Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter
Summer 2022
Meeting for Worship: 10:45a Sundays

Connections
Co-Clerks
Rob Levin
Peter Woodrow
coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Recording Clerks
PFM.recordingclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer, Contributions
Jane Mullen, 215–421–5257
jmmmaine@aol.com

Treasurer, Operating Account
Kathy Beach, 207-233-2065
katherinegbeach@gmail.com

Treasurer, Special Funds
Special Needs Funds
Elizabeth Szatkowski 207-274-3564

Pastoral Care Coordinator
Christina Davis 518-0784

Childcare Coordinator
Susan Grannell 401-413-5951
pfm-nursery-coordinator@gmail.com

Religious Education
Adult: On Hiatus
Youth: Bart Czyz btczyz@gmail.com

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:
Emily Troll etroll@wesleyan.edu

Use of the Meetinghouse
meetinghouse@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

e-group membership
pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions
Heather Denkmire
pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

Address/directory changes
directory@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

“Do you maintain an appropriate balance among work, service, worship, family, and recreation?”
—Faith and Practice, Chapter 11

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Sunday</td>
<td>10:45a Meeting for Worship* on Zoom and at the Friends School of Portland; First Sundays at Portland Friends Meetinghouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Wednesday</td>
<td>7p Young Adult Friends Mid-Week Worship email <a href="mailto:yaf@portlandfriendsmeeting.org">yaf@portlandfriendsmeeting.org</a> for location</td>
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<td>Second Saturdays</td>
<td>5-8p Youngish adults potluck Bart Czyz, <a href="mailto:btczyz@gmail.com">btczyz@gmail.com</a>, 207 899 5937</td>
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<td>Every Weekday</td>
<td>10:30-11a Meeting for Worship on Zoom*</td>
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<tr>
<td>*contact Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links</td>
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The Quaker contingent in Portland’s Pride Parade walked with a banner that read “WE MET GOD THEY’RE WICKED QUEER Portland Friends Meeting (Quakers)”. The banner was generally met with quizzical looks as folks puzzled out what these God people were doing at Pride. Then, when they got to the end, they smiled, pointed and shouted “YEEAAAAHHHH!!!!!!!” It was joyous. The walking contingent was Vicky Anderson, Wayne Cobb, Anne Dodd-Collins, Sophie Michelewicz, Leslie Manning (Durham), Fritz Weiss and Jay O’Hara. Banner makers included Mel and Maggie Fiorie, Autumn Gusto, Genna Ulrich and Hannah Colbert.
Friends of the Portland Friends Meeting began in silent worship at 9:00 am on July 24, 2022. Thirty-eight Friends gathered, in person at the Meeting House and remotely via Zoom. Our presiding Co-Clerk, Rob Levin, offered the day’s advice and query:

_Do you maintain an appropriate balance among work, service, worship, family, and recreation?

After a period of silent worship, Rob introduced everyone and reviewed the Meeting’s agenda. Holding the Meeting in the Light was Becky Steele.

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting for Business in June 2022 were approved without modification.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Clerk Rob Levin brought forth the name of Maxwell Famolare, 4-year-old son of Kristine Famolare, for associate membership. Rob reported that Maxwell loves French fries and is a dinosaur enthusiast, and would kick a soccer ball all day if given the opportunity. Maxwell’s associate membership was approved by the Meeting, after which Dorothy Grannell reminded parents that children must reapply for membership on their own upon reaching the age of majority.

3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Following a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday to Chris…,” Committee Clerk Chris Beach brought forth the following committee nominations

- **Peter Woodrow** to serve as Meeting Co-Clerk for the next two years;
- **David Hingston** to serve as Co-Recording Clerk for Meeting for Business;
- **Becky Steele** to serve as a Member of Ministry & Counsel for the next two years;
- **Susan Lavigne** to serve on PFM’s Resource Committee for Friends School of Portland;
- **Sharon McDonnell** to serve as Assistant E-Group Coordinator;
- **Mary Tracy, Liz Maier, Joyce Blossom, and Kathy Beach** to serve on the new Events Coordination Committee;
- **Sue Reilly and Autumn Gusto** to serve on the Welcoming & Hospitality Committee; and
- **Maggie Fehr** to serve as a Sunday Morning Greeter.

