

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Ninth Month

Meeting for Worship: 10:30am Sundays

Connections

Co-Clerks

Brad Bussiere-Nichols

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Lyn Ballou

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Treasurer, Contributions

Jane Mullen, 215-421-5257

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Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach, 207-233-2065

katherinegbeach@gmail.com,

Treasurer, Special Funds

Special Needs Funds

Elizabeth Szatkowski 207-274-3564

Ministry and Counsel

Beth Bussiere-Nichols

Christine Fletcher

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Christina Davis 518-0784

Childcare Coordinator

Susan Grannell 401-413-5951

pfm-nursery-

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Religious Education

Adult: On Hiatus

Youth: Luke Hankins 207-200-6042

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Andy Grannell 207-878-8698

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Use of the Meetinghouse

Lise Wagner 232-1778

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portlandfriendsmeeting.org

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“Do you listen for the Spirit even when the words are foreign to you? Is your own understanding of God enriched by other people’s experiences of the Divine?”

— Query 12, New England Yearly Meeting Interim Faith and Practice

Calendar

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for Worship

Second Saturdays: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck

Bart Czyn, btczyn@gmail.com, 207 899 5937

*contact Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links



FWCC Southwest Regional Gathering

Online, 3-5pm Pacific Daylight Time (12 noon Hawaii, 3pm Pacific, 4pm Mountain, 5pm Mexico) | September 19, 2020 Please

join us for the FWCC Southwest Regional (Virtual) Gathering. Come meet Friends from Pacific Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, the Western Association of

the Religious Society of Friends, and Evangelical Friends Church Southwest! Our theme is Including All Friends. We will have opportunities for social time, have a speaker, share our responses to queries https://fwccamericas.org/_wp/event/southwest-regional-gathering/



Sunday, October 4, 2020

Theme: What does it mean to be a Quaker today?

Living into a Faithful Life in a Changing World

Join Quakers worldwide in celebrating World Quaker Day 2020! Every year across our churches, meetings, countries and sections, we feel the power of God connecting us in to a faithful family. https://fwccamericas.org/_wp/event/world-quaker-day-2020/

Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business Minutes
September 13, 2020

We began in silent worship at 9:03 a.m., gathered remotely and connected via Zoom, with 35 members and attenders present.

Our presiding clerk, Lyn Ballou, read Query #12 from the New England Yearly Meeting Interim Faith and Practice:

Do you listen for the Spirit even when the words are foreign to you? Is your own understanding of God enriched by other people's experiences of the Divine?

In addition, the clerk reminded us that decision-making in Meeting for Business is led by waiting on the Spirit and coming to unity, guided by the clerk.

Clerk's Words:

Good morning Friends. Because we are not in the presence of our beloved Meetinghouse, I want to help us enter our worship this morning with a few reminders of what we are engaged in.

Decision-making in the manner of Friends is a spiritual process rooted in an understanding that God is present and available to us through each of our attenders. In naming God's presence we often speak of the Spirit or the Divine.

When making decisions we invite and rely on the guidance of the Spirit, not on voting. Decisions are identified by a "sense of the meeting" about which there is "unity." The Clerk has responsibility for guiding this process.

The purpose of our meetings for worship for the conduct of business is to build up the community of faith through seeking God's will for us as a community. We are here to worship and not to get through an agenda. The meeting will be over at 10:00 and any matters not reached will be left for another day. Lise Wagner will be recording the minutes.

We are supported this morning by Ann Dodd-Collins, who is holding us in the Light, and Luke Hankins, who will facilitate the Chat and help me recognize Friends wishing to speak. Thank you both. Let's review some of the technical basics before we begin our agenda, which has been posted on the Chat.

1. Please click on Participants at the bottom of your screen to put the list up on the right. Please click on Chat to access it. It will be below the list of participants.
2. To raise your hand you click on the words "raise hand" at the bottom right of the Participant list. **DO NOT RAISE HAND MANUALLY**--we cannot recognize people fairly and consistently that way.
3. You have all been muted and will be unmuted by Luke if you are called on to speak.
4. **DO NOT USE THE CHAT** to communicate with the Clerk. We cannot listen and read at the same time.
5. Luke has put the agenda and other instructions in the Chat. His phone number is available if you have technical problems during the meeting.

