

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Third Month, 2020

Meeting for Worship: 10:30a Sundays

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



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Connections

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

— 2014 Interim New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

Calendar

March 15 Noon-1:30p, Racial Justice group "White Fragility" discussion for more information, contact Julie deSherbinin

March 22 Noon-1:30p Aging in Place discussion, for more information contact Judy Spross

March 29 10:30a Intergenerational semi-programmed worship for all ages

April 3-5 Young Adult Friends retreat, Portland Friend Meeting

April 4 New England Yearly Meeting Living Faith Conference Cheverus High School (details inside)

April 12 Easter Sunday — stay tuned!

Monthly

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship

First Sunday: 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business

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

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays: 10-10:25a Intergenerational singing

Second Saturdays: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck
Bart Czyn, btczyn@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

Building Community within Our Community!

Is there a movie or event in town you've been wanting to go to? Feel like having some folks over for a potluck or game night? Thinking of trying a new activity but would welcome a buddy? You could see if someone else at PFM might want to join you.

And it's EASY. Just send a note to our e-group:
pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com

And voilà--you have reached a lot of pleasant people who might love to join you in the activity. Having fun, building community, and spending time with likeminded Friends - consider giving it a try!

(Note: If you want to suggest doing something at the Meetinghouse, please check availability first on the events calendar on our website, the grey tab under the photo of the meetinghouse.)

Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Business
March 1, 2020

We began in silent worship at 9 a.m. with 18 members and attenders present, during which co-clerk Brad Bussiere-Nichols read the following Query No. 3 from the 2014 interim New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice:

Do you allow the Inward Teacher to work in you? Are you teachable?

1. Minutes We accepted the February 2020 minutes as corrected by the following changes—in the first paragraph of the Ministry and Counsel report, the reference to “clearness committee” for transfers should be changed to “welcome meeting”. In the same paragraph the reference to Peggy Rotundo in the next to last sentence should be deleted.

2. Treasurer’s Report Muriel Allen presented the Treasurer’s report on the operating budget two months into the year (17%). Our balances continue to be positive. Here are the numbers:

February 2020:	Year-To-Date:
Income: \$6,906	Income: \$15,531
Expenses: 4,419	Expenses: \$9,977
Balance: \$2487	Balance: \$ 5,554

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

Muriel reported that the 2019 treasurer’s report has been revised to include a pay-as-led contribution to New England Yearly Meeting budget for Sessions of \$2230. These funds were derived from unused money remaining in the Youth Campership and Adult Scholarship accounts at the end of the year. Dorothy Grannell explained that the Sessions pay-as-led gives money to the scholarships which these Meeting accounts support. Muriel will be meeting with auditor Beth King later this month, who will advise on how best to account for this.

3. Meeting statistics. Lise Wagner reported as follows.

“Yearly Meeting has decided to revise its statistical reporting to make it easier for monthly meetings to respond. They are less interested in precise numbers than in trends. Therefore, you will hear fewer numbers. I have reported the seven new members for the year, as well as the three deaths of members. We had no transfers out this past year. At the end of last year, we had 119 members. By my count, approximately 91 of those members are active in the life of the meeting. In terms of attendance, we average 75 on Sundays between September and June. We average 35 in July and August. The combined average is 67. During the school year, I estimated that 50 of the average number on Sundays are members. I estimated that we have approximately 25 children on First Day School days and three on non-FDS days. Typically, we average 28 people at business meeting. I was asked to give a sense in comparison with 2018 whether the number of people active in our meeting is increasing, decreasing, or remaining about the same. I believe it increased in 2019.”

4. Ministry and Counsel. Beth Bussiere-Nichols read the State of Society report, revised to include suggestions made after the reading at Meeting for Business in February. After a few more suggestions which will be incorporated, we approved the final version, which follows these minutes.