The nominations were enthusiastically approved, with thanks to all for their willingness to serve.

Chris next read the following welcome to Peter Woodrow:

“One of Nominating’s high points this Spring was Peter Woodrow’s agreeing to Co-Clerk PFM with Rob Levin. Peter brings such a range and depth of experience that Rob and everyone else I have spoken to is thrilled that Peter will be giving PFM so much of his attention over the next two years.

Speaking first from my personal experience with Peter in worship, in Ministry & Counsel, in threshing sessions, and in other settings, what I have observed and treasured includes the following: 1) his calm; 2) his tendency to ask questions that move a discussion through a stuck point to a more promising point or approach; 3) his decades of experience with so many Quaker and non-Quaker organizations; 4) his knowledge of Quaker process; 5) his having had to engage with many difficult organizational and process issues; and 6) his ability to help a group move from heat and antagonism to a more helpful and peaceful place.

But beyond my personal experience, it is good to consider just a few aspects of Peter’s rich Quaker life, in no particular order. He asked to join his Meeting in Pennsylvania when he was just 15, and was readily accepted. He has lived and worked in a variety of settings, including Vietnam after he graduated from college, Philadelphia, Cambridge, Boulder CO, and here in Maine. He has spent much of his career in international relief work and in peacebuilding work. Four times he has served on the Board of the American Friends Service Committee, including several times as its Recording Clerk. He has had a home in Maine for about fifteen years, and has lived here full-time since 2017. He transferred his membership from Boulder CO to Portland in about 2018.

Trust me, I could go on for pages, but I hope this is enough to let all of us know how lucky we are that Peter has agreed to serve as our incoming Co-Clerk. Please join me in welcoming Peter in that role.”

(Continued on p. 3)
4. SISTER MEETING COMMITTEE
Rob reported that the question of the Meeting's financial support for the proposed trip remains open from June and likely will be brought back to the September Meeting for Business, which is satisfactory since the trip has now been delayed until February 2023.

Fritz Weiss, the Committee's Co-Clerk, next delivered the Committee's report, which follows up on the initial report from June and is attached hereto as Attachment 1. There were no questions or requests for clarification on the report. In discussion, Friends raised the following points of concern and/or enthusiasm:

Previous trips have always brought back much learning about Cuba and the life of our Friends there, and have proven to be highly valuable experiences.

Durham Friends Meeting has maintained close relations with both Portland and Velasco Meetings, and notes that visits by outsiders are of great importance for Friends who are rural and isolated. The proposed trip also provides an opportunity for the Durham and Portland meetings to share experiences and strengthen their bond.

Further information about the history of the Sister Meeting relationship is available on the Durham Friends Meeting website and the NEYM website.

In closing, Fritz offered two thoughts: (1) We are not traveling alone—not just with Durham Meeting, but also with other Friends who have made the trip over time, and with God. (2) The experience of traveling to something new and returning to the familiar leads to being open to transformation and knowing each other in a different way.

5. YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Youth and Family Coordinator Emily Troll presented the Committee's pending experiment, to begin in September, to have children join in Meeting for Worship at the end, rather than at the beginning. The Committee's report is attached as Attachment 2. The following items were among those that arose during the discussion that ensued:

Joining worship toward the end provides children with the opportunity to share a deeper, more settled experience than at the beginning.

Parents and teachers have a better opportunity to connect when the children go right downstairs when they arrive.

The proposed sequence has been used before and works well.

Consideration should be given to whether children entering sit together or disperse to sit with their parents.

