

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Sixth Month, 2019

Meeting for Worship: 10:30a Sundays through 7/7
5p Sundays beginning 7/14

Adult Religious Education: 6/9 8:45a, then *summer hiatus*

First Day School: 6/9 10:45a, then *summer hiatus*



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“Offer up your time, talents, energy, and resources for God’s guidance in their use. You may find yourself called to work for which you feel no gift. With prayer and discernment you will understand how to respond to the call”

— Advice 13, NEYM Interim Faith and Practice, 2014

“Do you allow the Inward Teacher to work in you?”

— Query 3, NEYM Interim Faith and Practice, 2014

Calendar

June 9: Last day of First Day School before summer break (Celebration!)

July 14: 5p Summer schedule for Meeting for Worship begins, followed by potluck

Monthly

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship, through 7/7
5p Meeting for Worship, beginning 7/14

2, 3, 4, & 5th Sundays: 10:00-10:20a Intergenerational singing through 7/7

2nd Saturdays: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck
Bart Czyz, btczyk@gmail.com, 207 899 5937



All Maine Gathering, May 2019, held at the Portland Friends School

Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business
June 2, 2019

We began in silent worship at 9 a.m. with 15 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Dorothy Grannell read the following:

“Offer up your time, talents, energy, and resources for God’s guidance in their use. You may find yourself called to work for which you feel no gift. With prayer and discernment you will understand how to respond to the call”

Advice 13, NEYM Interim Faith and Practice, 2014

“Do you allow the Inward Teacher to work in you?”

Query 3, NEYM Interim Faith and Practice, 2014

1. **Minutes** We accepted the May 2019 minutes.

2. **Treasurer’s Report.** Treasurer Kathy Beach presented the Treasurer’s report five months into the year (42%). We finished the month of May with a positive balance, and our Year-to-Date balance continues to be stellar. Here are the numbers:

May 2019:	Year-To-Date:
Income: \$5,251	Income: \$54,050
Expenses:\$4,684	Expenses: \$30,527
Balance: \$567	Balance: \$23,523

Friends accepted the Treasurer’s report on the operating budget.

Kathy also reported on awards made by the **Leadings Committee**.

Genna Ulrich submitted an application for their work with bicycle panniers that are made from recycled materials. Genna pays attention to alternatives to the fossil fuel economy and to “building our community’s capacity to live joyfully and abundantly, without the use of fossil fuels”. A very successful workshop, which Kathy attended, was held at the Gear Hub so that bicyclists can make their own panniers from kitty litter containers and old back packs. Toolkits were available, with instructions on how to make a pannier from recycled materials. This grant supports Genna’s sense of community building and allows their talent as a group leader to shine.

Wayne Cobb has finished his book, Quakers in Early Falmouth and Portland, Maine, 1740-1850. This three-year project has given us all a deep look into the Quaker history that surrounds us. Wayne is now in the process of getting the book printed and then distributed to Quaker Meetings, Historical Societies, and a few libraries, including our own.

And finally, Theresa Oleksiw is going to continue writing her book, Middle Income Poverty. She will be interviewing people through the Cumberland County Food Security Council, Wayside, and the Maine Hunger Initiative. She is collecting stories from people who have experienced food insecurity. Now that Theresa’s daughter is going off to college at Bryn Mawr in September, there will be more time for writing and listening to stories from those who are living in poverty. Theresa writes, “This project can be mirrored all over New England, with Friends’ support for persons living below the poverty level. I hope patrons will feel valued and listened to as they add their voice to the legislative process. Impoverished people need to be heard. Through sharing their experiences living in poverty, especially issues around food insecurity, people can feel valued and maintain their integrity. For example, through writing exercises, I can provide a venue for people to be heard. Sharing burdens through writing can lift the heavy load for awhile and provide relief, peace and comfort.” Theresa has also received a Legacy Grant from New England Yearly Meeting.

We accepted the report on Leadings Committee grants.

