

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Second Month, 2018

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

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

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



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  
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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

Chris Beach 741-2940  
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### Ministry and Counsel

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### Pastoral Care Coordinator

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### Religious Education

Adult: Sandi Jensen 207-839-2372  
Judy 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  
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### e-group coordinator

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### Newsletter submissions

Heather Denkmire  
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### Address change details

Dennis Redfield  
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*“In all our fervor in all my fervor to be doing, have I paid too little attention to the power that lies in being? Do we remember that it is the spirit of our service, the aura that surrounds it, the gentleness and the patience that marks it, the love made visible that compels it, which is the truly distinctive quality lifting Quaker service above lobbying, above pressure, above coercion, that inspires the doubtful, and reaches to the heart of the adversary?”*

Stephen Cary, “The Quaker Proposition,” Friends Journal, November 1979

## Calendar

- February 11** 12:30-2p Voices of Color/Color Of Change, at PFM
- February 16-18** Young Friends Retreat, Wellesley Monthly Meeting
- February 25** 12:30-2p White Fragility and Dismantling Racism, at PFM
- March 2-4** Junior High Retreat, Wellesley Monthly Meeting
- March 4** Rise of Meeting, Potluck with Friends Journal, at PFM
- March 11** 12:30-2p Privilege Walk, at PFM
- March 25** 12:30-2p Worship Sharing, Racism, Privilege & Quakers, at 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, [btczyk@gmail.com](mailto:btczyk@gmail.com), 207 899 5937



Portland Friends Meeting Speaking Truth to CMP Power, in a “Solar Counterlobby” event: Details, including links to op-ed pieces by both Rob Levin and Muriel Allen, and more information and ongoing actions: [facebook.com/truthtocmp/](https://facebook.com/truthtocmp/)

**Portland Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business**  
**February 4, 2018**

We began in silent worship at 9:00 a.m., with 19 members and attenders present.

Co-clerk Lea Sutton read from Stephen Cary's article "The Quaker Proposition" in Friends Journal, November 1979, page 4, as quoted in Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, 1985 edition, page 197.

In all our fervor in all my fervor to be doing, have I paid too little attention to the power that lies in being? Do we remember that it is the spirit of our service, the aura that surrounds it, the gentleness and the patience that marks it, the love made visible that compels it, which is the truly distinctive quality lifting Quaker service above lobbying, above pressure, above coercion, that inspires the doubtful, and reaches to the heart of the adversary?

1. **Minutes.** The January minutes were accepted, with no corrections.
2. **Treasurer:** Kathy Beach presented the treasurer's report, which we accepted. Here's the financial summary that she presented for January / Year to date:

Income			
Donations:	\$4,905	9%	of budget
Rental income:	\$ 525	26%	
Endowment:	\$ 833	8%	
Total:	\$8,263	9%	
Expenses			
Meeting house:	\$1,465	8%	
Meeting community:	\$1,569	6%	
Meeting contributions:	\$3,050	15%	
Total:	\$6,084	9%	
Balance	\$ 179		

<b>Quick Summary of Income and Expenses</b>	
<b>1 month — 8% of 2018</b>	
Year-to-date Income	\$6,263
Percent of Budget	9%
Year-to-date Expenses	\$6,084
Percent of Budget	9%
Balance	\$179

3. **Carrying our unique qualities into the world.** We received, and accepted, a report of our individual responses to the prompt given a year ago during our "Continuing Quaker Education portion of business meeting: "What, as Quakers, are our unique qualities and how can we carry them into the world in this time of great need?" Many of the responses were displayed in our meeting room, and we agreed to have them all printed in our newsletter. Each response is a little different, but they all reflect our core values and practices, and all are compatible with our State of Society report below.
4. **State of Society Report.** Jennifer Frick presented the State of Society draft for its second reading, noting that some revisions had been made following our consideration last month. The report, as accepted, follows: (PFM and NEYM will be spelled out in each instance.)

State of Society report for 2017 Portland Friends Meeting, Portland, ME

Two thousand seventeen has been a year of turmoil, tumult, and at Portland Friends Meeting, *many* triumphs. The inspirational leadings of individuals as well as the actions of our committees have led us as a community to a greater sense of hope and optimism.

The Youth Religious Education program continued to be vital and thriving thanks to the enthusiasm of the many volunteer teachers, the coordinators, and, of course the wonderful children. Adult Religious Education provided many dynamic programs this year, as well as sponsoring presentations by members who shared their pictures, thoughts and reflections on journeys they were led to take abroad.

