

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Twelfth Month, 2017

Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10:30a

Adult Education: 8:45a, 2nd and 4th Sundays

First Day School: 10:45a, 2nd and 4th Sundays



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portlandfriendsmeeting.org
207-200-6544

Connections

Co-Clerks

Jennifer Frick 939-1312

Lea Sutton 642-2327

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 391-6116

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Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940

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South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 749-9706

Special Needs Funds

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Judy Spross 617-872-8817

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Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

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“Let us bring the whole of our daily lives under the ordering of the Spirit. Let our faith free us from crippling fears so that we may live adventurously. In relations with others, let us exercise imagination, understanding, and sympathy. Let us live and work in the plainness and simplicity of true followers of Christ.”

Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries, 1985

Calendar

December 16	4-6p Portland Area Friends Camp Meetup & Cookies at PFM 6-8p Portland Area Quaker Youth Group board game night at PFM
December 25	6:30p Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship
January 14	12:30-2:15p An Open-Hearted Inquiry into Racial Identity, PFM
Every Sunday:	10:30a Meeting for Worship
1st Sunday:	9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (all welcome)
2nd and 4th Sundays:	8:45a Adult Religious Education 10:45a First Day School
2nd-5th Sundays:	10-10:20a Intergenerational singing
2nd Saturday:	5-8p Youngish adults potluck Bart Czyz, bczyz@gmail.com , 207 899 5937



The “Middles” (ages 8-13) with the “integrity quilt” they created during First Day School in November.

Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

December 3, 2017

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m., with 18 members and attenders present.

Co-clerk Lea Sutton read the query on personal conduct, from Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries, 1985: Let us bring the whole of our daily lives under the ordering of the Spirit. Let our faith free us from crippling fears so that we may live adventurously. In relations with others, let us exercise imagination, understanding, and sympathy. Let us live and work in the plainness and simplicity of true followers of Christ.

1. **Minutes.** The November minutes were accepted, with one correction: The opening quotation was from Cathy Whitmire, not Whittier. (This error was introduced by the auto-correction feature of the software program Pages.)
2. **Treasurer:** Kathy Beach presented the treasurer's report. Here's the financial summary that she presented:

For the month of November:
 Income: \$4,007
 Expenses: \$2,170
 Balance: \$1,837

For the year to date:
 Income: \$55,210
 Expenses: \$58,573
 Balance: \$(3,363)

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses	
11 months — 92% of 2017	
Year-to-date Income	\$55,210
Percent of Budget	81%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$58,573
Percent of Budget	86%
Balance	(\$3,363)

As of the end of August, we have completed 92% of our budget year. Here are the percent of budget that we have actually spent during that period (January – August 2017):

Income	
Donations	76%
Rent	155%
Endowment	92%
Total	81%

Expenses	
Meeting house	95%
Meeting community	68%
Contribution to other orgs	100%
Total	86%

3. **Financial Oversight Committee and Budget** Jo Linder reported that the Financial Oversight Committee recommends moving Portland Friends Meeting investment and endowment funds from PAX World Fund to Friends Fiduciary Corporation to be placed in their Consolidated Fund. Less than 3% of their funds (now about 2%) are invested in fossil fuel related companies, and none in oil companies. They have a "green" fund, with even more rigid investment criteria, that we may invest in later. Right now, the green fund is too small for us to consider as our major investment fund. We approved this request to move our funds from PAX World Fund to Friends Fiduciary Corporation Consolidated Fund, with the hope that Financial Oversight will recommend that we invest a nominal amount in the Green Fund at this time. We hope that we will later be able to responsibly invest more of our funds in the Green Fund.

We heard a deep feeling that expressing our concern about the environment will be an important witness to our testimony. At the same time, we were told that Friends Fiduciary having some ownership in fossil fuel related companies gives us a platform to express our concerns. Our not moving significantly to the green fund right now led one Friend to stand aside as we took this action. The Financial Oversight Committee will be looking closely at this situation, and surely this matter will stay before us. Meanwhile, we are all able to decide how any funds that we may have are made available to corporate or social institutions.

We expressed appreciation to Sara Jane Elliot for her long standing work with our investments.

(minutes continued from page 2)

3. (cont-) The proposed 2018 budget proposal was given preliminary review, following a detailed presentation by Jo Linder. It needs final approval at the January Meeting for Business.

4. Ministry and Counsel Kirk Read reported for Ministry and Counsel.

Ministry and Counsel convened a clearness committee for Wayne Cobb (led by Denis Lachman and including Kathy Beach and Andy Grannell) which endorsed his membership with great enthusiasm. With similar enthusiasm, we approved accepting Wayne Cobb into membership.

As announced in the November newsletter, Jane Mullen and Mary Tracy for Ministry and Counsel have begun organizing a variety of ways for the Portland Friends Meeting community to begin expanding our understanding of white privilege and racial justice, and to be open to deep and lasting transformation individually and as a meeting.

We are fortunate to have Julie de Sherbinin, with 20 years of experience in this effort, help us start with four different workshops in January and February. Mary and Jane have now been joined by Jessica Eller, Dorothy Grannell, and Elizabeth and Sophie Szatkowski to add other kinds of opportunities and resources to engage everyone in our meeting. Sophie is already planning something for March.

