

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Eighth Month, 2017

Meeting for Worship: 5pm September 3; following Sundays 10:30a

Adult Education: 8:45a, 2nd and 4th Sundays, beginning 9/24

First Day School: 10:45a, 2nd and 4th Sundays, beginning 9/24



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103

portlandfriendsmeeting.org

207-200-6544

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

jmmmaine@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

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address change details

Dennis Redfield

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"In worship we have our neighbors to right and left, before and behind, yet the Eternal Presence is over all and beneath all. Worship does not consist in achieving a mental state of concentrated isolation from one's fellows. But in the depth of common worship it is as if we found our separate lives were all one life, within whom we live and move and have our being..."

Thomas Kelly, 1991, New England Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, Interim 2014

Calendar

August 26 4p Memorial Meeting for Marian Hall

September 3 5p Meeting for Worship, followed by potluck

September 10 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
10:30a Meeting for Worship

September 14 5:30-7p Spiritual Journey Presentation, Quakers in Cuba

September 24 8:45a Adult Religious Education resumes
10:45a Youth Religious Education resumes

Monthly

Every Sunday: September 3, Meeting for Worship 5:00 pm
following Sundays, Meeting for Worship 10:30 am

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, btczyz@gmail.com, 207 899 5937



New England Quakers gathering in song at Sessions | Image by Robert Freund



**Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business**

July 30, 2017

We began in silent worship at 7:00 p.m. with 11 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Lea Sutton read from Thomas Kelly, 1991, as quoted in the New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, Interim 2014), which begins "In worship we have our neighbors to right and left, before and behind, yet the Eternal Presence is over all and beneath all."

1. Review of June Minutes There were no corrections.

2. Treasurer's Report

Sue Nelson reported for Treasurer Kathy Beach that thanks to a very generous donation by two members of our Portland Friends Meeting, we have a year-to-date balance of only -\$733. Even though there is one day left in the month of July, the report is given as if the month is over, since we will not have a report again until September. The seventh month is 58% of the way through the year. Our expenses are at 57% and our income is at 56%. This is wonderful news! We are slightly ahead of the game in terms of Meeting contributions. These are at 77% of our pledges for the year.

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses	
7 months — 58% of 2017	
Year-to-date Income	\$37,932
Percent of Budget	56%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$38,655
Percent of Budget	57%
Balance	(\$733)

In terms of expenses for June and July, the biggest item was our new insurance policy with Church Mutual. Previously, we were insured through the Hanover Insurance Company, but their policy did not cover some aspects of the Family Promise program. Rob Levin and the Peace and Social Concerns committee researched the best policy that would cover the program, and thanks to their thorough work, we are now insured adequately for the Family Promise Program. We will continue our coverage with Hanover for Workers Compensation coverage, as Church Mutual does not cover that.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

3. Appointing Representatives to Yearly Meeting We need at least two representatives. Nominated were Christina Davis, Doug Wagner and Lise Wagner. We approved these names.

4. Ministry and Counsel. Jane Mullen reported for the committee.

Ministry and Counsel Committee recommends approval of the request by Elisabeth Heij for membership in Portland Friends Meeting.

We heartily approved.

5. Family Promise. Tom Tracy reported on developments with our commitment to Family Promise. Ann Dodd-Collins is overall coordinator. The coordinators are requesting approval of a method for signing up volunteers, and a fund for miscellaneous expenses incurred in providing for our guests. Here are the details of the report:

Our First Hosting Week (September 17):

The week that PFM will be hosting families begins on Sunday afternoon, September 17th. This may be up to four families with as many as 13 people in all. Hosting elsewhere has begun. We will host again three other weeks, roughly at three-month intervals. As of this point a support congregation has not been identified to work with us.

A question arose whether we are partly responsible to find a support congregation. It was suggested that the church across the street might be a possibility. Because we are not certain about our responsibility here, it was left that the coordinators will pursue the question and return for any needed action.

(cont-)

5. **Family Promise.** (cont-) Volunteers: We need more! Especially for overnights when we need to fill 14 slots (two per night), but for other roles as well.

Coordinators: We need one more coordinator, the hosting coordinator to line these people up. Ann Dodd-Collins is our overall coordinator, Lise Wagner is our supplies coordinator, and Tom Tracy is our meals coordinator.

Volunteer forms are in the lobby. Please sign up and return them to Ann Dodd-Collins or Tom Tracy.