An amazing amount of work has been done this year by our Communications Review Committee in the areas of website upkeep, establishment of a new e-group with access for all who are interested in getting email communications, newsletter generation, and a complete revamping of our directories.

A small group of Portland Friends Meeting folks gathered regularly to revitalize the musical aspect of Meeting by exploring our hymnal, *Worship in Song*. They shared their "findings," old and new, with everyone, in a joyous 20-minute singing time prior to Meeting for Worship. The singing ends quietly with "Dona Nobis Pacem" before settling into silence.

(cont-)

(minutes continued from page 2)

## **State of Society report for 2017 (cont-)**

Falmouth Quarter held, at our meetinghouse, an extended worship, followed by workshops led by members who shared their personal action witness as ways individuals might be led to participate.

The work of Ministry and Counsel led to an exploration of the committee's purpose and responsibilities in attending to the spiritual life of the meeting. In response to New England Yearly Meeting's 2016 Minute on White Supremacy, M&C formed a racial justice steering committee that set up a robust range of relevant programming to happen in the first quarter of 2018.

Our Peace and Social Concerns committee led us this year to a meeting-wide action of becoming a host congregation for the Greater Portland Family Promise program. This led our Buildings and Grounds committee to ready the building according to current fire safety codes. Thirty-some members and attenders trained for, and participated in hosting, at the meetinghouse, families who were waiting to find affordable housing in the area. Supplies, meals, companionship, and many other forms of assistance were provided- led by our capable, industrious coordinators.

A Voluntary Carbon Tax Witness program, launched also by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, drew participation from twenty-some members and attenders, and netted \$1100 in the first three quarters of the year. This money has been donated to three climate change activist groups.

Other actions of note in which many members and attenders took part were The National Women's March, The Peoples Climate March, an Immigration Witness of placing a welcoming sign near the road at Meeting, , and a "Climate Hope" March based on a deeply-discerned leading of one member to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Paris Climate Accord.

At the end of the year we had eleven new members at our meeting, nine of whom were transfers from other meetings across the country.

The passion and commitment of so many of our members and attenders to so many aspects of meeting and the wider world has made this a rich and heartening year for us. At the same time, our need for new committees and bigger roles for the already existing ones continues to increase. Our hearty (in so many ways) Nominating Committee had a challenging time filling positions in various committees and in finding a co-clerk for 2018. But way has opened for all, and we look forward to an exciting new year.

5. **Nominating Committee.** Brad Bussiere-Nichols reported that Nominating Committee suggests the following names to serve on the Nominating Committee. We accepted their recommendations.

Elizabeth Szatkowski  
Sarah Cushman

Rob Levin, Chris Beach, and Brad Bussiere-Nichols will remain on the committee.

6. **Use of the meeting house 2017.** Lise Wagner, our Use of the Meeting House Coordinator, presented the following report about meeting house usage in 2017. We accepted Lise's suggestion that the word "experiment" be removed from the reference to our new "pay as led" policy, as we agreed to continue this policy that was such a success. The meeting expressed appreciation for Lise's enthusiastic work to keep our building well used.

This has been a busy year at our meetinghouse! I have learned a great deal as the new coordinator and have thoroughly enjoyed the work. I could not have done it without excellent support and counsel from Dorothy Grannell, back up from Sarah Cushman and Dorothy, emergency heating assistance from Peter Raszmann, and web assistance from Rich Nagle. Many thanks to them! In addition, the work of some of our committees has had a direct effect on the use of our building, including the Events Committee, the Communications Review Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, and Youth Religious Education Committee. I thank them all for their work, patience, and cooperation in making our building a place of gathering for many people and purposes.

Based on the 'experiment' of Paying as Led this past year, I would like to suggest that it was a fantastic success. As you know, the budget last year listed \$1500 for rental income. We had no trouble going right on past that, ending the year with \$2652 (177%). I did not experience any discomfort in speaking with people about appropriate rental amounts, and I believe that allowing people to pay an amount of their choosing was overall quite fairly done. I would recommend that this structure continue and that we remove the word 'experiment' from our website under the Rental tab.

(minutes continued from page 3)

6. **Use of the meeting house 2017 (cont-)** In terms of rentals, we were host to drumming workshops, spiritual groups, the Jung Center, a condo association annual meeting, Summer Wings day camp, the Somali Community Center retreat for 10-13 year-old girls, and the Riverton Water Aerobics holiday potluck! No pool needed!