Here are the events already planned: (More details will be coming in the newsletter.)

Sunday, January 14, 2018, 12:30 - 2:15 An Open-Hearted Inquiry into Racial Identity led by Julie de Sherbinin and Susan Davies. Bring your lunch.

Sunday, January 21, 2018, 12:30 - 2:00 "Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity," film and discussion led by Julie de Sherbinin and TBA. Bring your lunch.

Sunday, February 11, 2018, 12:30 - 2:00 Voices of Color / Color of Change led by Julie de Sherbinin and Dorothy Grannell. Bring your lunch.

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 12:30 - 2:00 White Fragility and Dismantling Racism led by Julie de Sherbinin and TBA. Bring your lunch.

Sunday in March (to be determined) Privilege Walk led by Sophie Szalkowski and a TBA.

5. **Membership Transfers** We approved sending a certificate to Clearwater Monthly Meeting of Friends, in DuneDin Florida, for the transfer of our member Terry Garrett to their meeting. We will expect to receive confirmation when this is completed.

Lea Sutton reported that the clerks wrote to Atlanta Monthly Meeting of Friends, confirming that we have accepted Sharon McDonnell into membership, following their transfer request sent to us.

6. **Nominating Committee** Rob Levin presented a committee list for our approval. We approved, with gratitude, the new slots on committees and meeting roles, understanding that there may be some changes and corrections.

Rob also presented the following report for the Nominating Committee:

This was a challenging season for Nominating Committee. We had five spots to fill on Ministry and Council, more than usual. Although it took quite some time, with many people considering and declining, we eventually filled each spot, and think that M&C will benefit greatly from the new additions of Peter Woodrow, Jessica Eller, Dorothy Grannell, Luke Hankins, and Kiya Smith. We also had an extensive process of finding the right person to serve as the next Co-Clerk. We asked 17 different people to consider serving in that role, and 17 people declined the position. Several were quite interested, and especially keen on the prospect of serving with Jennifer, but they ultimately found that this was not the right time for them. Throughout the process, we kept calm and carried on, having faith that way would open. Yesterday evening, I received a late-breaking offer from an unexpected corner. But I had to inform my 11-year-old daughter that she would have to become a licensed driver first, among other objections that came to mind. In the end, way has opened, and we present for your approval our next Co-Clerk, Lea Sutton. Lea has valiantly agreed to stay on for a third year, and we believe that no coercion was applied in her reaching this decision. This also means that one year from now, we'll be looking for two Co-Clerks at the same time. We'll be looking for an experienced hand, someone has already served as Co-Clerk in recent memory, to come on for a one-year term, as well as a first-timer who would serve the usual two-year term.

We have asked ourselves what it means that so many people have declined the Co-Clerk position this year. There does not appear to be any particular trend in this direction. Last year was our easiest year ever, when Jennifer, the very first

(cont-)

(minutes continued from page 3)

6. (cont-) person we asked, said yes. We believe our previous high was 8 or 9 asks. In any event, we don't have any particular recommendations for review going forward, and we hope that this year is anomalous. If we do run into this problem again in the near future, then perhaps we as a Meeting would have to consider whether any structural changes would be wise.

The Nominating Committee appreciates deeply the seriousness with which people consider requests to serve.

We closed in silent workshop at 10:25 a.m., with 31 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again, God willing, at 9:00 a.m. on January 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Fink,

Co-Recording Clerk

Portland Friends Meeting – 2018 Budget Proposal

	2018	2017	Change
Income			
Donations	55,550	54,740	1,310
Rent	2000	1500	500
Fundraising	0	0	
Endowment	10,000	12,000	reflects (4500) annual endowment replenishment
Other			
Total Income	67,550	68,240	(690)

Meetinghouse Expenses			
Fuel	3000	3000	
Electricity	800	800	
Water & Sewage	1400	1400	
Phone	300	300	
Insurance/Worker's Compensation			500 – changed insurance plus increase to cover hosting overnights
	3000	2500	
Snow Removal	2100	2100	
Building & Grounds	5250	5000	250
Custodial Care of Meeting			
	2500	2500	
Cemetery (payment from cemetery endowment)			1760
	1760*	*	*220/month X 8 mo not reflected in prior budgets
Endowment Replenishment	0	4500	(4500) Consider omitting Loan repayment thru 2025
Subtotal Meetinghouse Expenses	20,110	22,100	(1990)

Meeting Community			
Religious Ed Coordinator	8000	7500	500
Nursery Coordinator			
	4160	4160	
Employee Taxes	1000	900	100
First Day Program	1000	1000	
Childcare Providers	2400	2400	
Camperships/Youth Scholarships	4000	4500	(500)
Adult Religious Ed	100	100	
Adult Scholarships for Friends Activities	1500	1500	
FO/Payroll/Audit	600	750	(150)
Communications	700	1000	(\$300)
Peace & Social Concerns	150	150	
Library & Records	400	400	
Ministry & Counsel			
	200	200	
Clerk's Enrichment	500	500	
Pastoral Care	100	100	