Ministry and Counsel is bringing forward a proposal from Fritz Weisz to form an ad hoc group to explore creating a sister relationship with a meeting in Cuba. Fritz explained that Puente de Amor of New England Yearly Meeting has suggested we join Durham Meeting in their relationship with a meeting in Vedasco, eastern Cuba. The ad hoc group would explore what this means and what our commitment would be. He cited the relationship of Hanover Meeting in New Hampshire, where he comes from, with Havana Friends Church, and the rich, wonderful experience it has brought to the local Quaker community. We approved exploring such a relationship; Becky Steele and Dennis Redfield volunteered to be part of the ad hoc group. Others interested should contact Fritz.

5. Buildings and Grounds. Karin Wagner and Syl Doughty presented the Committee’s recommendation in regard to paving the parking lot.

Karin reviewed the recent history of the project: —On Sept 29, 2018 the meeting approved the proposed parking lot regrading and paving project. In July, 2019 the committee received one bid for the project at \$98,300 which

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(minutes continued from page 2)

included paving the main parking lot, and repaving the circle drive, and the extended parking area on the left side of the circle. At that point, the committee recommended delaying the project in order to obtain more bids in early 2020.

During the past month, bids for the parking lot project were requested by members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. We received bids from 4 contractors ranging from \$65,550 to \$102,750 for the scope of work described above. Following consideration of the estimated costs, potential differences in quality of materials and reliability of estimates, the committee recommends accepting the bid of J A Ricci and Sons for \$65,550, for paving the main parking lot, the circle drive, and the parking area on the north side of the circle. J A Ricci has done paving at our property before. In order to get on the construction schedule, the committee requests a decision by the meeting within a time frame that allows us to respond to these bids before March 19.

Friends thanked the Committee for their long and hard work on the project. We approved accepting the bid of J A Ricci for \$65,550.

6. Peace and Social Concerns. Genna Ulrich presented a report indicating the present members of the committee have opened up the possibilities of purpose for this committee. They reported to us how this happened over the past year. (The process is detailed in the committee's full report, which follows the minutes). They bring to us today the following queries: — In order to support faithfulness on issues of peace and social concern, is it Spirit-led for a specific, permanent committee to that purpose to exist, and if so, in what manner? If not, does the Spirit lead us to another form of support for faithfulness to leadings on issues of peace and social concern? If it is Spirit-led for a committee to exist, is there guidance on what its ministry within Portland Friends Meeting is to be? Are there members among us called to that ministry?

The committee is asking for a guided worship or similar process to consider these issues. The Clerk pointed out we need to take the time necessary to explore the underlying challenges we face in supporting peace and justice in today's world. Perhaps there is no necessity for an external fix; rather we all need to continue to pray to support and acknowledge individual efforts to pursue peace and justice, and realize that these challenges have always been with us in this Meeting, and in other Meetings as well. The Clerk of Nominating will put on hold recruiting for Peace and Social Concerns committee for the next year. The Co-Clerks will take the report under advisement and consider how to move forward.

7. Follow-up from January 26 Threshing Session. At February meeting for business, we declined to endorse a minute originally proposed at January meeting for business, and later the subject of a threshing session on January 26. We started but did not complete discussing the following queries developed at the threshing session: —What does the Peace Testimony say to us in the present day? How do we state the Peace Testimony for the world in a way that makes it real again? What can we learn from other meetings, AFSC, FCNL, and examples such as the Quakers in Kenya creating peace teams to bring warring sides together? How do we act on the conviction to choose love? How do we move forward to decrease violence and inequality?

Co-Clerk Brad Bussiere Nichols reopened the discussion today, noting the connection to the previous discussion of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. He suggested that the Clerks consider this with the Peace and Social Concerns report. We approved that approach.

8. Library Committee. Andy Grannell reported on the library's long range planning and new projects. Currently most materials are in boxes. The Library Committee is coordinating with Youth Religious Education, Buildings and Grounds, and Archives Committees. It may also be using funds from the Cemetery Committee.

The work being done will overhaul the scattered and unorganized state of YREC teacher resources, dedicate an 8' X 4' bookcase to archival notebooks, and provide better lighting. The key piece is the installation of an IKEA "Billy" bookcase designed to maximize wall and floor space provided in the corner closest to the hallway. For details on the work, see Andy's full PFM Library Report for March 1, 2020, which follows the minutes.

