

# Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Tenth Month

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

## Connections

*Co-Clerks*

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Special Needs Funds

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*Religious Education*

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Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

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*“Do you look for opportunities to deepen your understanding of the history and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends? Do you inform yourself about the diversity of Friends’ theology and practice? The space within Quakerism is graciously large. Where are its boundaries?”*

— Query 10, 2014 New England Yearly Meeting Interim Faith and Practice

## Calendar

**Saturday, October 24** 10a - 12n Falmouth Quarter meeting

**Saturday, November 7** 9a - 12n Love Your Meeting House Day

**Every Sunday:** 10:30a Meeting for Worship

**Second Saturdays:** 5-8p Youngish adults potluck

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

\*contact Co-Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links

## ‘Love Your Meeting House Day’

Saturday morning, November 7th has been selected as our annual autumn ‘Love Your Meeting House Day’ - hours 9-12. Areas with appropriate spacing will be offered. The following will make this go well: (1) tarps, (2) paper leaf bags, (3) blowers, and (4) trailers and/or trucks to haul to City of Portland’s Riverton Recycling Center.

Please let Andy Grannell at [grannell90@gmail.com](mailto:grannell90@gmail.com) know if you can contribute time, rakes, blowers, trailers, trucks, or leaf bags. Let’s do this one in recognition of the years of service and friendship offered so lovingly by Ed Robinson.



## 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](mailto:directory@portlandfriendsmeeting.org).

**Portland Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business**

October 4, 2020

We began in silent worship at 9:02 am, gathered remotely and connected via Zoom, with 21 members and attenders present.

Our presiding clerk, Brad Bussiere-Nichols, read query #10 from the 2014 New England Yearly Meeting Interim Faith and Practice:

Do you look for opportunities to deepen your understanding of the history and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends? Do you inform yourself about the diversity of Friends' theology and practice? The space within Quakerism is graciously large. Where are its boundaries?

1. **September minutes.** The minutes from our September, 2020, Meeting for Business were accepted as printed in the newsletter.
2. **Treasurers report for September 2020.** Kathy Beach presented this report showing our year to date expenditures and income through September. We are 75% of the way through the year, with income at only 65% of budget and expenses at 77% of budget. Thus the deficit of almost \$9,000.

We give many thanks for a generous memorial gift of \$5000 this month, which helps to reduce our budget deficit. Since we have not been meeting in-person at the Meetinghouse (with the exception of the outdoor Meeting for Worship last Sunday), the monthly donations have consistently been less than they were in the 6 months of March to September last year. This is understandable, but it is contributing to our deficit.

We have fulfilled all our pledges for contributions to Quaker organizations, and this month we will send the \$4,500 loan repayment to Friends Fiduciary Corporation. This payment will be part of an annual repayment schedule through 2025.

We accepted Kathy's report, with gratitude for her careful work.

We were asked whether the Finance Committee has thought about whether they expect to catch up, whether easier ways to donate may be helpful, and what is their overall plan? Kathy reported that we often have some deficit at this time, but typically catch up by January. The committee is exploring on-line contributions, and there was an article in our newsletter last month detailing ways to contribute. Does not meeting in the meeting house lower our costs? For some things it does, but other costs, such as the weight test and inspection on our lift will still be incurred. Wifi has been put on hold, since it is not really needed at this time. With the drought, our water bill has gone up. And, with the Pandemic some people in our community will not be able to give the contributions they would like.

We were also asked whether having the Finance Committee report so near the top of our agenda is a policy decision representing a judgement about priority. "No," we were told; it is just a common practice, that has been our norm.

**Financial summary for Portland Friends Meeting Jan – Sept 2020 9 months = 75%**

	Year to date	% of budget
Income		
Donations	\$ 40,974	67%
Rent	1,295	26%
Endowment	9,000	75%
Total **	\$ 51,269	65%
Expenses		
Meeting house	\$ 19,381	69%
Meeting committees	20,095	57%
PFM contributions to Quaker organizations	4,880	100%
Total **	\$ 69,209	77%
Balance ****	\$ (8,930)	

Contributions can be sent to Meeting House address – 1837 Forest Ave, Portland ME 04103

(cont-)

(Minutes continued from page 2)

3. **Ministry and Counsel.** Christine Fletcher reported about the outdoor worship held last Sunday September 27. Sixteen Friends gathered for joyful worship outdoors behind the meeting house. We delighted in being able to worship together, despite the increased ambient traffic noise. While there were several things we learned from the experience, feedback was very positive and many friends expressed interest in having a continued opportunity to worship outdoors in future weeks. Jennifer Frick will be helping to organize this, with tentative plans for the next outdoor worship likely on Sunday Oct. 11. Friends should watch their email for more information.

We were reminded of the need to be respectful of the graves that occupy much of the space behind our meeting house. Our cemetery is a part of our ongoing life, and gladness was expressed that we are in it, with respect, and not just looking from afar.