In case you think these rentals may have crowded out use by our own meeting or others in the wider Quaker community, they did not. We hosted many committee meetings, Falmouth Quarter Extended Worship, FCNL training, Wabanaki REACH, the Arthur Morgan School, singing with Aaron & Laura, JHYM & YF retreats, intergenerational singing potlucks, AVP meeting, spiritual journey talks, Friends Camp cookie party, Portland Area Youth group game night, two memorial services, and last but not least, Family Promise.

I feel very blessed to be able to do this work for our meeting. I have met some wonderful people and have felt gratified that we are becoming known in the area as a place for peaceful gathering and joyful community. It warms my heart!

7. **Statistical report for 2017.** Lise Wagner presented the following preliminary statistical report for 2017, noting that a more complete report will be presented to Yearly Meeting.

Members in 2016: 114

Members in 2017: 123 (9 transfers in, 2 applications; 2 transfers out)

Average attendance at worship: 64 (up from 56 last year)

Average attendance at business meeting: 28 (up from 22 last year)

8. **Falmouth Quarterly Meeting.** Jennifer Frick read this report from Dorothy Grannell. They are asking our Ministry and Counsel to name a second representative to the Quarter, who would function as part of their Ministry and Counsel committee. We are to send our State of Society report to the Quarter for information – not approval, even though we are now also sending it directly to the Yearly Meeting. We will hold Lewiston Meeting in the Light, and we express gratitude for all those who have been holding the Quarter in the Light.

#### **Report from Falmouth Quarter January 27, 2018**

Falmouth Quarter continues its Sabbath year through 2018. Eight Friends met as a committee of the whole to transact the business of the quarter. Durham, Lewiston, Southern Maine and Portland meetings were represented.

A budget for 2018 was presented, amended and approved.

\$ 761.93      Balance as of December 30, 2017

\$100    Eli and Sybil Jones (Ramallah scholarship)

\$100    Friends Peace Teams (\$50/FPT \$50/Getry Agizah salary)

\$100    Clerks Discretion

\$120    Maine Council for Interfaith Advocacy Days scholarships (new this year).  
6 x \$20 especially for young adults, students, seniors and those on limited incomes

\$100    Meeting facilitation if needed for review with Lewiston Monthly Meeting (also new)

\$520    Expense total

Recording of Gift of Ministry: The transfer of recognition of a gift of ministry was received from Wilmington Yearly Meeting in Wilmington, OH for Martha Hinshaw Sheldon. Durham Monthly meeting has accepted and approved the transfer. Durham Friends brought this to Falmouth Quarter and it was approved. Martha will be under the care of Durham Friends Meeting. Her recording will be sent to New England Yearly Meeting. Martha has served in two yearly meetings in the mid-west in youth ministry, campus ministry, and healing and reconciliation ministry. She is a member of Durham Friends Meeting.

Representation of meetings to quarters: Each of the six meetings is asked to have two representatives who will receive Falmouth Quarter messages and participate in called meetings especially those for ministry and counsel. Dorothy Grannell is one of our representatives for 2018 and another should be designated.

## Report from Falmouth Quarter (cont-)

Reports from meetings in the quarter: The most challenging report came from Lewiston.

Currently only one person is attending worship at Lewiston. There has been no newsletter or business meeting since November. One person opens the meeting each week. Only once in 9 weeks has any other Friend attended. Falmouth Quarter has formed a committee with 4 volunteers to work with those Friends who have membership or regular attendance at the meeting. A survey will be developed to learn the impediments of individuals to their attendance and seek guidance as to how meeting can or should continue. Leslie Manning, Sarah Cushman, Dorothy Grannell and Martha Sheldon have agreed to take on this concern with care to work with Lewiston Friends.

As a meeting in a quarterly meeting under the care of a yearly meeting, the quarter has care for the overall health and spirit of the member meetings. Beginning a meeting, laying down a meeting and caring for the growth and development of meetings are the concerns of a quarterly meeting. The quarter is where a meeting goes when it has issues that it can not deal with itself. This is a tender concern. Please hold the quarter and Lewiston Friends in the Light so that the committee will be guided by the Spirit in its work with Lewiston Friends

Next meetings of our Quarter:

April 28 – location TBA (Windham?) – to read State of Society reports and memorial minutes. Report on Lewiston

July 28 – location TBA – to worship and share fellowship.

Oct 27 – location TBA – to approve the calendar and budget for 2019.

There is no All Maine Gathering in 2018; The sabbath will be over, and Falmouth Quarter will host the All Maine Gathering, in 2019.