6. All PFM volunteers should attend a GPFP training session prior to the start of our first hosting week. One session will be set up for PFM either right before or right after Labor Day. Or PFM volunteers can attend a session elsewhere. Two are in early August:

Sunday, August 6, 1-4pm, HopeGateWay; Monday, August 7, 5:30-8:30pm, St. Ansgar

It was asked whether we need to register ahead for the training sessions. Tom indicated no, just appear and attend. Dorothy Grannell, Jennifer Frick, Lea Sutton and Muriel Allen will attend and be able to report back on further details by September.

Supplies Needed: Supplies needed will be posted in the lobby in early August. This will include sheets and blankets, but not mattresses and mattress pads. We are responsible for providing food for the seven days that guests will be staying with us. This includes all our guests' dinners and breakfasts - served at the Meetinghouse - and box lunches each day when they will be at the Y or at school.

Designated Account Needed: The Family Promise group would like to set up a designated PFM account to receive contributions from PFM supporters of GPFP efforts. They may ask that a line item for GPFP be put in next year's budget. With our experience this fall we should have a better idea what the expenses will be and to what extent volunteers cover them.

It was suggested that the coordinators approach Financial Oversight about how to proceed. Friends approved that approach. We also understand that Financial Oversight will make some initial decisions without approval of Meeting for Business due to time constraints.

An Easel for GPFP in the Lobby: We approved.

7. **Buildings and Grounds.** Syl Doughty reported on possibly necessary changes required by the Portland Fire Department in order to have families sleeping in the Meeting House, families not familiar with the building the way we are. You want any alarm to go through the whole building quickly, and people trained to lead occupants out quickly.

Syl and Peter Raszmann have met with representatives of Seacoast Security and the Portland Fire Department regarding whether code compliant fire resistive wiring is in place, changing heat detectors to smoke detectors, replacing the main panel, a new circuit to the boiler room for a carbon monoxide (CO) detector and new plug-in CO detectors in required locations near sleeping areas. Replacing the panel will eliminate the frequent false alarms we have had in recent years because of the age of the current panel. Inspections and Fire Department review of the work will take place in August. It is possible we will also need to install sprinkler heads in the boiler room and the hot water heater area.

We were reminded that PFM will require two adult persons to be present in the building overnight during sleeping occupancy, resting in alternating shifts of four hours. This relates to temporary sleeping occupants not being intimately familiar with the building in a fire emergency.

Buildings and Grounds will work with the Greater Promise group to coordinate placement of detectors and training of our overnight volunteers.

7. **Buildings and Grounds.** (cont-) The committee recommends that they be authorized to use operating funds from their 2017 budget to contract for this work in August if Seacoast comes up with a reasonable proposal. The Clerk indicated they can make these expenditures without our approval. If the expenses substantially exceed the amount budgeted, Buildings and Grounds will contact Financial Oversight. We greatly appreciate the work done by the committee and recognize the time constraints involved in readying the building for our Family Promise commitment (as well as the benefits to all the other groups we house here at retreats). We approve any reasonable necessary expenses for this endeavor.
8. **Grace Uwimana** She will be moving to Texas soon and it was proposed that we include her in our worship on August 13 to wish her well and thank her for her work with the children. Friends spoke positively of her presence at Meeting and with the children. Lyn Ballou will speak with Luke Hankins of Youth Religious Ed about including children in the celebration. She will also coordinate obtaining a card for people to sign and any contribution people would like to make to a small gift. Dorothy Grannell will coordinate the holding in the light on August 13 of Grace and those who have been working with her.
9. **Announcement from Heather Denkmire** The summer newsletter deadline is not until Sunday, August 6th at 11:59pm. However, I am recovering from a concussion so need to limit how much time I use the computer. This means I won't be in a position to cram-slam it all together quickly in a few days. I would greatly appreciate the following: send newsletter items to me as far in advance of the deadline as you can; send items as text-only, no formatting; if your newsletter item has a date/time that should be listed on the front page calendar, please make note of it in your email

We closed at 8:25 p.m., with 14 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 10, 2017, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Ballou
Co-Recording Clerk

Newsletter A.R.E. Report August 2017

The Adult Religious Education Committee has been working on potential topics for our Fall 2017 classes. Here are the ones that are definite at this time:

Sept. 24 and Oct. 22 - Tracy Booth will facilitate two classes on "Making Friends with the Bible." Tracy will share why the Bible has been important to her and ways that she incorporates it into her daily life. Others are invited to share how they experience the Bible. What do you gain from it? How does it guide or inform your inner or outer life? Is it relevant to you? How does God come through to you from these writings? Come join the conversation.