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1. **July minutes.** The minutes from our July Meeting for Business were accepted as printed in the newsletter.
2. **Treasurer's report for September 2020.** Kathy Beach presented this report showing our expenditures and income through August. She noted that the paving project has been completed with money that was set aside, but because the total cost (\$65,550) was in excess of that amount, the rest was paid for from our endowment funds. Another expense was for painting and carpentry work on the outside of the meetinghouse, for a total of \$6,613. Kathy reported that she contacted our internet provider to suspend the Wi-Fi at the meetinghouse (which was \$97/month), while we are not using the building. We will pay only \$1 a month until the Wi-Fi is restarted. Finally, Kathy expressed gratitude for all those who continue to donate, especially those who give on a monthly basis. Donations can still be sent to the meetinghouse.

We accepted Kathy's report with gratitude. Jo Linder, clerk of Financial Oversight, gave her thanks for Muriel Allen's interim work as Treasurer, welcomed back Kathy, and shared appreciation for the work of the FO committee and of Jane Mullen.

Financial summary for Portland Friends Meeting: Jan – August 2020 8 months = 67%

	<u>Year to date</u>	<u>% of budget</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Donations	\$ 32,239	53%
Rent	1,295	26%
Endowment	8,000	67%
Total	\$ 41,534	53%
<u>Expenses</u>		
Meeting house	\$ 17,256	62%
Meeting committees	23,657	52%
PFM contributions to Quaker organizations	4,480	92%
Total	\$ 52,408	67%
Balance	\$ -10,974	

The clerk noted that now is the time to consider donating to help make up this large deficit.

3. **Financial Oversight.** Kathy Beach reviewed the document that she disseminated on the process for requesting capital funds from Financial Oversight. Having just had a very large expense (the parking lot), this outline is to help everyone understand our different accounts. This document will be included in the newsletter. A Friend asked Financial Oversight to consider the question of what to do if a project comes in over the budgeted amount of capital expenses.
4. **Ministry and Counsel.** Beth Bussiere-Nichols reported on the committee's project of Friendly Contact/Community Support for this Fall/Winter as follows: It is now clear that we will be isolated to keep us safe from the virus for many months and the upcoming cold weather will make informal gatherings more difficult. There are many people that we are not seeing who have been active in meeting for years. Even with people that we are seeing on screen, we are rarely having those important informal chances to connect. For members, we made a commitment as part of membership

(cont-)

clearness to provide them with support on their spiritual journey. Most active attenders consider us to be their spiritual home.

Our goal is to have each active participant in PFM have a chance to feel cared for and get support from their spiritual home by receiving a phone call or visit at least every other month. We want to hear about how you are. We aren't doing a survey.

Here are some of the questions we are wondering about: How are people coping? How is your spiritual life in these times? Where are you finding worshipful space in your life these days at home, on the beach, on Zoom? Are there ideas you want to share about the Life of the Meeting? Do you need more support from Meeting? Are you feeling led to give support?

Christine Fletcher reported for the Health and Well-being subcommittee of Ministry and Counsel. There will be specific directions posted in the meetinghouse for safe use of the bathroom. Please remember to sign in upon entering the meetinghouse and to clear all visits or events, inside and out, with Lise Wagner, Coordinator of Use of the Meetinghouse.

Many thanks to the 61 people who responded to the survey sent out by the committee. Responses were heavily weighted toward not coming to in person worship. While we are not anticipating worship in our building in the near future, there was energy in the committee to support outdoor worship at the meetinghouse this fall, while the weather is still pleasant. The committee proposes beginning with outdoor worship on September 27 at 1 p.m. This will not be in place of or in conflict with the Zoom worship in the morning. There will be a limit of 25 masked attenders, bringing their own chairs. We are mindful that it will be difficult to hear vocal ministry outside. There will be a registration process and if more than 25 people wish to be present, some will be asked to attend at a later date. If there is inclement weather, we will not meet inside and worship will be postponed. While this is not a perfect solution, Friends are asked to be patient!

There was a suggestion of looking into a portable air filtration system for inside the meetinghouse. Friends appreciated the sub-committee's work and plan for worship.

Andy Grannell reported that he felt the family memorial gathering for Ed Robinson, held on September 12, was conducted safely and was a heartfelt outpouring of love for Ed.

5. **Cemetery Committee.** Andy Grannell reported briefly for the committee, which now also consists of Wayne Cobb, Anne Payson, and Bob Massengale. The committee engaged a surveyor to map the plots in the cemetery. They have looked at the trees on the property and noted which are dead, including those of neighbors hanging over our property. Wayne has made contact with both neighbors (Tortilla Flat and Hannaford) to discuss how to deal with them. The committee has become more educated on green burials, now that there have been two in the cemetery. (A longer report will be included in the newsletter.)
6. **Youth Religious Education Committee.** Andy Grannell reported as the Youth Religious Education Coordinator. There are no plans for in person Youth Religious Education for the foreseeable future, based on responses to a survey of families. The committee will be sending out packets of resources to the families. Andy gave many thanks to Luke Hankins for his stewardship in clerking the committee as he rotates off and welcomed Bart Czyz who is taking over as clerk. (A longer report will be included in the newsletter.)