Events Committee and Family Promise Program	1000	150	850
Special Needs Fund	2000	1500	500
Miscellaneous	250	250	
Subtotal Meeting Community	28,060	27,060	1000

Meeting Contributions			
NE Yearly Meeting	15,000	13,300	1700 [NEYM requested \$14,000]
Equalization Funds	0	1000	(1000)
Friends School of Portland	1500	1500	
Friends Camp	300	300	
AFSC	400	400	
FCNL	400	400	
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting	200	200	
City of Portland—in lieu of taxes	200	200	
Maine Council of Churches	150	150	
Quaker Ridge Building Fund	80	80	
Preble Street	400	400	
NAACP	0	400	(400) Check returned twice in 2017. *If keep need PFM liaison to connect with NAACP; individuals encouraged to contribute directly.
FLGBTQC	150	150	
Ramallah Friends School	500	500	
FWCC	100	100	
Subtotal Meeting Contributions	19380	19,080	300
Total Expenses	67550	68,240	(690)
Balance	0	0	0

(Recipient Details follow on page 6.)



In the Advent garden...

Recipients of Portland Friends Meeting Contributions for 2017

NEYM offers youth & young adult programs, the annual Sessions, committee work, adult religious education and inter-visitation programs, and support for Meetings

NEYM Equalization Funds prior to 2016, used to provide financial assistance for attendees at annual Sessions.

Friends School of Portland (Maine) is an independent preschool through 8th grade arising from Quaker faith and practice with which many members/attenders of PFM are involved

Friends Camp of China, Maine is a co-ed overnight summer camp that offers youth campers creative activities, experience in living our Quaker testimonies, and lots of fun

American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service based on Quaker principles

Friends Committee on National Legislation fields a team of peace lobbyists to connect Quaker testimonies with peace and social justice issues which need to be addressed

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting supports Quaker Meetings in southern and western Maine

City of Portland exempts religious organizations from property taxes; PFM chooses to give a donation to the city in lieu of such taxes

Maine Council of Churches, an ecumenical community of nine denominations, is a voice and resource in support of the vision of a sustainable, just, and compassionate world

Quaker Ridge Building Fund helps with the general upkeep of the small, historic building in Casco, Maine that is open certain times of the year

Preble Street Soup Kitchen serves meals to homeless and low-income adults, children, and families in Portland; Meeting members and attenders volunteer there once a month.

College Guild provides free, non-traditional correspondence courses to prisoners to stimulate an interest in life long learning and relieve the boredom of prison life

Ramallah Friends School is a West Bank oasis of peace-making and high quality education for both men and women. Founded in 1870 as a direct outreach of Maine Quakers, today its graduates attend the finest colleges here and throughout the world.

FLGBTQC is a Quaker faith community focusing on the concerns of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer and offering them inclusion and love

Friends World Committee for Consultation purpose is to encourage fellowship among all branches of the Religious Society of Friends.

The Racism Within Me

I grew up in New York City, on 20th Street and the East River, in the upper middle class housing project Peter Cooper Village.

An integrated neighborhood? Certainly, the city has a good racial mix, but, by legal agreement, Peter Cooper Village, and its sister, Stuyvesant Town, was all white. There were a handful of Asian families, but no black or brown.

So, the only people of color that I encountered were manual laborers, housekeepers, nannies, tradespeople, and perhaps a few nurses. The lesson I learned, from my daily experience, was that these were the vocations reserved for people of color. This was never said to me, but it seemed plainly obvious.

And to this day, when I see a person of color in a mostly white environment, a voice in me will likely say, "What's he (or she) doing here?". Thankfully, another voice in me will quickly answer, "Arthur, he (or she) belongs here!". I trust that the person of color can see that inner dialog — it's no secret.

The first voice is the voice of the endemic racism of our society, that still resides in me. It may have faded a little, but it's still very present.

The second voice is the voice of my moral compass, that leads me to outwardly very acceptable behavior, and sometimes allows deep friendships across racial lines.

The fact that both voices are present in me, and I expect in most or all of us, should be a matter of real concern. When asked, "Am I a racist?", I'd like to say "No — of course not.". But given what I shared above, the honest response really would be, "I'm stuck with much of the racism of our society, even though I try hard to shed it in my behavior." —Arthur Fink

Member Profile: Kathy Beach

The prevailing theme of messages from the spirit these last few Meetings has been gratitude. I'd like to add my personal gratitude for all the gifts I have received, both from Portland Friends Meeting as well as from other aspects of my life.

Portland Friends Meeting enriches my life in many ways. First of all, it is so wonderful to be among so many Friends who share my values and outlook on life. I feel comfortable and in my own skin whenever I am in a group of Friends. I have a particular affinity to the group of Friends at PFM, many of whom have become my closest friends over the years. I've been inspired by role models such as Mary Hillas, Barbie Potter, Ruth Bowman, Virginia Philips, Doug Urank, Margaret Raymond, Bob Philbrook and Hal Burnham, to name a few who have passed on.