Teresa Oleksiw will lead one or two more sessions on contemplative writing, using prompts or queries to explore your inner life. Dates to be determined.

Other topics are in the works, so look for further information in the September newsletter and in e-group announcements. Some possible topics are Mysticism in Quakerism (for Quaker 101), a good accompaniment to Rufus Jones, known as "re-incorporator of mysticism." Also a discussion about the general philosophy of the new Faith & Practice with specific examples of changes from old to new. If you have any suggestions for topics you'd like to see offered, please contact Judith Spross or Sandi Jensen (see contact information in the new directory).

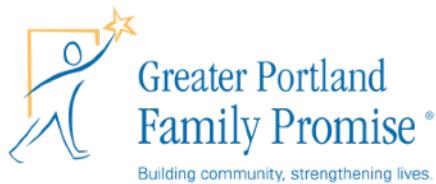
The Adult Religious Education Committee is pleased to offer the first Spiritual Journey Presentation this fall: Thursday, September 14, 2017 5:30 to 7:00 PM with Anne Dodd-Collins

Title: Quakers in Cuba

Description: In June 2016 the Friends United Meeting General Board visited Cuba. During our eight days there we not only had a board meeting, we also visited 13 of the 14 Quaker churches and missions in Cuba. I would like to share my thoughts and reflections... and pictures... of the time I spent in Cuba.

Query: Puente de Amigos was founded more than 20 years ago to create and support relationships between Friends in Cuba and in New England. Do Portland Friends have a part to play in fostering this relationship?

Light refreshments will be served.



Greater Portland Family Promise is up and running, and Portland Friends Meeting will be hosting our families for the first time the week of September 17. Between now and then, there is much to do. Some of you have already signed up to volunteer. Some of you have offered linens and toys and other items that we will need. Thank you.

Now we need to figure out just what we have and what we still need. If you have offered to provide any supplies for our Family Promise families, please email Lise Wagner (lise.r.wagner@gmail.com) and Ann Dodd-Collins (doddco@gmail.com) with details. Needed supplies are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Twin sheets | Washable blankets |
| Pillowcases | Towels |
| Washcloths | Infant bathtub (if needed, can be loaned for the week) |
| Baby food, cereal | High chair (if needed, can be loaned for the week) |
| Cleaning supplies | Booster chair (if needed, can be loaned for the week) |
| Coloring books, crayons | Cooking utensils |
| Facial tissues, paper towels | First Aid Kit |
| Food staples | Infant soap, shampoo |
| Iron, ironing board | Lunch/sandwich bags |
| Paper, pencils, pens | Plastic or rubber gloves |
| Toys, books, games | Recreational items (i.e. games) |
| Bedside tables (can be loaned for the week) | Backup toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, bar soap, etc.) |
| 40w lamps (can be loaned for the week) | Alarm clocks (can be loaned for the week) |

Early in August we will have a signup sheet for hosts and for meal preparers available in the lobby of Portland Friends, as well as the detailed list of needed supplies.

If you have signed up to be a host, you will need to attend a three-hour training. That will happen a couple of weeks before we are scheduled to host. If you cannot attend a training, you can still help with laundry, setting up on Sunday, and off site meal preparation.

Thank you.

Ann Dodd-Collins
Phone: 207-232-9576
Address: 120 Pleasant Ave, Apt 3, Portland ME 04103

Maher: "Mother's Home"

Bringing Dignity from Despair to At-risk Women and Children in India

SisterHeart: Story of an Indian Nun and Maher Meet Maher's Founder, Sister Lucy, come be inspired, hear about this heart-warming work

Sunday, August 27th
Unity of Greater Portland, 54 River Road,
Windham, ME
10:00AM Talk and 12:00PM Workshop

For more information contact us at 207-893-1233
or unitychurch@roadrunner.com

From Barbara Rose McIntosh:

I have a number of items that need a new home. Please call me at 893-1448 if you would be able to adopt them! Also, I could really use some help packing in the next couple of weeks. Thank you!

Fiskars 'Momentum' reel lawn mower (a push mower), Bee keeping equipment, Camping equipment, Art supplies, Games, Car roof rack

Newsletter assistance: Thank you to Edd Burns for converting files to text, and to Becky Steele for getting the Pages document ready for layout for this issue. Unfortunately, my concussion symptoms haven't improved enough that I might need to skip doing the layout for September's issue; getting this very small issue ready was a challenge. Is there a PFM member/attender who might be willing to take on the September issue? Thanks for considering it! Heather 207-590-8540

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, September 12, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