(Minutes continued from page 4)

Closing. Our meeting closed in silent worship, purposing to meet again, God willing, at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday October 4, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Lise Wagner,
Co-Recording Clerk

A Message from Financial Oversight

Our Portland Friends Meeting thrives due to the generous spiritual and financial contributions of our members and attenders. The Financial Oversight Committee is very grateful for Friends' generosity over many years. In order to continue to meet the financial needs of our meeting, we would like to highlight how to give to our Meeting. Below are the ways in which you can donate.

1) Check made out to Portland Friends Meeting and mail to:

Treasurer, Contributions
Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Avenue
Portland, ME 04103

2) Monthly contributions: To contribute regularly from your online checking account, simply go online or go to your bank and set up a monthly bill pay to PFM at 1837 Forest Avenue, Portland, ME 04103

3) Automatic direct payment: If you are interested in setting up an automatic payment directly from your account to the meeting, please connect with Kathy Beach* of the Financial Oversight Committee via email: katherinebeach@gmail.com.

4) Contributions of securities may be arranged through Kathy Beach of the Financial Oversight Committee via email: katherinebeach@gmail.com

The Portland Friends Meeting is a nonprofit and donations are tax deductible as permissible by law.

Thank you for investing in our Quaker community.



Young Friends Worldwide: Peace

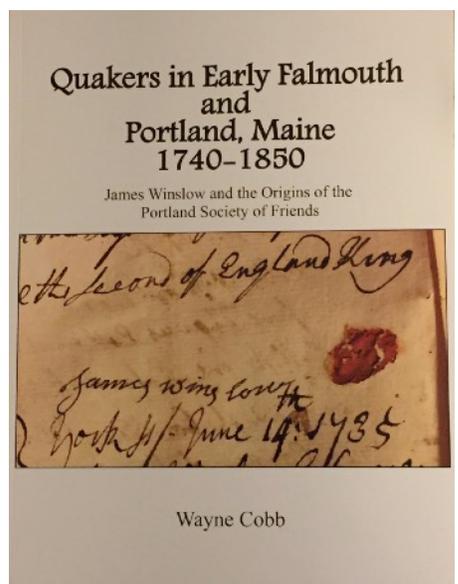
September 26 , 2020 Online,
10am UK (2am Pacific, 3am
Mountain, 4am Central/
Jamaica, **5am Eastern**)

On 5 Saturdays between August 29 and October 24, Young Quakers working with FWCC will be running 5 online workshops based on Quaker Testimonies for Young Friends around the world, supported by Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office. The series has been initiated and designed by a planning committee of Young Friends. <https://fwccamericas.org/wp/event/young-friends-worldwide-peace/>

My book on Quaker History: A few copies are still available!

Friends, I have five remaining unsold copies of my history of Quakerism in Greater Portland. The price is fifteen dollars, and all proceeds will be donated to Portland Friends Meeting. Please contact me to arrange delivery.

Wayne Cobb
(wcobb2@gmail.com)



You Are Invited to Friends School of Portland's Annual Auction!

Our 2020 Annual Auction was postponed and has been rescheduled for Mon., Oct 5 to Fri., Oct 9. All proceeds go towards financial aid for students attending FSP.

Here are three things that make our auction a little different!

1.) **Parents, students, families, every class, our board, staff and extended community contribute items** to our auction each year.

This might be grandparents offering an ice shack fishing adventure for a family. A selection of handcrafted canned goods from your garden. A father and daughter who love to build, offering their carpentry skills. Your favorite lasagna or a gift card to your favorite place to dine out! What would you like to share?

2.) **Our auction is online.** We migrated our silent auction online about 5 years ago. Typically, we have still held an in-person celebration at the close of the auction. However, this year our entire celebration will be virtual.

3.) **The Iron Chef Cook-Off takes place on Friday, Oct. 9 at 6pm.**

We will have bags of pre-packed secret ingredients to be picked up at FSP on Thurs. Oct. 8. And Friday, Oct 9. Any or all of the ingredients can be used to make a delicious dish with what is in your home pantry! You can log-on to our virtual evening to hear special musical guests while you cook or eat. We'll have time that evening to share creations and directions to create your own recipe card for after.