A question was raised about the total cost. Andy did not have an exact figure, as funds will come from four different committees and costs are not yet final. Financial Oversight has been kept informed. No action is necessary from the Meeting today, but individual questions and suggestions are welcomed.

9. Youth Religious Education. Due to lack of time, YRE Coordinator Andy Grannell did not give the report. It will be published in the March newsletter.

(minutes continued from page 3)

10. Family Promise. Judy Spross reported briefly on the listening session held February 23 concerning what is working and what needs attention. She announced that Holly Travers and Anne Dodd-Collins will share the Food Coordinator role. There will be work with Susan Grannell to better organize the children's play area, and with Sue Nelson regarding supplies in the Teen Closet. Judy underlined the need for younger, stronger people to participate in set-up and take-down. For full details, see Judy's report, which follows these minutes.

We closed at 10:30 a.m., with 39 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again at 9:00 a.m. on April 5, 2020, God willing.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Ballou
Co-Recording Clerk

State of Society Portland Friends Meeting 2019

In autumn, we can look out the Meetinghouse window and watch a squirrel bury an acorn. We know that an acorn will grow to be an oak tree, only an oak tree. Though we understand the DNA of every cell in the seed carries that exquisite recipe, the waiting cells don't know what they will be. They abide. We are called to be part of God's dream for the world. We don't know what we are called to be; the roots that go deep, the structure that lifts to the Light, the xylem that carries water from earth to sky. We only know that we are called to be the Waiting Cells, the Seed, to abide with open hands and open hearts, ready to unfold. Here we are! Shape us to the need!

Our Meeting for Worship is a good place to learn more deeply how to abide. We are often nurtured by rich, vibrant silence. We are reminded that the Spirit so clearly present in our gathered worship is ever with us. Gathering with our beloved community gives us a chance to gaze at faces across the circle. Though we usually have sixty-five people on Sunday mornings, spoken ministry is often given generous space. Occasionally we have long messages, which remind us to seek the heart of a message before standing as well as giving some Friends a chance to practice forgiveness. We have a time for the ministry of music before meeting most weeks. Widely-read emailed announcements and a brimming monthly newsletter have allowed us at the rise of meeting to give highlights and point to connections instead of slogging through details.

Meeting for Business reflects spiritual attention to the decisions of the community, demonstrating the loving kindness of business conducted in the manner of Friends. Items come to business meeting well-seasoned reflecting good work by committees. Nominating finds people for service in more than one hundred positions. The Buildings and Grounds committee members are responsible caretakers for the physical side of our spiritual home which is rented by many community groups. Pastoral Care organizes meals and rides and wants their availability to be more visible. Most committee work and individual tasks reflect a broad strong community though still a small number of people do more than their share and become tired. The five members of Adult Religious Education Committee held biweekly programs including a well-attended Quakerism 101 series and developed a robust Purpose Statement, their first. Despite this earlier good work, the committee is down to just a couple of committee members and is struggling. Many in Portland Friends Meeting are active in social action ministry in the wider world, including Friends who have stepped forward to commit civil disobedience for Climate Action. The Peace and Social Concerns committee, which was stymied by diverse and even contradictory visions of the committee's purpose, identified the opportunity to reassess the structures that we use to carry peace and social action in the Meeting. In this and other areas finding ways to not just appreciate but to actively support those called to ministry is a longing expressed by many voices.

The Spirit is lively in some areas that are relatively new or ad hoc. We are growing in our recognition of whose land we occupy. Racial Justice Group has sparked engagement with programs including a reading group for Braiding Sweetgrass facilitated by Mihku Paul of the Maliseet People. Welcoming and Fellowship Group has opened many new opportunities including organizing hearty snacks and rearranging furniture to help build community at rise of meeting. One of our young adult groups is holding mid-week meeting for worship and others worship during the week in the room of a member with limited mobility. Ministry and Counsel is nurturing book groups for deeper sharing of our spiritual journeys. Leadings

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committee distributes funds that support emerging ministry, enriching our community and providing us with living examples of what it is to follow a leading.