The proposal provides teachers with an opportunity to prepare children better for the experience of the gathered worship.

Entering toward the end provides children with the opportunity to share in joys and concerns.

Friends love the excitement of the moment when the children come through the door to join.

6. MINISTRY AND COUNSEL
Maggie (Mags) Fehr reported that Ministry & Counsel has approved the appointment of herself and Chris Beach as Co-Clerks of the committee, and expressed her excitement at taking on this role.

Fritz Weiss next reported that the Portland Equality Center, which houses a number of organizations offering support to members of the LGBTQ+ community in Portland, has asked multi-faith groups in Portland to affirm their support of the Center's mission and activities and to provide a statement to that effect. Rob reported that the Committee proposed adding an approval item for such support to the agenda, and noted that this would not be the first time that the Meeting has minuted its support for the LGBTQ+ community.

In discussion, several Friends spoke in favor of moving quickly to provide such an affirmation. Becky Steele volunteered to receive input from the Meeting community as to how we are currently living up to our aspirations in this respect, and how we can improve. Others noted that the Meeting had engaged in deep discernment about same-sex marriage some years ago and affirmed its support on the matter. After some consideration and refinement of wording, the Meeting found unity on and approved the following minute:

*We, the Portland Friends Meeting, renew our commitment to and approval of the Meeting as an Open, Affirming and Advocating congregation with respect to LGBTQ+ issues, and to being publicly known as such.*
Rob then reported that the Co-Clerks and Ministry and Counsel have been considering the Meeting’s practices regarding the monthly Meetings for Business, particularly concerning running short on time and possible interference with the 10:45 starting time for Meeting for Worship. Results from our spring survey suggest that the Meeting generally prefers that we continue to hold Business Meeting before Meeting for Worship, although we can always revisit that question at a later time. Meanwhile, Rob and Ministry and Counsel have identified five tools for the Co-Clerks’ possible use when time is running short towards the end of Business Meeting:

1. Starting Business Meeting earlier than 9:00 am, to provide more time for Business discernment;
2. Reconvening Business Meeting that same day after the Meeting for Worship, when necessary;
3. Delaying the start of the Meeting for Worship, when necessary;
4. Reconvening the Business Meeting on the following week when matters remain unresolved; and
5. Scheduling listening sessions, threshing sessions, or other called meetings, when necessary.

Pending further discussion, the Co-Clerks may utilize any of these tools, singly or in combination, and may experiment with them to ensure that the Meeting’s business matters enjoy thorough seasoning by all Friends.

7. CLOSING SILENT WORSHIP

Meeting then settled into closing worship shortly after 10:30 in the morning, with thirty-five Friends present. Meeting then rose, to meet again for the Conduct of Business on September 11, 2022, according to Divine will.

ATTACHMENT 1

July 24, 2022

Sister Meeting Committee Report to Portland Friends Meeting

After the Portland Friends Meeting (PFM) June 2022 business meeting, the delegation approved to travel to Cuba, in consultation with the NEYM Puente committee, was able to reschedule the trip from World Quaker Day in October to the Cuba Yearly Meeting in February.

Preparing to travel

The three Friends approved for the delegation to travel to Cuba have begun meeting regularly. We’re practicing our Spanish, learning the particular vocabulary of Quakers in Spanish and reading the resources translated for Cuban Friends by Benigno Sanchez Eppler and Susan Furry of New England Yearly Meeting. We have asked the Presiding Clerk of Cuba for guidance on what material goods the Cubans would most appreciate bringing with us, for the current concerns of Cuban Friends, and for a summary of the theme of Cuba Yearly Meeting sessions. We have learned that Air Canada will begin commercial flights to Holguin Airport three times a week in November which allows us more flexibility on when we will travel. Currently we are thinking we will fly to Cuba on Thursday 2/16/23 and return on Monday 2/29/23. This would support our attendance at the annual meeting of Cuba Yearly Meeting and then to attend Sunday worship in Velasco the next week.