There are so many wonderful auction items that are contributed each year - it is what makes this event so successful and so much fun! If you would like to contribute an item by October 2nd please fill out our online form here <https://forms.gle/1cNDEVsM38qiSa8J6>, or reach out to Brooke Burkett if you have any questions (brooke@friendsschoolportland.org).

A Benefit for Friends School of Portland

Online Auction & Iron Chef Cook Off

Bid Online Monday Oct 5 to Friday, Oct 9
Bidding Closes at 10pm

Join us for a Virtual Celebration on Friday, Oct 9

- ★ Live Music with Special Guests
- ★ Iron Chef Cook Off and Share 6pm from your home
- ★ Iron Chef Ingredient Pick-up Oct 8 and 9 at FSP

Friends School of Portland
11 U.S. Route One, Cumberland

For more information visit friendsschoolofportland.org

Thanks to our sponsors for their generous support.



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Report from the Cemetery Committee

Sunday, September 13, 2020 - Andy Grannell, Coordinator

The committee has met twice onsite at the Meetinghouse this summer to walk through the questions and plans emerging. The following are highlights of our work covering the period from mid- April to mid- September:

- Following the burial services for Edward 'Ed' Anthony (1941-2020) on Wednesday, April 22nd and for Anne Elizabeth Harwood (1948-2020) on Saturday, May 2nd, we took copious notes and then as a newly reconstituted committee - Wayne Cobb, Anne Payson, and Andy Grannell - we reviewed our experiences with our first green burials. The shift from planning for cremains to green burials requires a continuing series of adaptive shifts.
- Wayne Cobb contacted Robert (Robb) M. Spivey a long-time surveyor and an active member of Brunswick Friends Meeting. Robb responded quickly and came on site to review and renew his earlier (November 11, 2000) survey. We were presented with this updated survey map on May 26, 2020. Wayne quickly saw the need to update our current surveyed plots - which we have now done. All currently contracted gravesites are pinned at the corners and will receive permanent stainless steel pins.
- After a review of the trees both within and without our chain link fence, we began a multiple year process of identifying, trimming, and cutting down all trees that are either dead or soon will be. First, Wayne contacted 3-4 local tree service companies (among them Whitney Tree Service) to gain estimates and gain new insights. Since several of the trees in question are on properties owned by our neighbors, Wayne conferred with the owner of the Tortilla Flat and with the appointed local manager for Hannaford. Both of these conversations were constructive and helpful. Concluding this initial round of exploratory conversations, Wayne and Karin Wagner conferred. The result is that with a new budget season and (hopefully) a post Covid-19 range of options there will be an action plan complete with a budget.
- Beginning in early May, the committee drew up a request for proposals and advertised for "Portland Friends Meeting Groundskeeper." We interviewed three candidates and contracted with Robert 'Bob' Massengale who has served us in this capacity and also as a member of the committee. The term of service for 2020 is April 1 – November 30th.
- We have purchased a new Toro 'super recycler' has a 21" cutting width, electric start, no oil change, aluminum no rust deck, rear wheel and self- propelled drive, 5 year warranty, adjustable height, foldable or flex handle, mulch rear bag, 92 lbs. The super recycling means that all grass and likely leaves will be super fine mulched. This is likely to cut the costs of the leaf cleanup in the fall. Bob has installed a second a more secure lock on the door of the storage shed.

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 (but not limited to!) 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, including requests to add yourself to one or both:

pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

Report: Youth Religious Education

Andy Grannell

Friday, September 11, 2020

Youth Religious Committee (Bart Czyz, Emily Silivenac, Chris Fitz, & Anneke Hohl) has met via Zoom on August 2nd 8-9 and August 30th 8-9 with Bart Czyz as our new clerk.