Christine also reported that Ministry and Counsel is supporting Ann Dodd-Collins' offer to procure a Black Lives Matter sign for the meetinghouse from a Black-owned business. Ann may get ten double-sided signs for \$115. Friends interested in one of these signs, should email Ann Dodd-Collins at [doddco@gmail.com](mailto:doddco@gmail.com).

4. **Welcoming Work Group.** Dorothy Grannell reported for the group, which has met twice this summer. Mary Tracy is the new convener. Paula Rossvall will assist Mary in contacting new attenders at our Zoom worship. Until Portland Friends can meet in person once again, the work group will hold off developing new ways to encourage newcomers and welcome them into our community.

Dorothy noted several concerns about our on-line presence. The zoom waiting room offers some increased security, but can feel less than inviting. We heard of other meetings that have been able to make their waiting room a place of fellowship. Durham Friends Meeting posts the zoom link on their web site, but would-be attenders still need to get the password from somebody.

Since newcomers find us through our website and various Quaker connections, the work group is encouraging the Communications committee to continue working to make the website more accessible for those who wish to learn more about our meeting. The work group is concerned about how difficult it can be to connect to our online worship via the website. The steps one has to navigate to be able to join our worship appear exclusionary and thus unwelcoming. They hope that Ministry and Counsel and Communications will create a more welcoming presence on our online public face.

We were asked about the status of our project to create a new sign. It had been put on hold, or at least slowed down, for a variety of reasons, including preliminary cost estimates for the total project as envisioned, and the high priority paving project that was about to begin.

Lyn Ballou offered to contact those who were working on the sign effort before, and see how we get moving on this. She also noted that this was much more than a "sign" project. It really addressed our public face to the community. We gratefully accepted Lyn Ballou's offer to investigate how the project can become alive and working, while taking note of our past history with this task. Our clerk noted what a vital and alive meeting we are, and how significant we are in the broader community of Friends, including those Friends who feel that they lack a local spiritual community. He also reminded us that we will be getting a "Black Lives Matter" sign shortly, and that this should not wait until all the other signage issues are resolved.

We realized that there are two sets of welcoming issues, for our two environments – Physical meeting in our meeting house, and virtual meeting via Zoom. Both are important, but pose different concerns.

5. **Announcements:** The newsletter deadline is Tuesday Oct. 6 at 11:59 pm. Please consider offering a profile of yourself. Today is World Quaker Day ([worldquakerday.org](http://worldquakerday.org)) The theme is "What does it mean to be a Quaker today? Living a Faithful Life in a Changing World".

The Friends School Annual Auction is taking place from Monday Oct. 5 at 9 am thru Friday, Oct. 9 at 10 pm.

6. **Closing.** Our meeting closed in silent worship at 10:14 am, with about 29 members and attenders present, purposing to meet again, God willing, at 9:00 am on Sunday November 1, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Fink, Co-Recording Clerk

## Announcement of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting will meet on October 24th from 10 – 12 via zoom. Falmouth Quarter consists of the five meetings in southern Maine. All are invited to come. There will be opportunities to share the life of our meetings in these times, and to conduct the essential business of the Quarter. Now is the time to put this in your calendar. If you have questions, or suggestions please contact one of the co-convenors:

Sarah Sprogell (Durham), sarahsprogell@gmail.com or 207-319-5077  
Fritz Weiss (Portland), rossvall.weiss@gmail.com or 802-299-7660



### Young Friends Worldwide: Community

October 24 Online, 8am UK or 8pm UK (12 noon or 12 midnight Pacific, 1am or 1pm Mountain, 2am or 2pm Central/Jamaica, 3am or 3pm Eastern [https://fwccamericas.org/\\_wp/event/young-friends-worldwide-community/](https://fwccamericas.org/_wp/event/young-friends-worldwide-community/)

### FWCC Northeast Regional Gathering

Online | October 24 - 25, 2020 Two-Day Virtual Gathering October 24-25 Climate & Social Justice Join Friends in Northeastern North America for a weekend of plenary sessions, worship, and workshops! Saturday will feature opening Meeting for Worship, a plenary session, and two afternoon presentation/workshops. On Sunday, we will visit each others' Meetings in the morning, then participate in two afternoon presentation/workshops and a closing session. [https://fwccamericas.org/\\_wp/event/northeast-regional-gathering/](https://fwccamericas.org/_wp/event/northeast-regional-gathering/)

### Help wanted!

(A note from Heather, your newsletter layout person!)

The front calendar of our newsletter should probably be full of lovely Quaker activities, but no items were submitted to be included. (I added Falmouth Quarter and Love Your Meetinghouse Day so something would be there.)