As I near my retirement date on December 29th of this year, it is a time of transition. I've been saying goodbye to many patients, some of whom I've known for my entire career in Women's Health. I started working at Maine Medical Center's Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic in April of 1984. I worked there as a nurse-midwife for 13 years, delivering some of the babies who now attend our Meeting as adults! From there, I went into private practice at Coastal Women's Healthcare, again having the privilege of being with many women at that special time of their lives, during pregnancy and while they are giving birth. During my career, I have attended 3,332 births. I kept a journal of each of those experiences, and am filled with gratitude whenever I look back at those notes. Women in their 80s still remember their childbirth experiences, as it is such a moving, often difficult, full-body and euphoric event for most!

In 2009 I was invited to join a colleague in her Pelvic Medicine practice. I took this opportunity, as I had had so many years already relating to young women and their families. The Pelvic Medicine position was an opportunity to relate to women who have finished their childbearing years and need help with various pelvic floor issues. As I was getting older myself, I welcomed the chance to talk with older women who have gained some wisdom and have interesting life experiences to share. I also had the chance to further my education and to do some research in Women's Health. I earned my doctoral degree in 2012 from Mass General Hospital in Boston. This additional education has allowed me to network with others in my field, to share knowledge, and make some advances in clinical practice.

Throughout my 33-plus years of practice, I have taught at UNE and USM on a very part-time basis. My retirement from clinical practice will allow me to teach a few more classes and yet have the freedom to pursue other interests outside the medical field.

Every Sunday I mark the beginning of another week by sitting in silence with all of you at PFM. This is just what I need to start the week off on the right foot! At my best, I'm open to all the messages that come. I often bring a knitting project with me, as that repetitive motion centers me and allows my mind to be free and open. I sit in a back row in case my knitting is a distraction to someone. No one has ever challenged me on this practice, and I think Friends are tolerant of many things. To be truthful, I'm afraid to ask the clerks if this practice is OK!

During my time of attending PFM since 1985, I have served on quite a few committees. I have been the Treasurer for the operating budget and on the Financial Oversight Committee for the last 10 years. I am also presently on the Events and Leadings Committees. Being a member of these three wonderful committees gives me a chance to know Friends in a deeper way, and to contribute to the life of the Meeting. My plate is full, and I am eternally grateful to Portland Friends Meeting for all it gives me on a very regular basis. Many thanks!



Family Open House at Friends School of Portland

Saturday, January 6th, 10:00am-12 noon

Tour our energy-efficient school 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. Our Head of School and Director of Studies will be on hand to answer your questions. This event is for families with children entering preschool through 8th grade. Prospective students and their siblings are welcome! If you would like to attend, please click here to RSVP or email Jen McNally, Admissions Director. Please note that the application deadline for the 2018-19 school year is January 31.



Saturday, December 16, 6 PM at 10 Mayo Street in Portland, a Rwandan dance and drums performance titled "Intore Dance." Admission is free. Donations are being accepted to support Rwandan immigrants.

Art Opening - Celeste Henriquez

"Freedom" is the title of a duo-expositie, illustrator / painter, Celeste Henriquez is in with Bristol, Maine painter Conrad Guertin. The afternoon opening is Saturday, January 6 from 1:00-4:00 at the Frank Brockman Gallery, in Brunswick, Maine, 68 Maine St, 3rd floor. Come treat yourself to large abstract paintings, a gorgeous loft space in downtown Brunswick!

502 Deering Center Open House

Our new mixed use building at 502 Stevens Ave. is nearing completion, and to celebrate we are going to have an open house on Dec. 17, from 1 to 4. It is a unique opportunity to see the entire interior before it fills with tenants. The first floor is for commercial enterprises, and includes a bakery and a movement studio. The second and third floors will be apartments.

For further information please contact Kiya and Denis at:

502DeeringCenter@gmail.com



A Shovel is a Prayer

by Carrie Newcomer

A shovel is a prayer to the farmer's foot,
When she steps down and the soft earth gives way.
A book is a prayer when the words call the reader,
When the story is water to a spirit that's thirsty,
Which is unlike the prayer that is doggish and faithful,
Eyes trained on the door where the beloved returns.
A friend is a prayer when they ask the right question,
When they bring over soup,
And they laugh at your jokes,
When they text you a photo,
Because you are lonely
Or weary
Or just that far from home.

A fish is a prayer
To a man in a boat
Sunburnt and shading his eyes,
Who drops in his line,
And tracks its descent,
Down below the surface of things.
Which is almost, but not quite,
Like the prayer of the fish,
Letting go of what's safe,
In a litany of leaping,
Just for a glimpse,
Of what is glowing and glorious,
So close,
But still out of reach.

A glove is a prayer that covers the hand,
It's a dancer with taped feet and toes.
A poem is a prayer when it hints at the edges,
Says more than it says,
Or points to what's true.
A baby is a prayer when it's finally asleep,
A whispered "Amen" at the end of the day.
It is the dome of the sky all scattered with stars
Bearing names we don't know,
Which makes us feel haunted.
It's heavy as grief and weightless as smoke,
A dam that keeps breaking
Washing down the dry valleys,
Carving out canyons of stone.