One challenge of a large meeting is to find space for deeper conversations and to find ways to build bridges between those spaces. Youth Religious Education Committee with the assistance of our paid part-time coordinator builds community by providing a warm program that is welcoming to children and parents. There is a nursery with a paid staff person every Sunday and childcare for other meeting functions by request. Every other week there are religious education classes for Thunder Quakes, Middles, and Teens. One bridge we built was experimenting with an entire meeting for worship that included the whole community. We created space for younger friends with semi-program worship and blankets in the center of the room. We are beginning to explore ways to build more bridges.

Our involvement with the Greater Portland Family Promise is in its third year. It is a collaborative program that brings together congregations of many faiths to house homeless families who would be split up in the local shelter system. We enter deeply into the ministry of hospitality four weeks a year by providing overnight housing, supper and breakfast at our meetinghouse. During the day children go to school and parents go to a day center to look for jobs and housing with good success. Because Portland has seen a large influx of asylum seekers many of our families are new to the country. We build community with each other as we cook food and make beds. As we eat and play with those who speak a different language or struggle with poverty, we build community with the wider world. In this time to provide welcome is not just an act of hospitality but an act of resistance.

Portland Friends Meeting added two sojourning and eight new members, several of whom transferred in from Lewiston Monthly Meeting as it was laid down. While we added no young associate members this year, visiting grandchildren have been an added joy. We said goodbye to several longtime elder members. This year a Friend was suddenly taken from us who for decades had filled many roles with hard work, insight, humor and enthusiasm. We were left grieving and gasping, trying to cope and fill the many holes that he left behind, leading us to seek comfort and strength in the Everlasting Arms.

Portland Friends turn expectantly to the new year. We only know that we are called to be the Waiting Cells, the Seed, to abide with open hands and open hearts, ready to unfold. Here we are! Shape us to the need!

Peace and Social Concerns Report and Query

We have clarity that many competing visions of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee exist among members of Portland Friends Meeting. P&SC has taken on diverse roles within the meeting; absorbed other committees; and acted to support many leadings and ministries over the decades since its inception. It has been a social gathering point and form of affinity group for activists within our Monthly Meeting who seek to carry out their own leadings or goals. It has been an umbrella committee for ad-hoc groups and individuals who seek to act under the name of Portland Friends Meeting. It has offered educational activities to the Meeting and brought proposals for discernment. It has been the recipient of countless and often overwhelming numbers of requests to organize on behalf of individuals' interests or leadings within the meeting. And it has supported individuals in responding faithfully to their leadings related to peace and social concerns, most often within the committee.

We have clarity that these are too many roles for any single committee to carry out successfully. We also have clarity that these roles are contradictory: For instance, a committee made up of activists seeking support for their own organizing cannot likely also offer real ministry to other members in need of support for their faithfulness on issues of peace and social concern. And no committee can ever faithfully carry out another's leading in that person's absence, unless it is also their own.

At the conclusion of 2019, of the five members formerly on Peace and Social Concerns, three lacked any leading to continue on the committee and they shared a sense that it may be time for the committee to lay itself down. Two felt positively about the continuation of the committee in some form. Of those two, one did not feel led to continue personally, and the other expressed that their discernment whether to continue was contingent on clarity about the committee's purpose. We all shared a unity that, should Peace and Social Concerns Committee re-begin with new members, discernment would be necessary first regarding the purpose of the Committee.

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We therefore bring this query to Meeting for Business: In order to support faithfulness on issues of peace and social concern, is it Spirit-led for a specific, permanent committee to that purpose to exist, and if so, in what manner? If not, does the Spirit lead us to another form of support for faithfulness to leadings on issues of peace and social concern? If it is Spirit-led for a committee to exist, is there guidance on what its ministry within Portland Friends Meeting is to be? Are there members among us called to that ministry?

Portland Friend Meeting Library Report for March 1, 2020 - Andy Grannell

The Library Committee, i.e., Karyl Sylken, Kristina MacCormick, and I met on Sunday, February 9th, to preview a plan for the reorganizing of the library.