3. **Nominating Committee.** Clerk Dorothy Grannell read the following report from the Committee: Nominating Committee is pleased to offer two nominations for approval. First, we propose Ann Dodd-Collins for Ministry and Council, to fill the vacancy left by Chris Beach due to his time away for the next year. We are thrilled that Ann is ready to join the Committee right after her extensive service with Family Promise. Second, we are very happy to propose Lea Sutton for Nominating Committee. With Lea’s addition, we will be comprised of Lea, Rob Levin, Elizabeth Szatkowski, and Sarah Cushman, and we will be seeking one or two additional members in the coming months.”

We approved the nominations.

(minutes continued from page 2)

4. **Adult Religious Education.** Judy Spross reported that the committee held a successful retreat this past Tuesday and has adopted this statement of purpose to guide their work:

Purpose of Adult Religious Education Committee of Portland Friends Meeting, Portland, Maine

'The essential function of religion is to radically connect us with everything. (Re-ligio = to re-ligament or reconnect.)' [Richard Rohr in *The Universal Christ*, pg. 7]

"The purpose of the Adult Religious Education Committee of Portland Friends Monthly Meeting is to support the spiritual life of our community by providing diverse opportunities for spiritual nurture, reflection, learning, and growth. The foundation of our activities are Quaker history, values, and witness. The goal of these activities is to encourage individuals and the community to actively seek and participate in the continuing revelation of what it means to be a Quaker."

Friends spoke appreciatively of the statement and suggested it be published regularly. The Committee will be testing future programs against these standards. Other committees are encouraged to consider statements of purpose for their work. We were reminded of the difference between charges and missions, and will consider future statements carefully.

5. **Youth Religious Education.** Andy Grannell, Youth Religious Education Coordinator, read the committee's year-end report, which follows.

Report for PFM's Youth Religious Education for 2019

Twice a month from September through to early June, Portland Friends Meeting has approximately 43 youth in its care. This is how we are currently dividing them up:

4 toddlers in the Pre-School/Kindergarten;

10 lively children's in the K-2, Thunder Quakers;

19 youth grades 3-8 in the Middlers; and

10 grades, 9-12 in the Teens.

Providing care, discussions, and support are Susan Grannell and the volunteers in the pre-school; Chris Fitze and Luke Hankins for the Thunder Quakes; Lydia Maier and Sarah Peterson for the Middlers; and finally, Maggie Nelson and Jonathan Ewell for the Teens. Please take the time to say thanks to each of these dedicated Friends. (We will have that opportunity next Sunday at the year-end celebration).

The highlights of the past five months are:

In a one month overlap in January, Anne Payson and I enjoyed a smooth transition following Anne's eight years of service as YREC Co-ordinator. Thanks again to Anne for her caring and careful work on our behalf over these eight years;

The Easter Breakfast fundraiser supported by the Teen group and YREC Committee Members netted, \$1,200; of this \$1,200, \$700 will be added to PFM's contribution of \$500 to provide \$1,200 in support of Bradley Iwungu as he continues his prep school education in western Kenya; by our continuing contribution and other like contributions, Friends of Kakamega have provided support for 100 high school graduates and now 25 college/university graduates;

Working with Brad Bussiere-Nichols, I provided the first concept design, and then Brad both adapted this design and then constructed a much needed new "Educational Resource Center." Here busy parents and caretakers can quickly and easily view announcements of upcoming events, retrieve needed scholarship forms - and in time - will be able to pick up some bedtime books for reading to their children; YREC members especially appreciate the cooperation of the Financial Oversight Committee in identifying the budgeted sources for funding this project;

Camperships/Sessions applications were advertised and personally solicited. On Sunday, May 19th Youth Religious Education members approved allocating \$2,480 to support the attendance of our youth at upcoming summer programs.

The tradition of hosting New England Yearly Meeting Young Friends Retreats at PFM continues. On the weekend of March 23-25, youth in grades 9-12 (and this included several of our own teens) gathered to learn more and reflect on the important topics of gender, sexuality, and relationships.

On Sunday, June 9th, we look forward to celebrating the contributions and achievements of our three graduating seniors: Abby Fortune, Doug Wagner, and Wilder Payson. Beginning in September, Abby will be attending Bryn Mawr College, Doug will be attending Earlham College, and Wilder Payson will offering his services to AmeriCorp. Please join us following as we enjoy a spring frolic in the cemetery with time for conversations, delicious food, and games.

