), Katherine Fisher (Beacon Hill), Meg Klepack (W. Falmouth), Jay O'Hara (W. Falmouth), Wendy Schlotterbeck (Durham) and Ruah Swennerfeldt (Burlington)

Adult Religious Education (ARE) Committee Annual Report 2016

Members¹

Muriel Allen (member, September 2016 to August 2017)

Arthur Fink (member, September 2015 to present; Clerk, 9/15 to 9/16)

Sandi Jensen (member since 2010; Co-Clerk, September 2016--to present)

Glenn Picher (completed service June 30, 2016)²

Judy Spross (1/1/16 to present; Co-clerk, September 2016 to present)

Ann Dodd-Collins (ad hoc participant to plan classes on eldering since January 2016)²

1 — Reminder: while this committee recruits members in the fall and files an annual report at the end of the year, our actual work is on an academic year schedule with meetings and classes occurring from September through June with one committee meeting in the summer to plan for the following fall and spring.

2 — We are grateful for Glenn's service and for Ann's ongoing participation in our deliberations on eldering classes.

Meetings

The ARE committee began the year meeting about every three weeks and now meets once a month (not at PFM) on a weekday. We meet for two hours during the week, usually offsite from PFM, to plan the class schedule, develop content for classes, plan newsletter communications, and conduct other administrative aspects of our work. Beginning in September of 2016, our schedule of committee meetings was announced in the newsletter to facilitate participation by interested members in suggesting topics.

Class Content

Since January 2016 we have offered over 10 classes: two on Artistic Creation as Spiritual Practice; two on Eldering; Spiritual Journeys; Birthright Gifts; Finding our Spiritual Gifts; two Quaker 101 classes--one on the History of NEYM (based on NEYM's Faith and Practice document); healing collective trauma; one on important schisms in Quaker history; two classes on pruning one's life to let spiritual light in; and one on spiritual aspects of experiencing mental illness or living with someone who has a mental illness. In addition, in June, we held a visioning session for participants to inform our planning for our class year which began in September. Sometimes the decision to have two classes was based on participant response to the one planned class (as in Artistic Creation as a Spiritual Practice or Eldering), leading us to modify our scheduled classes; other times the committee planned for two classes (as with the class on pruning our lives).

Depending on the topic, our classes rely on a mix of practices (e.g., silence, queries, and contemplation) and activities (e.g., personal writing/journaling and creative activity such as drawing) and usually include small group and large group discussion in addition to presentation of some content and resources. Since the classes are reported on in some depth in the newsletter, we are not reporting on the substance of classes here. Most topics lead to deep personal sharing and we have adopted a principle of double confidentiality (personal sharing is not discussed with anyone after the class and one does not ask a participant in the class about any sharing he or she did after/outside the class).

Attendance

Attendance has increased over the last year; the number of participants has ranged from 9 to 24 with an average of 12 to 13 each class, including committee members.

What we have learned

Discussions and participation are spirited, tender, insightful, interesting and Spirit-filled. In our visioning class we learned that there are members who would like more discussion and learning regarding the Bible--one area we have not yet explored. Discussions on art/creativity as spiritual practice revealed the ways in which participants regarded creation as a way to engage with and express one's spiritual self. Discussions on eldering revealed a range of views on the meaning of the term (negative and positive) and, perhaps, an opportunity for more discernment regarding being an elder in the PFM community. Topics that might lend themselves to an activity within PFM that goes beyond ARE classes are: identifying and responding to needs for spiritual support in experiences of mental illness and community spiritual support and collective trauma.

New Activities/Contributions

We are aware that participants in our classes represent a fraction of people who might like to come but who are

unable to. Therefore, in February we began publishing content and activities from each class that lent themselves to print format (e.g., the queries, a class summary, activities and resources). In addition, we aim to publish the upcoming two or three class topics in the newsletter so that people can better plan their attendance.

Also, understanding that the ARE class schedule is not convenient for some PFM members and attendees schedules, so we put out a call for Spiritual Journeys. We received two responses and will schedule them at times other than the ARE classes this spring.

ARE Budget and Administration

Our budgeted money (\$100) is used to purchase resources for the library that support the classes we offer (e.g., multiple copies of a pamphlet on eldering).

In the spring of 2016 we raised the issue of having more time for class as one hour was not enough. Ministry and Counsel committee agreed to temporarily extending the 9 to 10 am time to 10:10 if no singers were present to offer singing. As it happened, there is now a core group of singers committed to singing beginning at 10 am. A variety of proposals to have ARE use other space was floated. ARE submitted a proposal to Clerks/M and C for their meeting on December 21, 2016 to continue in the worship space (with justifications presented) and to offer class from 8:45 am to 9:55 am on the second and fourth Sundays. The members of Ministry and Counsel endorsed our proposal at their meeting and it will come before the Meeting for Business on January 1, 2017. Pending finalization of this decision, the members will communicate the time change in various ways with the PFM community.