The key piece in this plan is the installation of an IKEA "Billy" bookcase, which is designed to maximize the wall and floor space provided in the corner closest to the hallway; this IKEA design includes:

- two standing panels measuring overall 84" wide by 93" tall (11" deep) along side one measuring 53" wide by 93" tall (11" deep);
- the unit has a specially-designed, corner-fitting set of columns, i.e., it is designed to fit into the corner of the room nearest the hallway; and
- the construction is solid wood, easily assembled, along with adjustable shelving; the unit will be shipped in the coming ten days and will cost \$552.

To prepare the corner space for this unit, the following steps have been taken to date:

- all of the books on the neighboring shelves have been boxed by subject matter and reasonably close to the same order as they enjoyed on their former shelves; they will be reshelfed as shelving is made available;
- two of the three pre-existent bookcases have been redeployed to the toddler area; one of the two has been given a long-needed backing and mounted for use by the kindergarden age 'Thunder Quakes;' the second free standing bookcase will be mounted and designated for use by Family Promise; and
- two well- designed and constructed bookcases measuring 4 feet x 4 feet have been reassigned to serve in a new design which now gives these bookcases a two-over-two set of four identical and pre-existent 4 foot x 4 foot bookcases which are now mounted on the library wall to the left as you enter.

Once all of the shelving is in place, then we will work to expand the usefulness of the lighting, categories, signage, and online access. This requires:

- working with Building & Grounds to design, select, and install much needed directional overhead lighting;
- expanding the pre-existent subject matter categories to aid in spotlighting current reading needs such as - Leadings, Membership, Climate Change, Racism, Welcoming New Mainers, PFM Authors, Maine Native Rights, Women's Rights, History of New England Quakers, Quaker Voluntary Service, and Quaker Speak;
- forwarding a request to the Financial Committee for a supplemental to the Library Committee's FY 2020 budget request of \$500; and
- in addition to this funding, we have agreement from YREC to finance their part of this work, and I will be seeking a similar agreement with the Cemetery Committee.

As the work progresses, I continue to:

- work closely with Lise Wagner to provide those needed work days and spaces to keep this project moving right along;
- remove all tools from the site at the close of each work day; and
- store painted pieces in the entry way to the back emergency staircase off of the dining room.

All Friends with a 'need to know' will be kept informed as the work progresses. A rough estimate for completion of the redesign early in April.

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Youth Religious Education Committee Report, Sunday, March 1, 2020 - Andy Grannell

1) The "Faith & Play" training session led by Melinda Wenner Bradley, Director of Communications and Training (Faith and Play Stories, Inc., Godly Play Trainer). The workshop will be held at Durham Friends Meeting on May 8 -10, 2020, and it will be jointly sponsored with Durham Friends Meeting.

"Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired resource that helps children find words and images for expressing their experiences of holy mystery and wonder in their lives. Inspired by the stories, materials, and methods in Godly Play, Quakers created Faith & Play Stories to add Quaker stories of faith, practice, and witness to the Bible stories in the Godly Play collection used by Friends. This powerful way of being with children can transform your First Day program for children and nurture your own spiritual life."

We are seeking 4-5 PFM Friends who are prospective teachers for our PFM First Day School, parents interested in learning how to incorporate wonder questions into their daily life, and professional teachers. We can offer to pay the workshop costs for those attending. We are offering this opportunity on a first come basis.

2) We currently have registered: 13 'Thunders', 17 'Middlers,' and 10 'Teens' for a total registration of K-12 of 40. Attendance for the past two YREC Sundays has averaged 25 with distinct challenges posed by the fluctuations for the Middlers. Last Sundaygroup of 10 youth from Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church worshipped with us and then gathered for a very lively discussion about Friends and how we are connected. It was a joy to participate in this hour-long sharing.

3) With a focus on the past 20 years of purchased curricular materials, the second step in reorganizing our teacher and parent resources has been taken. The back classroom's previously installed wall unit with its flexible and deep shelving has been selected as the pivot for the teacher/parents resource center. Along with this, we are installing a tall bookcase that Brad constructed for us last year and to date has not been deployed.

4) These two YREC units will soon be joined by a third bookcase dedicated to PFM's growing 1974-present historical archives accompanied by working three ring notebooks for YREC, Building & Grounds, Adult Religious Education, and all other PFM committees. This bookcase will measure 4' wide and 8' tall; it will occupy a permanent place in the corner along this wall.