Submitted on behalf of Youth Religious Education Committee's seven members are Luke Hankins (clerk); Bart Czyz (co-clerk), Anneke Hohl, Emily Silevenac, Chris Fitze. = Andy Grannell, YREC Co-ordinator.

6. **Ministry and Counsel.** Peter Woodrow reported for the committee.

New Member Jeff Nagle. Ministry and Counsel has received the request for transfer of membership of Jeffrey Karl Nagle from Brunswick Friends Meeting, and their recommendation of him to our care. A transfer committee of Ministry and Counsel recommends that we welcome Jeff to membership in Portland Friends Meeting.

Friends approved with enthusiasm.

Background for Greene Family Fundraiser. Andy Grannell described the history of programmed and unprogrammed worship at Portland Friends Meeting, using a chronology from 1742 to 1974. (A written version of the chronology follows these minutes.). In 1973, when this unprogrammed Meeting had recently merged with pastoral Oak Street meeting, Ralph Greene, the meeting secretary, was instrumental in trying to make this uncomfortable merger work. He gave his very best to this Meeting at a difficult moment.

Greene Family Fundraiser. Ministry and Counsel has received detailed information about the need for critical home repairs for the Greene family. Ralph Green has spent the better part of a lifetime supporting Friends activities in Maine and New England. For many years Ralph's wife Twila Greene was cook for Friends Camp. They worked for Friends but did not receive any retirement benefits. Durham Friends has an ongoing support committee for them currently raising money for building supplies from several Quaker funds for their current housing, which is in dire need of very basic repairs this summer. The total need is for \$9,480. They are asking local meetings to contribute to this fundraising and are hoping Portland Friends community can contribute at least \$600. Special Needs Fund will contribute up to \$200 for this effort.

Ministry and Counsel Committee encourages individual Friends to contribute to this important need as they are able. Nat Shedd, former director of Friends Camp, can answer questions about this project. Checks should be given to Jane Mullen or sent to Portland Friends Meeting to her attention. Checks should be made out to Portland Friends Meeting with Greene Family Support in the memo line. Friends are also encouraged to contribute to these repairs with their labor.

We approved asking individual Friends to contribute, and using up to \$200 from the Special Needs Fund.

7. **Buildings and Grounds.** Syl Doughty reported on the parking lot paving job. The Committee would like to invite bids from 3 contractors. They have divided the job into part A (the main lot to the east) and part B (the land to the west side of the circle). The Meeting has already approved A. It would be good to do both A and B at the same time to produce a better, stronger result. Currently, paving projects have been experiencing bids quite a bit higher than anticipated, so we need to decide whether to go ahead with B as well as A. Syl advises we need to pave before November, so that we could start the project later in the summer. It is possible to split the paving job between the fall (base coat) and spring (finish coat).

Jo Linder from Financial Oversight pointed out that we have in the past managed projects with rising costs in various ways including loans, fundraisers and reserve funds. She urged that we should go forward with this approved project, both Parts A and B, without the need to return to meeting for business before proceeding because of future changes in cost.

Friends approved inviting bids for both Parts A and B and moving forward with the bid chosen by the committee. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is authorized to proceed as they discern, with any necessary coordination with Financial Oversight. We can address any financial shortfalls at a later time.

8. **Other.** There was no other business to consider.

(minutes continued from page 4)

We closed at 10:25 a.m., with 22 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 7:00 p.m. on July 28, 2019, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Ballou
Co-Recording Clerk

A Brief Chronology of Portland Friends Meeting (1742-1974)

Transcriber: Andrew Grannell

Date: June 2, 2019

1662: The first transient Quaker Meeting for worship was held in December of 1662 by three women who had been whipped by civil/ecclesial authorities and banished from Dover, New Hampshire.

1742-1743: A few Quaker families meet for worship in Falmouth; James Winslow was the first of the inhabitants to who joined the Society; Winslow had migrated from Plymouth Colony to Falmouth, (Province of) Maine before 1728.