Book and CD Recommendation from Sandi Jensen

Back in 2015 I went to the FGC gathering in North Carolina. One of the highlights for me was the evening performance by Carrie Newcomer, a singer/songwriter, poet, essayist, environmentalist Quaker woman who is very down to earth and inspiring. Her voice, both what she says and her singing voice, is moving and leads to deeper perceptions and understandings. I strongly recommend owning some of her books of poetry and CD's. The books are great bedtime reading for short journeys into the mystical and the ordinary miracles of life. I have included one example from The Beautiful Not Yet: Poems, Essays and Lyrics (to the left of this review).

I have bookmarks all through this book, but some of the writings I highly recommend are: To Be Like a Tree, The Hummingbird, and Be Kind, Be True and Pay Attention--Goshen College 2016 Commencement Address. Be sure to listen to her songs on your music app of choice or order the CD.

Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship

We will have Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve at 6:30pm. Worship will combine contemplative silence with Bible readings and singing. Heather Denkmire, Jessica Eller, Kate Potter, and Jocelyn Lee have volunteered to help, but could use a few more volunteers. Email heather@grantwinners.net if you might be available to help with setting up, cleaning up, playing a musical instrument, or other simple tasks. Thank you!

Belize in January!

I (Ann Dodd-Collins) am planning to go to Belize in January as part of an FUM (Friends United Meeting) team to work on the new Belize City Friends Center. Would anyone like to join me? The Belize Friends School moved to their new space last April, but there is still work to be done on the building which was purchased last year and which will include not only the school but also a community center, apartments for staff, and a dorm for guests. In addition, there is an ongoing need for tutors for the students. Dale Graves, project manager, says that no matter what your skill set, he will find a job for you. Cost for a week, which includes a place to sleep, all our meals, and plane tickets from Boston to Belize City, should be less than \$1000. Think about it. Belize. In January. If you are interested, please contact me at doddco@gmail.com or 207-232-9576.

I believe there is something in the mind, or in the heart, that shows its approbation when we do right. I give myself this advice: Do not fear truth, let it be so contrary to inclination and feeling. Never give up the search after it: and let me take courage, and try from the bottom of my heart to do that which I believe truth dictates, if it leads me to be a Quaker or not.

Elizabeth Fry, 1780-1845



**Portland Area Friends Camp Meetup & Cookies
Saturday December 16th, 4-6pm, at Portland Friends Meeting**

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/735620416645539/>

We will be gathering to connect and hang out as well as decorate cookies. We will donate our completed cookies to Preble Street (an organization serving families experiencing homelessness).

Who: Any Friends Camp community member. Bring a friend who might be interested in Friends Camp! Children should be accompanied by adults.

What: Decorating cookies, snacking, and hanging out.
When: Saturday, December 16th, 4-6 pm. Drop in any time.
Where: Portland Friends Meeting (1837 Forest Ave)
Why: To enjoy being together and engage in service.

We are looking for a few volunteer families to bring cookies (ready for decorating). Please email Friends Camp Director Anna Hopkins (director@friendscamp.org) if you are interested in helping out.



**Portland Area Quaker Youth Group - Board Game Night!
Saturday December 16th, 6-8pm, at Portland Friends Meeting**

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/163184127622724/>

Come eat pizza and play board games with Young Friends of Portland and beyond! PAQYG is a community of high school age Quakers from Portland and the surrounding area in Southern/Central Maine. Went to Friends Camp? Not Quaker, but Quaker-curious? Come see some familiar faces and meet some new ones, and see what Young Friends is all about (hint- fun, cuddle puddles, definitely not oatmeal).

BYOBG - Bring Your Own Board Game

Pizza and other refreshments will be provided, feel free to bring drinks and snacks of your choosing!

RSVP via this form- it helps us plan how much pizza to get.
<https://goo.gl/forms/LLJomYsO1Ps2ZnYA2>

Position: †Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow

Community, Social Justice, Transformational Spirituality

Quaker Voluntary Service is a year-long service program in which young adults, between the ages 21-30, live communally, work full time at social service and social change agencies, and explore themes of spiritual and personal growth with local Quakers.

An ideal QVS Fellow brings an openness to working with diverse community members, a willingness to explore questions of faith and spirituality, and an ability to function well in a professional setting. QVS Fellows should be prepared to ask challenging questions of themselves and each other about how to live simply, with integrity and justice while doing meaningful and mutually empowering service with marginalized populations. QVS service sites cover a wide range of social and environmental issues including, but not limited to, housing and homelessness, immigration, environmental sustainability, economic justice, education, human rights issues, mental and physical disability, youth justice, and racial inequality. Fellowships are available in Atlanta, GA, Boston, MA, Philadelphia, PA, and Portland, OR. QVS provides housing and utilities, a public transit pass, grocery allowance, support securing health insurance and mental health resources as needed, student loan counseling and assistance, a simple living stipend, access to attend conferences and trainings, dedicated time for reflection and community building, as well as robust support from staff and volunteers. All Fellows who successfully complete the year will receive an exit stipend.