Report from Listening Session 2/23/20 (Family Promise, Judy Spross)

Holly, with help from Ann Dodd-Collins, will assume the role of food volunteer coordinator (sometime before Sunday, I will communicate with Marcia, Holly, so you can be in touch with her). Our estimate of time is up to an average of 10 hrs/week with most weeks being a few hours but week before and of hosting is where the biggest investment is

1. We concluded that it would be best for FP to have its own bins of supplies/toys for children (labeled by age?) rather than use the supplies of our nursery/FDS. We also agreed that we should set off an area in the dining room, away from food, where FP guest children can play--makes it easier for parents to supervise. Sue Nelson and Mary Tracy will work on this including communications with Susan Grannell and assembling stuff.
2. Set up/Takedown--many expressed concerns about the physical demands of this process and several ideas were generated. Lise indicated that she would be willing to be the liaison between FP and Teen Group--(Lise, since I am gone much of the next two weeks, feel free to initiate whatever conversations need to be started, if you have time; if not we can work together on this when I return). Suggestion that we might also recruit young adults to do this work with offer of pizza lunch or giving modest gift cards as a thank you (latter would need to be discussed with Financial Oversight)
3. Unmaking beds--some agreement that we should probably be doing that rather than the guests, so we can check the beds and encasements for soiling, and organize linens in ways that make it easy for us to wash and to store. Ann Dodd-Collins said she is willing to make laundry bags that accommodate each bed--she will be seeking donations of old sheets or fabric to do so.

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4. We talked about the need to organize the Teen Closet and label supplies--Paula Rossvall and Lise Wagner volunteered to help Sue Nelson with this task. Judy indicated that we could use some of FP budget for wire racks and labeling supplies if reorganization requires these items. We agreed that items should be easy to find/identify so that overnight hosts and other volunteers can restock supplies for bedrooms and bathrooms or change linens during our host weeks.
5. Judy reported that she, Wayne and Muriel met to discuss FP budget. We need simple and sustainable processes for paying for/reimbursing folks for expenses and capturing the value (what we spend and the value of important activities that we do not pay for). Our ideas will be brought to a future meeting of the Financial Oversight Committee.
6. Other things that came up: infection control (e.e.g, handling of linens and wiping down toys); orientation to the different roles; attention to how the next two hostings go and our ability to recruit for set up/takedown to determine our ability to continue to support FP; who has and might want or need a background check?)

An Evening of Stories & Poems
Sharing Favorites: Our Own or From Others
-- For 'Tweens' to 120 On Up --
Friday, April 24th, 6:15 PM, at the Meeting House

I like to listen to all kinds of stories and poems shared aloud. I love to drift off to wherever the author wants to take me: other places and times, other situations and feelings, whole worlds away.

I like to read aloud or recite from memory special stories and poems. Some serious, some sad, some funny that make me feel glad. In any case, I like stories that move me, touch my heart and, so, I think might touch other hearts, too.

We will have approximately two hours together. There will be plenty of time for everyone. At the end, we'll craft our own story in the 'round. You'll see.

Please join us for an evening of the very best kind of storytelling and poetry. Our kind.

For more information talk to :Doug Malcolm doug.malcolm2@gmail.com 207-232-7740

— Invitation, Guidelines, Suggestions —

- Please come share your own material or creative writing from others. Any genre is welcome.
- Read aloud or *really* impress us: recite something from memory, recite it from your heart.
- Bring a few favorites. If we have the time, we'll get to hear all of them. If not, then next time.
- Practice at home first. Get used to the sound of your voice, how you want us to hear it.
- Everyone will have two opportunities to share, once before intermission and once after.
- Plan on having 5- to 10-minutes of floor time total, depending on how many are sharing it.
- Any *group* wanting to share something together is welcome. Consider the possibilities. Fun!
- If you like, come just to listen and support those brave enough to stand up. This is bold stuff.
- Please honor each other and our time together. Arrive by 6:15. Settle in. Doors close at 6:30.