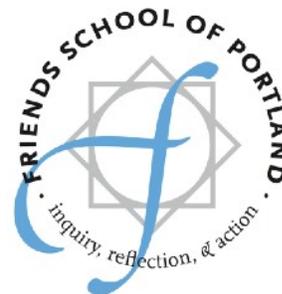
I'm not available to determine which items should appear on our calendar, I'm sorry to say. I have a hard enough time getting the layout done in a timely manner! Thank you for considering it!

### Admissions Open House at Friends School of Portland

Friends School of Portland will be holding their annual Admissions Open House on Saturday, October 24 from 9am-noon. Adjusted for COVID safety, the Open House will include a tour of their newly expanded Passive House school building and beautiful 21-acre campus. The Head of School, Director of Studies, Admissions Director and teachers will be on hand for prospective families to learn about Quaker education and get a feel for FSP's culture of joyful learning.

In order to adhere to all Maine CDC COVID-19 regulations, pre-registration is required and spaces are limited to 1 adult per household. Find more details here: <https://www.friendsschoolportland.org/admissions-events>

FSP will also be holding informational sessions online with prospective families, stay up to date by visiting their virtual admissions office here: <https://www.friendsschoolportland.org/new-page-2>



### 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](mailto:pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com).

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

For any questions related to the lists, including requests to add yourself to one or both: [pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com](mailto:pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com).



Crow Flight  
by our friend and neighbor  
Mihku Paul, Maliseet

## Indigenous Peoples' Day October 12

By Wayne Cobb ([wcobb2@gmail.com](mailto:wcobb2@gmail.com))

Indigenous Peoples' Day became a statewide holiday in 2019. Last year the holiday was celebrated with local feasts, Tribal drumming events and museum exhibits. But unsurprisingly, we're seeing little in the way of in-person celebrations this year. The one current in-person exhibit of which I'm aware is State of Mind: Becoming Maine, which runs until January 30, 2021 at the Maine Historical Society Museum in Portland. In addition to exploring the events surrounding Maine's Statehood in 1820, the exhibit analyzes Maine as the homeland of the Wabanaki people, as a European province, as part of the District of Massachusetts. I highly recommend it! (The Museum requires reservations to assure compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.)

You can reserve a time for your in-person visit here: <https://mainehistory.rezgo.com/details/269642/admission-to-gallery>

The online version can be viewed here: <https://www.mainememory.net/sitebuilder/site/3012/page/4753/display>

### Here are some Indigenous Peoples' Day-related events you can enjoy at home:

**Upstander Dawnland & Dear Georgina** Film Event, Tuesday, 10/12, 8-10 PM:

If you haven't yet had the opportunity, view these two highly recommended films about the Maine Truth and Reconciliation process and one Passamaquoddy elder who was touched by her journey through it. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dawnland-and-dear-georgina-online-film-screening-live-filmmaker-q-a-tickets-116651488743?aff=UPsitebanner>

Or, on the same evening you can view this online presentation: **U-U Condor and Eagle**, 10/12, 7-9:30 PM (later dates also available):

Come together virtually as people of faith and conscience to watch this award-winning documentary, join the followup discussion, and unite the faith community in the movement for Indigenous rights and climate justice. (Donation suggested) <https://www.uumfe.org/condor-eagle/>

### Other Indigenous Matters of Note:

The 129th Maine Legislature, which has been out of session for several months, was unable to vote on a number of Tribal-related bills. Given the impending elections, a Special Session in which the bills could be considered seems very unlikely. These bills probably will be re-introduced in early 2021.

The Wabanaki Alliance, a consortium of the four Tribes in Maine, has formed to advance Tribal interests in the Legislature and elsewhere. They've posted a scorecard showing how all legislators voted on relevant bills this year. If you wish to see how your Representative and Senator voted on Indigenous issues, go to [https://wabanakialliance.com/maine-legislative-scorecard/?fbclid=IwAR2FKj\\_MwWL5vkbIEAfiKD3HJ2u42ZzRNi\\_U\\_g1PzVx1xcBCDBNdA6GdZwc](https://wabanakialliance.com/maine-legislative-scorecard/?fbclid=IwAR2FKj_MwWL5vkbIEAfiKD3HJ2u42ZzRNi_U_g1PzVx1xcBCDBNdA6GdZwc)

The legal case brought by the Penobscot Nation to restore its aboriginal rights to the waters of its namesake river reached the full First District Court of Appeals in September. At issue is whether the Penobscots' reservation includes the main stem of the river or whether, because of the 1980 settlement acts, their rights are confined to the lands and islands around the river only. To listen to the oral arguments at the September 22 Court en banc review, go to <http://media.ca1.uscourts.gov/files/audio/16-1424.mp3>

The Governor's Permanent Commission on the State of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations has met, and is scheduled to present its initial report in January. It will focus on programs that create and improve opportunities and incorporate the goal of eliminating disparities for historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations in the State.

Portland Friends Meeting  
1837 Forest Ave  
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

**Next newsletter deadline:**  
Tuesday, November 3, 11:59pm

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