The program year is from 8/26/18-7/19

How to Apply: Apply by March 15, 2018 at <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/apply/>

You will also need to have reference forms from a current or past supervisor, a spiritual mentor/friend, and a housemate by the March 15th date, which can take a while, so you are encouraged to begin the process now. You can find those forms here: <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/references/>

For more information, including a list of our partnering agencies, please visit <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/>



**QUAKER
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**

Dear Friends of the Quaker Ridge Meeting House

One highlight of the year since my last annual letter was the visit to the meetinghouse by a group of fourth graders from a South Windham church who were curious about Quakers. Janice Beattie gave a brief presentation of the history of Quaker settlement on Quaker Ridge, the two forms of worship represented by contrasting décor on each side of the partition, and invited them to experience a few minutes of silence. The children were fascinated by the pump organ. Their tour then took them up to the top of Hackers Hill for a picnic.

At our Annual meeting in July, Peggy Flagg asked to step down from her role as contact person and bookkeeper for the Fund. For many years, Peggy has been a champion for the meetinghouse, giving careful attention to maintenance needs, suggesting improvements, and keeping meticulous records. We thank her for her dedication and service, and count on her continued inspiration as we look ahead to a future that includes Maine's Bicentennial in 2020. For now, I am taking on the tasks related to our bank accounts and insurance policy, with hopes that someone who lives year-round near the meetinghouse might volunteer to help out.

Since my last report, contributions to the operating budget totaled \$1037 from 17 households, Lewiston†Meeting, Portland Friends Meeting, Windham Friends Church and anonymous donations left next to the guest book. We are deeply grateful to Janice Beattie, Sylvia Bronner, Colin and June Cassidy, Linnis Cook, Monique Crochet, Dan and Betsy Crofts, Jean Fields, Laurie Geiger, Conrad Hall, Loren and Carol Hall, Tom and Holly Hancock, Christine Holden, Brian Hunt, Alice Maxfield and Nelson Camp, Katherine Potter, Peter and Ellie Szanton, and Sally Wallace.

We mourn the death of Tom Hancock in mid-July. Tom brought Seeds of Peace campers to visit the meetinghouse on several occasions. One Palestinian wrote appreciatively in the guest book about the wall maps of the Holy Land and Jerusalem.

Thanks go also to Steve Edwards, Peggy Flagg, Loren and Conrad Hall for contributions of time and effort to keep the meetinghouse in good financial and physical shape.

As of October 1, the Fund's checking account with Norway Bank showed a balance of \$160.99, with \$1845.38 in the regular savings account, and \$6066.06 in the Next Hundred Years savings account. Expenditures totaled \$1082: Insurance (\$827), classified ad in Friends Journal (\$105), cleaning (\$30), and annual renewal of four road signs (\$120).

Please consider making a gift to the operations budget and/or to the Next Hundred Years Fund. Contributions are tax-deductible and may be sent to Betsy Crofts, 1373 Butternut Drive Southampton, PA 18966, payable to the Quaker Ridge Meeting House fund. Thank thee!

May your holidays be blessed with kindness and joy,

Betsy Crofts, trustee
The Quaker Ridge Meeting House Fund
emcrofts@gmail.com

Breath of Heaven

Amy Grant

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy father you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now
Be with me now

Breath of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of heaven
Breath of heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness
For you are holy
Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong
Help me be
Help me

Breath of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever...

These are the lyrics of the song I quoted in worship on Sunday. It is Mary's prayer but when one gets to the second verse I feel it becomes the prayer of many of us who are stressed by the decisions they face or our world tight now. It asks for help to follow a hard path and for the Spirit to wrap around us and hold us. — Dorothy Grannell



Racism? Privilege? Quakers?

Let's talk about it.

Quakers of European ancestry may feel unsettled or uncertain in conversations about racial identity. Meanwhile, Quakers of Color in the United States can feel invisible, marginalized and/or frustrated by the lack of awareness, interest, and/or action in monthly meetings in regard to white privilege and racial healing.

NEYM recognizes a pressing need for economically and culturally dominant groups to implement practices of racial justice, and requests that each monthly meeting pro-actively respond to the Minute on White Supremacy that was approved at Sessions 2016, and woven into the programming at Sessions 2017*.

A PFM steering committee has begun organizing a variety of ways for our meeting community to begin expanding our understanding of white privilege and racial justice, and to encourage our ability to be open to deep and lasting transformation, both individually and as a meeting.

Five programs are scheduled, with descriptions following in this newsletter. The programs are open to all, though they are most suitable for teens and adults. You are welcome to participate in any or all programs, as best suits your schedule and interest.

Possible additional program formats include affinity groups, book groups, resource lists for individual or small group pursuit - and other creative ideas that YOU might have. Please contact any steering committee member with your thoughts and interests. Committee members Mary Tracy, Wayne Cobb, Jessica Eller, Dorothy Grannell, Julie de Sherbinin, and Elizabeth and Sophie Szatkowski envision an unfolding and enduring journey, and welcome fellow travelers!