Here are highlights:

- We thanked Luke Hankins for his steady and able leadership through some challenging times – both in his own business world and in the life the Meeting.
- Beginning in early August, we welcomed Bart Czyz as our clerk who has quickly stepped up to move us forward.
- Muriel Allen initiated a 'go fund me' effort in lieu of the contributions that annually are realized at our Easter breakfast. We are grateful to all Friends who contributed. As a result, our scholarship assistance to Bradly Lwangu of \$1,000 has replaced funding that otherwise would have come from budgeted YREC funds.
- On June 10th, we received a letter from Sukie Rice who for 18 years aided Dorothy Solebwe to fund the building and subsequent growth of the Kakamega Care Center. Consistently over the past decade, Sukie and her 'Friends of Kakamega' have raised upwards of \$50,000 a year. Portland Friends have travelled to Kenya with Sukie on her annual summer trips and contributed financially. We committed to funding Bradly Lwugu through his high school years and that will continue for two more years. After a most amazing two and one half year recurrent battle with cancer, Susan Bellows "Sukie" Rice (1946-2020) died peacefully on July 17th – at home. With Sukie's passing all of her planning for the transition went into high gear. Count on the team led by Sukie's son John Chisholm to carry on. Thank you to all Friends who have supported this wonderfully caring, timely, and faithful work on behalf on these most needful little ones. Dorothy and I have visited this Care Center and Dorothy especially enjoyed a lengthy heart to heart with Dorothy Solebwe in July of 2012.
- Emily Silevinac worked with Susan Grannell to identify the needs for cleaning the infant care room. Following this, Paula Rossvall spent considerable time giving every surface a good antiseptic cleaning – including all of the little play things. Thank you Paul
- Bart sent out a survey to aid us in planning for the fall. We received feedback from 9 families representing 15 youth. The responses were equally reflective our three age groupings, i.e., 6-8, 9-12. And 13-18. (a) "This fall, how likely would this child participate in... outdoor physically-distanced religious education activities on 2nd and 4th Sundays" – 53% (maybe), 25% - (likely) and only 20% (likely). The following questions followed a like pattern. In addition we have conducted a close monitoring of the national/international Quaker Religious Education Zoom and New England Yearly Meeting suggestions and emerging plans.
- As a result, we will be sending out a list of opportunities to our participating families early this next week. We will monitor responses and then discuss at our next scheduled meeting on Sunday, September 20 8-9 on Zoom.

Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Are you open to new light, from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?

-- Faith and Practice Britain, advices and queries

Process for Requesting Capital Funds from Portland Friends Meeting

Background: There are basically three sources of funding to meet expenses at Portland Friends Meeting (PFM).

Cash on hand

This is used for the operating budget. These funds are kept in a checking account and are intended to cover all the expenses that have been identified and approved at the beginning of each fiscal year. This money comes mainly from donations made to the Meeting by members and attenders of PFM.

Endowment Funds

These funds are invested in Friends Fiduciary Corporation, and consist of four separate accounts:

- Meeting Fund
- Barbie Potter Fund
- Cemetery Fund
- Margaret Jones Youth Fund

Fund-Raising Events

These events are held for special projects when our other sources of funding are not adequate to meet a need.

Funding Policy:

It is our general policy to withdraw no more than 4% in total from the endowment accounts each year in order to preserve our capital for future generations.

As the members and attenders of Portland Friends Meeting identify expenses above and beyond those paid from the operating budget, we follow a process of discernment so that funds from our endowment are used wisely, a primary aim being to preserve the endowment funds in perpetuity.

Funding Capital Expenses:

When a large potential capital expense such as a new boiler, a new roof, or paving of the parking lot is identified, a committee or group of involved members of PFM bring a proposal to the Financial Oversight Committee (FO). A detailed description of the needed funds and a timeline for the project are submitted, and FO then meets to see if the projected expense is feasible. FO examines PFM's resources, analyzes how much money could potentially and prudently be drawn from the endowment funds and how much would need to come from a special fund-raising event or from some other source of funds.

Approval of Capital Expenditures:

Once the financial details are worked out within FO, the requestees and FO jointly bring the proposal to PFM monthly business meeting, asking for approval of the plan by all members and attenders who are present at the meeting. Assuming the project is approved, the committee responsible for the project maintains close communication with the Treasurer so that all bills are paid in a timely fashion, drawing on endowment funds and/or specially raised funds in the manner that has been agreed upon.



NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS
QUAKERS

Parents' Tea-and-Chat

On-going drop-in conversation about Quaker parenting in these times
September 3-November 5, 2020
Every Thursday from 8:00pm to 9:30pm.

Weekly conversation time for parents at home with their children at this time.

Hosted by Junior Yearly Meeting and Jr High Yearly Meeting (elementary and middle school) Coordinator Gretchen Baker-Smith and longtime coordinator of the Quaker Parenting Initiative Harriet Heath.

Join the mutually supportive free-form conversation Thursday evenings via Zoom. Get the link by emailing Gretchen gretchen@neym.org.



Portland Friends Meeting Directories

To request copies of the most updated directory, or to let us know about changes we should make to your contact information, just email:

directory@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, October 6, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