1752: A small Friends Meeting House was constructed on banks of the Presumpscot River in what is now the Town of Falmouth

1768-1769: A larger Friends Meeting House was funded by subscription and constructed on the same site as the earlier and smaller Meeting House,; this meeting house was 40 feet long and 32 feet wide.

1774: Friends were granted an exemption to paying taxes for the support of Congregational/Puritan churches and clergy in the area because it was recognized that they could not pay this specific tax in good conscience.

1787: Parson Smith wrote in his diary 24 December following the cessation of hostilities and the coming of peace to community harassed and impoverished by the War for Independence from England, "Quaker's annual meeting. Great numbers flocked. In the struggle for national independence, they maintained consistency in their conduct and opposed hostilities in every shape. They suffered their property to be taken for taxes and sacrificed, rather than willingly contribute to support measures which violated their principles."

1842: Third month, 24th day, Falmouth Monthly Meeting established a committee to review the condition of its 74-year-old Meeting House still located on the banks of the Presumpscot River in Falmouth and reported that the Meeting House was beyond repair.

1845: On 7th month, 24 day, the site of the new meeting house was chosen on the country road leading from Prides Bridge (Prides Corner area) to Portland in what would be later called the Riverton Area on land donated by Friend Caleb Jones and the choice was dictated by a shift in population up the Presumpscot River valley

1845: On 10th month, 15th day Caleb Jones and his wife Lydia Hacker Winslow Jones deeded to John Willmott, Josiah Winslow, and Robert Knowlton, overseers of the Falmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends and their successors a certain piece of land in Westbrook (now Portland) measuring approximately 165' in width and 330' in length (slightly larger than one acre) for a Meeting House and burial ground provided that "such society maintain a good and sufficient fence."

1845: Deconstructing the older Meeting House and transporting the 75 year old structural timbers to the new site, Friends constructed a building that duplicated the size of the older building, i.e., 60' long and as wide as the timbers would allow or approximately 30' wide; half of the building was ready for use by December in that same year; this building was constructed granite foundation and brick with a view to sustainability and durability; there were several Quaker farming families living in the neighborhood of the new meeting house.

1910-1920: Attendance at the traditional unprogrammed worship at Falmouth Monthly Meeting's Forest Avenue dwindled from 7 in 1910 to 3 in 1914, and for many years Augustus Jones was the sole worshipper joined on occasion by Henry Varney; the once vibrant farming community that surrounded Forest Avenue Meeting House had dwindled to the 'vanishing point.'

(Portland Friends Meeting chronology continued from page 5)

1918: Eleventh month, 19th day, Forest Avenue (Falmouth Monthly Meeting) was revived through the joint work of Tom Sykes, Carlos Hill, and other volunteers from the Oak Street Meeting

1921: Bible School attendance at Forest Avenue averaged 147, and the interior was remodeled to install a pulpit desk, benches were removed and folding chairs brought in, and other changes made costing \$1200 (or roughly \$15,000 in 2019).

1929: Lindley Cook (1900-1971) and Corona R. Cook (1898-1967) arrived just before the market crash in October and as the team worked in a 'missionary' mode to develop a community-based and Friends inspired meeting.

1931: The Cooks promoted the development of a wide variety of programs for Boys and Girl Scouting, Riverton Men's Club, Women's League, and many others; to accommodate these programs volunteers jacked up the brick meeting house onto supports and excavated the basement; Henry Varney supplied a yoke of oxen and a scoop to aid the excavation.

1934: Friends meeting at Forest Avenue sent a request to Oak Street Monthly Meeting that it be established as Forest Avenue Monthly Meeting; between 80 and 90 Friends whose membership had been held at Oak Street transferred their membership to the newly established Forest Avenue Monthly Meeting.

1936: Following the death of Alfred Ware, Oak Street welcomed Lindley Cook's proposal to serve that meeting part time along with Forest Avenue.

1940: Following Lindley Cook's example, five young men from Forest Avenue Meeting claimed recognition as conscientious objectors and instead of military service were assigned to Civilian Public Service camps and later to attending mental patients.