* The Minute states, in part: "We are complicit in white supremacy. We at New England Yearly Meeting have been "colonized" by our white supremacist culture and fall short of our full potential as a gathered body of Quaker Meetings because of this colonization. We commit to engaging in interrupting white supremacy in ourselves: within individuals, interpersonally, in our meetings and at all system levels of NEYM"

Racism, Privilege, & Quakers

Food for Thought

New England Yearly Meeting Minute on White Supremacy <https://neym.org/news/2016-yearly-meeting-minute-white-supremacy>
<https://neym.org/sessions/news/talking-points-sessions-2017>

"Why It's So Hard to Talk to White People About Racism" by Dr. Robin DiAngelo, Huffington Post, June 30, 2015
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/good-men-project/why-its-so-hard-to-talk-to-white-people-about-racism_b_7183710.html

Videos

"Black Doll, White Doll" ; 15 minutes; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybDa0gSuAcg>

"Brown eyes/blue eyes: Racism experiment" ; 14 minutes; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHxFuO2Nk-0&t=4s>

"How Racist Are You? Jane Elliot's Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes Exercise" 46 minutes; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nqv9k3jbtYU>

"A Conversation with White People On Race" ; 5 minutes; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXow7oIFyIM>

Racism, Privilege & Quakers - Upcoming Programs

An Open-Hearted Inquiry into Racial Identity Sunday 1/14/18; 12:30-2:15

Presenters: Julie de Sherbinin (Portland) and Susan Davies (Vassalboro)

Format: Interactive workshop for everyone

Description: This workshop offers an entry point into the conversation about racial identity for all Friends, wherever we may be on the journey toward increased awareness, action and racial healing. Julie de Sherbinin and Susan Davies have co-led a number of sessions on inquiry into racial identity in Maine. Both are members of NEYM Permanent Board's ad hoc Work Group Challenging White Supremacy.

Racism, Privilege & Quakers - Upcoming Programs (continued)

"Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity" Sunday 1/21/18; 12:30-2:00

Facilitators: Julie de Sherbinin & TBA

Format: Film Clips & Discussion

Description: Shakhti Butler's film delves into the internal components and external relationships that perpetuate the system of racial inequity. We will watch pre-selected clips and focus discussion on responses to the issues posed therein. "Cracking the Codes" is designed for dialogue and is being used at meetings around New England as a catalyst for conversation.

Voices of Color/Color Of Change

Sunday 2/11/18; 12:30-2:00

Readings: "Black Quakers"; October 2015 volume of Friends Journal

Presenters: Julie de Sherbinin & Dorothy Grannell

Description: Further exposure to the heartbreak of racism and the ways it shows up in Quaker communities. Getting comfortable with the words "white supremacy."

White Fragility and Dismantling Racism

Sunday 2/25/18; 12:30-2:00

Facilitators: Julie de Sherbinin & TBA

Format: Readings / Small Group Sharing/ Discussion.

Description: Moving from learning to action ideas on advocating for racial justice. What holds us back? Where do we start? How do we discern future action?

Privilege Walk

March date and time TBD

Facilitators: Sophie Szatkowski & TBA

Format: Experiential activity for middle school, high school, and adult ages

Description: A Privilege Walk is a group exercise enabling participants to investigate how a range of types of privilege manifest in their lives. Possible sources of privilege and identity include – social, economic, gender-based, age-based, racial, cultural. Participants will be invited to discuss their experiences of the Walk after the exercise.

PFM Life of the Meeting — (Google) Email List Is Active!

By now, you should have received a few messages from the new email list, "PFM Life of the Meeting." The Yahoo list is done. If you have any questions, let us know at pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

To send an announcement, send an email to pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com. Some guidelines:

- make the subject line of your email the subject line that will go out to the list;
- remove your standard email signature (if you have one) to avoid the unintended appearance of advertising;
- only include text to be sent to the list, notes to moderator should be sent to pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

Our second list, about items and events "of interest to PFM" will begin in the coming weeks.



The Early Quakers of Greater Portland, Maine

(From the author: Hello Friends. For the past two years I have been researching the early history of Quakers in Portland, and in particular the activities of James Winslow, our first Quaker, and his family. I am grateful for the support of the Meeting in this work, which is ongoing. If you or a family member is acquainted with local Quaker history before 1850, please contact me at wcobb2@gmail.com.)

Part 2: James Winslow Comes to Maine:

Prior to Maine statehood, the Massachusetts township which once encompassed all of what is now Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Westbrook and Falmouth was called "Falmouth on Casco Bay," to distinguish it from the Cape Cod town of the same name. The earliest settlers, mostly Englishmen from Massachusetts, had suffered mightily while trying to maintain a foothold. They were forced to abandon the area when the township was destroyed by French and Indians in 1690.

One of James's first cousins, known as "Doctor" Nathaniel Winslow (who may have been a veterinarian), arrived in Falmouth around 1717, as the township was being resettled. He became a prominent resident, chosen to serve on the committee to lay out lots on Falmouth Neck (now the Portland peninsula).

In 1728 the influx of new settlers began in earnest. These included James Winslow, 41 years of age, along with his wife and seven children, ages one to nineteen. It seems likely that James was attracted here by his cousin Nathaniel; both had lived in Freetown during the same early years of the century.