10. **Junior membership for Knox Lewin.** Having received this letter from Paul and Dorianne Lewin, that Jennifer Frick brought to us, we gladly approved Knox Lewin as a Junior Member of Portland Friends Meeting.

Our Children, Damen, Ada, and Stone are members of Portland Friends Meeting, and we request that our fourth (Yeah, fourth!), Knox Richardson Lewin, be a member of this humble and friendly community. With our crazy life, and our ambition to have all the kids belong to Friends School Of Portland, we know that the Quaker community is a cogent base that our family can thrive on.

11. **Announcements.** Heather Denkmire reported that the PFM Wider Community List is now almost operational. All of us have been subscribed, but it is easy to unsubscribe for those who do not wish to receive the extra email. The PFM Life of the Meeting list is operational, replacing the former Yahoo eGroup. All of us with an email address have been added to that list. Heather noted that some of us have multiple email addresses, and may be receiving multiple copies of messages from either list. Let the list manager (address shown at the bottom of each message) know which address you would like to use.

We will urge newcomers to practice Quaker clarity in writing their email addresses as legibly as possible. People who do sign the guest book legibly will be added to the PFM Life of the Meeting list, but it is easy for anybody to unsubscribe. We expect to change the guest book so that people can indicate whether or not they wish to be added to the list.

Both lists are for announcements only – not for discussion.

Lea noted that all the photographs that were on the bulletin board are now in a book that will be placed in the parlor. We will welcome a new photographer to continue maintaining the “Faces of Portland Meeting” book.

We closed in silent workshop at 10:25 a.m., with 25 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again, God willing, at 9:00 a.m. on March 4, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Fink,  
Co-Recording Clerk





## Friend School of Portland Auction

The Auction is Friend School of Portland's most important fundraising event. Proceeds go directly to FSP's Annual Fund, which supports the most essential aspects of FSP - supplements the tuition assistance program and supports our amazing teachers' salaries and classroom activities. Last year, we had a successful auction because of all the generous donations of items and services. We hope that you will consider making a donation towards to auction this year!

The online auction will be "open" for 6 days, and will be full of wonderful, creative items to bid on. You will be able to invite family and friends near and far to bid by sending out links via email or social media. Our Live Auction and Iron Chef Competition will be held on Saturday April 7th from 10am-1pm.

We are beginning to collect auction items for this year's event! The deadline for donation items is Friday March 16th! Get the creative juices flowing! Our auction item theme this year is to speak our values in the world. Think of a way you love to spend your time, build community and being kind to others - is it sitting around a campfire? Donate a professionally built stone fire pit. Is it taking time to relax with family? Donate a week stay at a cabin. Is it enjoying delicious homemade food? Donate a homemade pie or cake! Is it spending time in nature learning new things? Donate a plant ID or mushroom walk. Is it making art? Donate a photograph, watercolor, piece of art made by you.

Feel free to fill out our online donation form here: <https://goo.gl/forms/eMw0ScqjJ1Fdp92>

If delivering in person, please bring donations to the main office, or direct any questions to the Development Coordinator, Brooke Burkett at [brooke@friendschoolportland.org](mailto:brooke@friendschoolportland.org) or 207-558-6214.



### March 4 Potluck at Rise of Meeting

Gabriel Ehri, Executive Director of Friends Journal will join our community for fellowship and discussion about Friends Journal's past, present, and hopes for the future.

Over a potluck luncheon community members will learn how this little Quaker magazine is:

- Growing the audience for Quakerism 100 fold
- Using video to nurture and educate new generations of seekers
- Standing up for Quaker values in a changing world

Gabe will discuss how this happened, what it may mean for Friends and our community, and what's next.

After the presentation, Gabe and other Friends Journal staff will be available for questions and feedback.

### Newsletter submission notes:

When submitting photos (please do!) please also include text to go with (explain) the images.

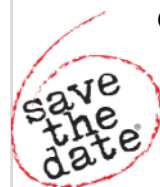
Consider sharing a member/attender profile of yourself!

Plain text (no formatting) is ideal, but not required.