All Nations Seek Peace
Mihku Paul, Our Maliseet Neighbor

INDIGENOUS MATTERS

Many of you have been participating in support of garnering the Maine Tribes' sovereignty. Some have been seeking more background and information on the effort to amend the 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act, and others have asked about ways to be helpful. If so, you may be interested in attending a free luncheon on **Monday, March 9th from 12 to 1:30 PM at the Abromson Center, Rooms 109/110 at the University of Southern Maine in Portland**, to learn more. This will be an educational session with Tribal representatives. Attorney Corey Hinton, who is Passamaquoddy, has been at the center of the Tribes' work with the Legislature's Task Force and the current efforts to amend Settlement Act. He will discuss Tribal perspectives on the history and implementation of the Act, the current status of his work at the legislature, and where we are in the process.

Last year in the wake of multiple disputes and an ever-worsening Tribal-state relationship, the Legislature created a Task Force to review the 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. That Task Force reached full consensus and virtually unanimously recommended amendment of the Maine Settlement Implementing Act to reaffirm the sovereignty of the Tribes in Maine as set forth in federal law and in effect for Indian Tribes nearly everywhere else in the country. If these changes were to be adopted, it would be an historic reaffirmation of Tribal sovereignty here in Maine.

On February 14th and February 19th the Maine Legislature held public hearings on LD 2094, "*An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act.*" Testimony was given by 137 people or organizations, including the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy and several Maine Friends. The vast majority of those who testified were in support of the Tribes regaining the sovereignty they lost in the Settlement Act.

All interested people are invited to join us on the 9th. It is sure to be interesting and informative. Seating is limited, so if you want to attend please RSVP Toby McGrath at tmcgrath@dwmlaw.com as soon as possible. Please invite others you think may be interested. Just ask them to RSVP Toby so he can order the appropriate amount of food for lunch.

(Note: Be advised that parking fees have been imposed for the raised USM garage adjacent to the Abromson Center between 8AM and 5PM weekdays. The charge is two dollars per hour; if you choose to park there, bring your ticket inside and pay at one of the validation machines.)

Some good news! The amended LD 766, the bill to enhance Tribal jurisdiction under the Federal Violence Against Women Act, has been reported out of committee with the recommendation Ought To Pass. Majority approval in both houses of the legislature seems likely, and the Governor has given indications that she will sign the bill into law.

There are still a number of Tribal-related bills that were carried over from last year's legislative session. If you would like to speak with your Senator or Representative and/or write a letter to the editor, I can provide you with more information. Email me, Wayne Cobb, at wcobb2@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE! Sea Change Chorale's Spring Concert will be on April 18th at 7 p.m. at Williston-Immanuel Church. We are supporting our partner this year, Greater Portland Family Promise, with all the donations taken in at the door. We hope you will join us! Lise, Peter, Fritz, Paula, Sally, Alan, Kiya, Anna, Lee, and Sandi (in absentia)

Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists

Our Meeting has two email lists, or, "google groups."

- 1) *PFM Life of the Meeting*, for items directly related to Portland Friends Meeting business and/or directly Quaker items.
- 2) *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 any questions related to the lists: pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.



Save The Date! Friends School Annual Auction

Online Silent Auction March 27th - April 3rd

**Live Auction & Iron Chef Tasting
April 4th 10am-1pm**

The Auction is Friends School of Portland's most important fundraising event. Proceeds go directly to FSP's Annual Fund, which supports the most essential aspects of FSP and supplements tuition aid.

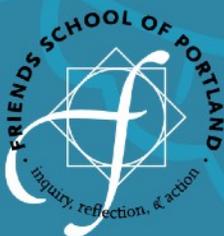
This year is our 3rd Annual Iron Chef Tasting and Awards! In addition to the amazing auction items in our silent and live auction, we will be hosting an Iron Chef Tasting. On Thursday, April 2nd we will release a list of ingredients! You can use any ingredients or all of the ingredients on the list to make a delicious dish! Join with classmates, parents, siblings, friends, or make a dish yourself. Bring your dish on Saturday, April 4th for a community tasting and awards ceremony. Dishes will be judged on presentation, deliciousness, use of ingredients, and many more!