The Town was offering lots in the common (unimproved) lands within the eight-mile square that then comprised Falmouth. Upon payment of ten pounds James received 104 acres, the standard for new settlers. Later in that year, "Dr." Nathaniel gifted his cousin all his holdings in Falmouth (presumably at least another 104 acres; perhaps much more). James was now a land-wealthy man in a burgeoning new town.

Before the year had ended, James "had a grant of land on Fall-cove brook at Back Cove [now Fall Brook], to erect a mill on....The privilege...of a corn-mill was voted to him in 1729." James didn't waste time: by the end of that year he was living near his mill site, probably on what is now Ocean Avenue. His was one of just a few grist mills in or around Falmouth.

James became active in Falmouth Town affairs. In 1730, the Proprietors selected him to be their agent to defend the case pending at County Court. The decision to select James, a heelmaker, to serve as their defense attorney, demonstrates his standing of high respect just two years after arriving in his new community.

In 1731 and 1732, James served on the Proprietors Committee for laying out of Common Lands in Falmouth. In 1732, after the merger of Old and New Proprietors, he was on a special committee "to make Sale of as much of the Commons of the Town...as should amount to 800 pounds (about \$190,00 today) to pay the Town's debts. In this capacity, James would have had knowledge of the choicest lands still available, and an insider's opportunity to select the finest for himself and his sons.

Within a month of the merger, an edict to evict was approved this was to assure the return of lands to their former owners and to remove squatters. As a result James was forced to abandon his mill (and presumably his home) at Back Cove sometime shortly after 1732, the year of the eviction notice.

Eminent Portland historian William Willis relates that, after leaving his grist mill privilege behind, James Winslow "removed...northerly to the Presumpscot River, near where its course is turned southerly by Blackstrap Hill." This description corresponds well to the site of the earliest Quaker meeting house in Maine, on what was once called Quaker Lane in today's Town of Falmouth.

There is good reason to conclude that James's home existed north of present-day Blackstrap Road in Falmouth, touching the south bank of the Presumpscot. There he and his wife would raise their four boys and three girls to adulthood. James by this time owned at least 200 acres of land in the greater Town of Falmouth, most of it abutting the shores of the Presumpscot River.

(Next month: The Beginnings of Quakerism in Falmouth)

Dear Portland Friends Meeting,

Below this note I enclose a letter that I wrote to my home meeting of Atlanta Friends Meeting to support my transfer to the Portland Friends Meeting. I have attended (albeit intermittently) PFM since we moved to Yarmouth Maine from Vermont in 2012.

I look forward to getting to know each of you better and in that spirit I want to tell you a bit about me and my family. I am a native Missourian married with two young-adult children. I was trained as a nurse, physician, and epidemiologist and in keeping with a desire to travel I have moved constantly — far and wide. I spent 3 years in Afghanistan/Pakistan, two in Geneva, some years with the US CDC traveling in Asia, Central America and Africa. I worked at Dartmouth for about 10 years and not I teach public health at the University of New Hampshire and I have worked on outbreak investigation and applied epidemiology for international programs. From 2014-2016 I was in Liberia on the Ebola outbreak investigation.

We have 10 acres on the Royal River in Yarmouth where we have chickens, which are my secret delight, a horse plus assorted other animals from time to time.

I am on the steering committees for the Yarmouth Community Garden and the Make Shift Coffee House, a project for civil conversations. My mother was a talented naturalist and photographer (Gay Bumgarner) and I inherited her business and that has opened up a world of learning a new way to see and learning the Latin names of the natural world. I have not only continued making her work accessible but taken on photography with my daughter in a venture called Mother-daughter press.

My daughter Natalya goes to SMCC and is a horse person and lover of Ancient history. My son Morgan McDonnell is working in Portland on parking enforcement and following his interest in acting and film making. My husband, Gib Parrish, is an amazing person— also an epidemiologist— and hopefully, you will meet these people soon.

Thanks for your support. As you see in my note to the clerk of AFM, I benefit from Meeting for worship and these growing connections to PFM. So much goes on underneath the surface.

Sincerely,
Sharon McDonnell

Attn: Atlanta Friends Meeting
Dear Friends and Clerk

Greetings! I am a member of AFM but way back In 2001 I left the southeast to move to New England. All these years later I realize I have found a new home and would like to transfer to the Portland Maine Friends Meeting.

What I do want everyone to know is that sometimes we do not know all the lives that are nurtured by our care and efforts. Do not underestimate the importance to others that live at a distance but remain connected by memories, the newsletters, and Friendships with Meeting for Worship. Despite my distance the Atlanta Friends Meeting has been very important to me and changed my life. The Friends School (FSA) was where my son found a wonderful community and also joined the meeting. The Meeting was my spiritual home.

Thank you so much for your kindnesses to me and my family. Please stay in touch and welcome to all if you are in Maine.



Natalya McDonnell graduates from Yarmouth High School. Shown with Sharon and Morgan McDonnell and Gib Parrish.



Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, January 9, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