1940-1945: Due to public stance against military service, attendance at Young Friends Forum, Riverton Men's Group, and other activities dropped off dramatically

1945: Cooks leave pastorates at Oak Street and Forest Avenue and eventually leave for Central City, Nebraska where they spent another 21 years.

1952: Friends moving into the area and preferred unprogrammed worship and the era of programmed/pastoral worship and leadership came to a conclusion.

1973: Forest Avenue and Oak Street Meetings were united under the new name "Portland Friends Meeting"; the Oak Street Church was sold, and all now attended the former 'Forest Avenue' now newly renamed Portland Friends Meeting.

Key Sources:

Phillips, Virginia M. "The Growth of the Society of Friends in Portland" (a class project paper submitted to Dr. York as part of course requirement "History of Maine," 5 May 1977, 8pp.)

Cook, Ralph E., "Friends Meeting or Community Church: The Experience of the Great Depression and Second World War in Portland, Maine" (a revised second draft of an unpublished paper, dated 21 February 1996, 18pp).

Summer Worship Schedule

Summer is almost here, and Portland Friends Meeting will be changing back to our summer worship schedule of Meeting for Worship at 5pm followed by potluck at 6pm. Please bring something to share if you are able. Nursery care will not be provided unless requested by calling Susan in advance at 401-413-5951.

The first evening meeting will be on July 14th, and we will go back to the regular 10:30am worship on Sunday September 8th.

Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists

Our Meeting has 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 business and/or directly Quaker items. The second is "PFM Wider Community," for **any** items of interest from the PFM community to share, not necessarily directly related to Quakers, including personal invitations or community events.

To send an announcement to PFM Life of the Meeting, email:

pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com.

To send an announcement to PFM Wider Community, email:

pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com.

For technical support or for any questions related to the lists please feel free to email pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

Portland Friends Cemetery Update

Andy Grannell. June 4, 2019

For the first time, we can enjoy easy access - both an online and on paper - to profiles of those Friends and nonFriends who have elected our cemetery as theirs. For those needing to do research, we have a three ring binder available in the library. For those working online and at a distance, you can work with Findagrave. While I have discovered that there are a few gaps, a very high percentage are available. We will now work to identify and fill those existing gaps.

At Findagrave's web site using the search phrase "Memorials in Friends Cemetery," you can now view photographs of each stone/marker and the key citation as well as in many cases genealogical connections. And the complex web of family interconnections is a wonder to behold. For example, those who were descended from Lemuel and Wait Estes Jones, who were married here under the care of Falmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends in 1761 are legion.

The first person to conduct a thorough survey of our burial site was the founding president of the Maine Old Cemetery Association, i.e., Kathrine 'Kay' W, Trickey (1910-1999) of Hampden, Maine. In the autumn of 1977, Kay Trickey - a volunteer with no connection to Friends - took detailed notes on each monumental inscription and then typed these notes onto a MOCA form sheet. These form sheets were then bound in volumes entitled, "Maine Old Cemetery Association Cemetery Inscription Project" and distributed to key libraries around the state. Access was very limited and apparently unknown to most if not all, PFM Friends.

In the 1983 - 1984 period, Dorothy Jones Small (1909-1985) researched and typed up 8 pages of biographical information on a sizeable number of Friends, entitled, "Riverton Friends Churchyard History." She keyed her work around genealogy and those who had served the Society of Friends. Inspired by Dorothy Jones Small's work, Virginia M. Phillips (1920-2004) began her research, and by the early 1990s, Virginia had brought much needed order to our filing system and to our now surveyed site. The fruit of Virginia's work can be found in the fireproof metal file cabinet in which all of our burial records are now kept.

In 2018, Misty Rambo - another volunteer not connected with PFM - photographed each monument and then combine her work with that of the now online work of Katherine Trickey. It was only recently then - through the magic of our new digital sourcing and searching capacities - that I discovered that all of these dedicated labors could now be accessed. In just one day's work, all of these unknown records were downloaded, printed, alphabetized, and placed in a three ring binder.

Can't you just hear all of these simply wonderful guardians cheering?!



Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

Tuesday
July 30
11:59pm

Tuesday
September 10
11:59pm

Tuesday
October 8
11:59pm

Volunteering in Puerto Rico - Nat Shed

I have just returned from two weeks of volunteering in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. I was part of a group of seventy-plus All Hands and Hearts volunteers who provided repairs to homes damaged by hurricane Maria. My special thanks to all of you who were able to make a donation to help support this important work.

Many of you have asked about my experience in Puerto Rico, so here is a brief report. We repaired and rebuilt roofs, provided mold sanitization for inside walls and ceilings, and replaced doors and windows. Over the last 20 months, more than 300 homes in Puerto Rico have been made safe and sound. It was a joy for me to work with, volunteers from all over the world: Canada, Dominican Republic, Portugal, Brazil, Italy, Germany, UK, Czech Republic, and USA/Puerto Rico. I was impressed that most of the leadership team and many of the volunteers had personal or family connections to Puerto Rico.

All Hands and Hearts (www.allhandsandhearts.org) is a very well-run international non-profit with ongoing disaster relief programs in nine locations around the world. Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of these disaster relief sites. (You might even consider volunteering for a week or two!) As it turns out, however, the determining factor in getting homes rebuilt is the need for donations to purchase construction materials. Each home takes a week or two to complete and requires between \$4,000 and \$6,000 in construction materials and supplies. Please check in with me, if you wish to know more about the Yabucoa, P.R. project.



Ministry of Song!

We are organizing an informal group of Portland Friends Meeting members/attenders who are interested in bringing singing to people's homes on request. Highly developed skills are NOT required—only good spirits and basic ability to carry a tune. The group will work in conjunction with Pastoral Care and/or Ministry & Counsel. If you would like to participate, please contact Peter Woodrow (pjwoodrow@gmail.com) or Jennifer Frick (jfrick47@gmail.com).

Quakers in Early Falmouth and Portland, Maine 1740-1850

James Winslow and the Origins of the
Portland Society of Friends



Wayne Cobb

New Quaker Book is Now Available!

After three years of research and writing, Wayne's history of our early Portland (then called Falmouth) Quakers is finally in print! Besides documenting our first Quaker, his family and their conversion in 1740, the book includes many colorful maps and accounts of what life was like in old Falmouth. The book can be purchased for fifteen dollars; all proceeds go to Portland Friends Meeting. To reserve your copy, send an email to Wayne at w Cobb2@gmail.com.



QuakerSpring: Experiencing the Inward Christ Together

Woolman Hill Quaker Retreat Center
Deerfield MA

Friday-Wed, June 21-26, 2019

Our program will be shaped by God's leading
as the week unfolds.

Each day will include:

BIBLE STUDY

WORSHIP

QUIET TIME

EVENING EXPLORATIONS

FELLOWSHIP



“The intent of all speaking [in meeting for worship] is to bring into the Life, and to walk in, and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy [that Life], and to feel God's presence, and that is in the silence, (not the wandering whirling tempestuous part of man or woman)... There is the flock lying down at noon-day, and the feeding of the bread of life, and drinking of the springs of life, when they do not speak words. For words declared are to bring people to [the Life] and [are for] confessing God's goodness and love, as they are moved by the eternal God and his spirit....”

--from *The Works of George Fox*

(Volume IV p.174, Philadelphia: Marcus T.C.Gould, 1831)

Welcoming to Friends of all branches

Costs are low & on a “pay as led” basis. (No one should stay away because of limited means.)

Children's program / childcare available by advanced request (hopefully by June 1st)

To learn more and online registration at: www.quakerspring.org

Contact planning group at quakerspring@gmail.com

(or c/o Deborah Haines, 2794 Fort Scott Drive, Arlington VA 22202 703-706-8176)

Planning group includes: Deborah Haines (Baltimore YM), Ann Armstrong, Peter Blood-Patterson,

Bre-anne Brown, Tom Vargo & Jonathan Vogel-Borne (New England YM),

Angela Hopkins (New York YM), David Male & Earl Smith (Ohio YM), and Laura Kelley (SAYMA)

- in cooperation with the Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting -

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
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Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, July 30, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