And if you would like to contribute to the auction this year all the forms are available on our website here: <https://www.friendschoolportland.org/annual-auction>

A Benefit for Friends School of Portland

Auction & Iron Chef Tasting

- ◆ Iron Chef Tasting and Awards
- ◆ B.Y.O. Entry: Ingredient Reveal April 2nd
- ◆ Live Music
- ◆ Family and Kids' Activities



Saturday, April 4th, 10am - 1pm

Plus, bid online March 27 - April 3

UKULELES! Instruments of Peace and Happiness? Let's find out!

Interested in joining in the creation of a small spiritual sharing group - STRUM (Spiritual Truths Revealed Ukulele Meeting)? Or perhaps P-FrUke? (Portland Friends Ukulele group?)

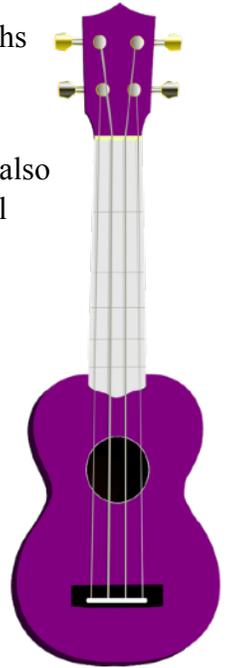
I've recently taken up the ukulele and am wondering if there are others interested in forming some sort of group that would engage in not only the joy of playing and learning together, but also embrace the process from a spiritual point of view. Also wondering if this could work as an all ages group.

I've found great joy in my early journey into learning the ukulele. And frustrations. Some beginning parts are relatively easy, yet it is also much more challenging than I expected. I am often humbled and brought back to "beginner's mind." The discipline of practice can be grounding, and can also test my faith and belief that it will pay off and if I can ever master some of basic chords (let alone the secret chord that David played that pleased the Lord!). Almost everything I've mentioned, and much more, has offered me reminders and metaphors of my own spiritual work.

Please let me know if there is interest, and we can go from there (also be grateful if there are ukulele players with some experience to help out, also if anyone who may not be interested but has a decent ukulele in their attic or closet that they might want to donate to the cause).

Tom Antonik

QQmonk@gmail.com (207) 807-1442



Living Faith Gathering, April 4, 2020

Whether this is your first chance to attend or you've been to every [Living Faith Gathering](https://neym.org/living-faith) <https://neym.org/living-faith>, all are warmly welcomed to this lovely one-day event held each spring and fall.

The upcoming Living Faith will be at Cheverus High School in Portland (ME) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by a coffee and cookies "snackluck" social time until 5 p.m.

This is a chance for Friends new and old (and the Quaker-curious)—from across New England and beyond—to get to know one another, hold multigenerational worship together, share the different ways we experience and live our faith, and build community. A concurrent youth program explores these same themes in ways accessible to kids and teens; childcare is also available for our littlest ones.

[Registration for Living Faith is now open here](https://neym.regfox.com/lfapril2020) <https://neym.regfox.com/lfapril2020>. Please come if you can; your presence will enrich us all!

Young Adult Friends Retreat, Portland Friends Meetinghouse, April 3-5, 2020

Are you a young adult in New England who wants to connect with the Quaker community AND form spiritual bonds with your peers? You're in luck! Last year we combined the Spring Young Adult Friends retreat with Living Faith, the all-ages gathering of New England Quakers, and it was AWESOME. So we're doing it again!

Young Adult Friends Retreats provide a peer group for people approximately 18-35 to connect around our spiritual seeking and growth within the Quaker community, and for those who are new to Quakerism and want to learn more.

Sandwiching the YAF Retreat around Living Faith Gathering means that participating YAFs have a core group of peers with which to attend the larger gathering, which can make for an even more meaningful experience and deeper relationships in a more intimate group. Friday evening will be for getting to know each other, then the group will carpool together Saturday morning to Living Faith and back in the afternoon. YAFs will have the remainder of the evening together for reflection, deepening connection, and fun, ending with worship with Portland Friends on Sunday morning. YAFs sleep slumber-party-style at Portland Friends Meeting Friday and Saturday night, and meals are provided Saturday and Sunday.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, April 7, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