Email submissions to [pfnnewsletter@grantwinners.net](mailto:pfnnewsletter@grantwinners.net)



### Group Listening Gathering on Racism April 29, Rise of Meeting



Last year, I listened to a spiritual presentation via podcast from the Deer Park Monastery's People of Color retreat. As a white person, I was moved to consider deeply the pain racism has caused in my heart. I went on to read the book "Radical Dharma: Talking Race, Love, and Liberation," co-authored by the presenter in the podcast, Rev. angel Kyodo williams. Her message — that we must do our inner work of transformation before we can fully participate in the transformation of the wider world — resonates with me. I'm honestly not sure how others might receive the podcast, but I'd like to invite PFM members, attenders, and friends to join me in listening to it at the Rise of Meeting on April 29. —Heather Denkmire

**Portland Friends Meeting**  
**Racism, Privilege, and Quakers — Upcoming Programs**

**Voices of Color/Color Of Change** Sunday Feb 11; 12:30-2:00

Further exposure to the heartbreak of racism and the ways it shows up in Quaker communities. Getting comfortable with the words "white supremacy." Readings will come from "Black Quakers"; October 2014 volume of Friends Journal (the articles are available online at Friends Journal and some copies may be available in the library).

**White Fragility & Dismantling Racism** Sunday Feb 25; 12:30-2:00

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? (Bring a lunch for yourself if you'll be hungry!)

**Privilege Walk** Sunday March 11; 12:30-2:00

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, and cultural. Participants will be invited to discuss their experiences of the Walk after the exercise.

**Worship Sharing** Sunday March 25; 12:30-2:00

Join with others to both listen deeply and share as led on two key questions: "Racism, Privilege & Quakers - What have we learned personally and as a meeting? Where or what do we do next personally and as a meeting?"

*Child Care will be provided as needed for those planning to attend any of the series of programs offered through Portland Friends Meeting on "Racism, Privilege & Quakers" To ensure that your child has care, please contact Susan Grannell at [grannell8@gmail.com](mailto:grannell8@gmail.com) or call 401-413-5951. Indicate the dates you will plan to attend, you name and the child's (children's) name.*



**Upcoming Adult Religious Education classes:**

Feb. 11 No Adult Religious Education class  
Feb. 25 The two February classes will be discussions to give community members a chance to reflect on, discuss and otherwise deepen our spiritual responses to the series on Racism, Privilege and Quakers  
Mar. 11 Contemplative Writing (Writing topic to be determined);  
Facilitator: Theresa Oleksiw  
Mar. 25 Contemplative Writing (Writing topic to be determined);  
Facilitator: Theresa Oleksiw  
Apr. 8 (note because of PFM's Easter Breakfast on April 1, Meeting for Business was moved to 4/8 so there will be **no class** today)  
Apr. 22 Writing a spiritual memoir (tentative title) with Andy Grannell  
May 13 Quaker 101: Threads of mysticism in Quakerism; Facilitator: Muriel Allen  
May 27 (Memorial Day Weekend) **no class**  
June 10 To be determined but likely our traditional final meeting of eliciting feedback and ideas for the next year.  
Let us hear from you! We welcome your feedback. Is there a discussion you'd like to facilitate? A topic we should consider? Are you curious about joining our committee next year. Feel free to reach out to any member at meeting or send an e-mail to **Judy** at [jaspross@gmail.com](mailto:jaspross@gmail.com) or call her at 207-775-2570 (home) or 617-872-8817 (cell).

**Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists**

We now have two email lists, sometimes referred to as "google groups." The first list is "PFM Life of the Meeting," for items directly related to Portland Friends Meeting or the wider Quaker world. The second is "PFM Wider Community," for any items of interest from the PFM community to share.

To send an announcement to PFM Life of the Meeting, email [pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com](mailto:pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com).

To send an announcement to PFM Wider Community, email [pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com](mailto:pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com).

Some guidelines:

- make the subject line of your email the subject line that will go out to the list;
- only include text to be sent to the list, do not include notes to the moderator; messages should be sent exactly as you want them to appear on the list.

For technical support or for any questions related to the lists please feel free to email [pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com](mailto:pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com).

## Attender Profile: Eli Rivers

**Where did you grow up?** As a child, I grew up in Norwich Vermont & Madrid Spain (also later, Columbus Ohio and Baltimore Maryland with Spain now & then)

**Go to school?** In public schools, except in Spain.

**What do you do for work?** I was a registered architect and upon moving to Maine from Maryland in 1991, a construction estimator.

**What are your favorite things to do?** Kite flying. I love kites, cooking, art in many forms, nerdy science and nature. Recently my brother has re-introduced me to fishing.

**Are there people close to you you'd like to tell us about?** I first came to PFM with my daughter Abigail and good friends Dee Kelsey and her daughter Emily.

**Pets?** I have a weakness for dogs and am on my second Australian Cattle Dog, Emmi. She is a grumpy, older dog that should be renamed a "couch hog".