Plans for the Coming Year

- Upcoming classes include eldering, additional Quaker 101 topics and contemplative writing
- depending on this second series of classes on eldering, the ARE committee members may bring forth ideas/proposal for further exploration of eldering at PFM
- evaluation of ARE activities and/or needs assessment activity re ARE topics and classes



Easter breakfast, 2017

Easter breakfast 2017



How to Make Financial Contributions to Portland Friends Meeting

Portland Friends Meeting values your spiritual and financial support of our Meeting. The Portland Friends Meeting graciously accepts financial contributions. Your generosity supports the life and work of the Portland Friends Meeting. You may give in the following ways:

1) Checks made out to the Portland Friends Meeting may be sent via usps mail to:

Treasurer, Contributions
Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, ME 04103

2) Monthly contributions: To contribute regularly from your online checking account, simply go online or go to your bank and set up a monthly bill pay to PFM at 1837 Forest Avenue, Portland, ME 04103

3) Automatic direct payment: If you are interested in setting up an automatic payment directly from your account to the meeting, please connect with Kathy Beach of the Financial Oversight Committee via email: katherinegbeach@gmail.com

4) Contributions of securities may be arranged through Kathy Beach of the Financial Oversight Committee via email: katherinegbeach@gmail.com

The Portland Friends Meeting is a nonprofit and donations are tax deductible as permissible by law.



The Annual Meeting for the Quaker Ridge Meeting House Fund will be July 31, 2017 at 10 am in the Quaker Ridge Meeting House.

Friends United Meeting triennial is at Great Plains Yearly Meeting in Wichita, KS from July 12-16. Scholarship support is available. <https://neym.org/events/6451>

Summer Rental ~ Captain's Quarters View from the Bridge

Friendly furnished home in the Falmouth 'Flats' with amazing views of Portland Harbor, and across the mouth of the Presumpscot River. You will see ships coming into the harbor, Ft. Gorges, Bug Light from the Master bedroom window. Upstairs: two bedrooms [king & double], one bath, large work/desk space ~ Main floor with kitchen, living room, dining, sunroom, and outside deck.

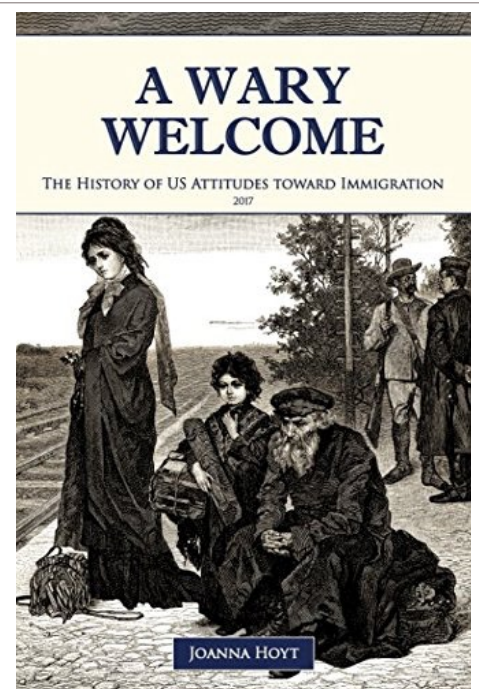
Currently available June 15 until September 15th. Prefer long-term rental[s] and will consider shorter stays. Very close to Portland, and walking distance from Mackworth island. Please call or e-mail for more details, and with questions. mcdowell.sydney@gmail.com or 207-415-0442]

There will be no newsletter in July. The deadline for the summer issue of the newsletter will be **Sunday**, August 6th at 11:59pm.

Please consider submitting a member/attender profile! For sample questions to get your writing juices flowing, email pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net.

It would be helpful to have a volunteer or two willing to nudge people to encourage submissions. Issues can get very thin (see the calendar as an example) — Quaker news doesn't stop, but only those items submitted to the newsletter will be printed!

Joanna Hoyt, former member of Portland Friends, has published a book about United States immigration policy and practice since the nation's beginning. *A Wary Welcome* is the title of the book which available through Amazon both as an online book or a paperback book. She also has a short story called the Guardian in a new online book called *Open Mind*. This collection of short stories focus on themes of acceptance and fear.



Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, June 6th, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