**Tell us about the spiritual journey that brought you to Portland Friends Meeting.** I was raised Episcopalian. While in graduate school in 1981, I was getting pretty serious with a Jewish woman. She was pressuring me to convert. It made me reconsider everything and realized Quakerism is a good marriage with my core beliefs.

**What kinds of things would you like to do in our community?** I am a strong believer in community. One of the best sources for a community is the Public Library. I have been a Board Member of the Prince Memorial Library for over 6 years and am a member of the Library Lecture Committee.

**Is there something about you which might surprise us?** I'm looking into learning how to operate a sewing machine to make some kites of my own design.

### Arthur Fink Art Exhibit at Maine Jewish Museum

My exhibit, "Auschwitz I Images of Resilience and Light" is open for viewing at the Maine Jewish Museum weekdays from 10 - 4, and Sundays 1 - 5, until March 2, 2018. The museum is at 267 Congress Street, right at the head of India Street. I'm happy to meet people there for a "private" tour. And I invite school, church, and other groups.

Here are excerpts from my statement, posted at the beginning of the exhibit:

My goal is not to tell the viewer again about the sordid experience of life and death at Auschwitz or any of the other camps. Instead, my intention is that these images, and whatever conversations they stimulate, will help viewers explore together how we can create a constructive personal relationship with the Holocaust.

Much of what happened, we know. But what happened to the human spirit, and how can we keep that alive in its most vibrant form? I offer these images as one contribution to that dialog.



Sukie Rice at home following successful, extensive surgery that removed all the offending tumors! Sukie is surrounded the many paper cranes well-wishers sent to her.

Former Portland Friends Meeting member Arla Patch has been asked to serve on the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Multi-Cultural Audit Steering Committee. This committee will search for and vet an outside organization to perform an audit on the Yearly Meeting regarding our health in the areas of racism, sexism, heterosexism, genderism, ageism, classism, ableism, etc.



*“What, as Quakers, are our unique qualities and how can we carry them into the world in this time of great need?”*

- We are called to answer that of God in everyone and consider the cares of the world in that light. We will struggle in the current political climate with safeguarding our worshipful sanctuary and witnessing our Quaker faith and testimony to the world with strength and power. We will struggle with what may seem like a false dichotomy between spiritual and political. A best outcome would be a witness to our communities, both internal and external that makes manifest our love and spiritual connection across those categories.
- Friends do not try to convince, but witness to God’s love through our lives
- Qualities: Spirit-led, Community of integrity Carrying the message: Portland Friends Twitter account? Facebook page? blog on web page?
- By sharing with those around us- family and neighbors- that which is important or of major interest to us personally of thoughts, queries and actions emerging from PFM.
- By inviting non-attenders to meeting for worship or an event being hosted by PFM. Maybe a study group?
- By carrying the love of God-Goddess which abides in us all to all we come in contact with.
- We reject hierarchy. We strive to live personally-centered and at peace with the world about us. How? Walk the awareness in the world.
- There is “that of God” in each person. Walk cheerfully over the Earth, answering that of God in each person.
- Unblinking compassion  
Process is the point  
Silent Contemplation
- Quaker’s historical belief in the essential “goodness” (Divine seed) within every individual
- Plus our language of Testimonies is relevant, spoken with clarity and conviction.  
(change has always come through political channels- prison reform, anti-slavery, equality of gender, etc.)  
Spiritual Direction groups  
Religious Education  
One on one naming  
Spiritual Friends  
Acknowledgement of the gifts of different viewpoints  
Discernment and naming of values  
Seeing that of God in everyone even if we vigorously disagree
- I believe we are one of the few churches that believe in ongoing revelation. This has led us to articulate our SPICES teachings in ways that can seem political to non-Quakers. I think we need to find more effective ways to connect our faith roots to our political actions.
- Reaching for unity/community is our greatest strength
- There is that of God in each person. All of our beliefs and actions spring from this understanding. We have fostered a culture of self-reflection to be guided by this belief.
- Every interaction is an opportunity to speak from that of God within us and to that of God in the person(s) with whom we are interacting.
- Peaceful Cooperation and Welcoming
- To bear witness respectfully and encourage nonviolent protest
- Believing that there is God in everyone, we hold that each and every life is precious. Carrying that into the world requires constant spiritual centering as we live each moment facing conflicts and actions that press against that belief. Yet we must remain humble and strong in living out our belief.

*(See Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business minutes above for more information about these statements.)*

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Tuesday, March 6, 11:59pm

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