Durham Friends Update

The individuals from Durham who were considering joining the delegation have each had compelling personal reasons that led to them withdrawing from the delegation. Durham Meeting is considering who else might be encouraged to join with us.

Travel Letters

We have received our travel letters from Portland Friends Meeting, and have had them endorsed by Falmouth Quarter. The Yearly Meeting will endorse them at the next Permanent Board meeting. We will need to get the necessary documents for the religious visas compiled to be sent through New England Yearly Meeting by the end of the summer.

Funding

Dorothy Grannell and Ann Dodd-Collins are coordinating the fundraising for the delegation. The budget that was shared for the June meeting for business was the travel expenses for a one-week visit. If we extend the visit to allow for a longer visit with Velasco Meeting, the cost per individual would be as much as $250 more than that budget. There will also probably be some expenses related to gathering the material goods we will carry with us. We have opened an account at the Town and Country Credit Union to hold the funds to support the trip. A few donations have been
received. There will be a kick off fundraiser after worship this Sunday. We do not expect to ask Durham meeting for funds if there are no Friends from Durham joining us.

The Leadings Committee has invited the delegation to apply for some support this fall.

We’ve begun researching other possible sources of grant funds. The Obadiah Brown Fund and the Lyman Fund have a deadline for submissions of September 15. Each fund will meet in October to consider requests. The NEYM Legacy Gift Fund would need to see some support directly from PFM before considering a request.

Final Note
The Sister Meeting Committee did submit a request to the meeting for financial support to be considered at the June 2022 Meeting for Business. This request was not considered as we ran out of time. We do expect that this request will be considered when the Co-Clerks are prepared to bring it forward. The committee as a whole is “exercised”, to use an old Quaker term, that the Meeting has endorsed the delegation but has not been clear to financially support the delegation.

For the Sister Meeting Committee
Ann Dodd-Collins, Sydney McDowell, Theresa Oleksiw, Fritz Weiss (co-clerk), Nancy Marsteller (co-clerk)

ATTACHMENT 2

Report From Youth Religious Education Committee

Kids at the End of Meeting For Worship
Presented to Meeting for Business – July 24, 2022

YRE is proposing that this fall we try having young ones join us at the end of Meeting For Worship instead of the start. This format would allow First Day School to prepare kids for worship with strategies for staying quiet and centered, prompts to think about, and so on. It would allow kids to be there for both the deepest part of worship, and the community-building announcement / introductions time afterwards. Emily Troll has spoken with several other monthly meetings who do this, and they think it works really well.

The proposal is to give it a try - and like our other small experiments, reassess as we go. We thank you for your great support in all our prior experiments in ways to integrate across the ages, and hope you will share your concerns and ideas for this next possible phase.

Youth Religious Education Committee
Bart Czyz, Clerk
Emily Troll, Youth and Family Coordinator
Sue Calhoun, Mary Desilva, Chris Fitze, Valerie Todd

Quick Summary of Income and Expenses for PFM Through June 2022
6th Month (50% of the year)

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A Great Picnic!

June 12th, 2022, Friends gathered early at the Meeting House preparing for… the Great Spring Picnic! While youth and volunteers made flower crowns in the dining room, Jonathan and the teens fried up dumplings in the kitchen. YRE committee members and parents went up and down the stairs preparing the picnic tables with food and supplies. And then the grilling began!

Gentle revelry might well describe the mood. Friends brought their kids, their parents, their grandparents, their pals. All gathered outside and filled their plates with foods. It was a merry time, with many smiles. Nice words of appreciation were said. Cheers ensued, both with the delight of being together and gratitude for the work of the meeting for families this year. Then we paraded around the front for the all-meeting photo, and then to the back for ice cream and water balloons.

The sun shone on, the shade moved slowly across the lawn, the wind blew, and folks caught up with each other until it was time to clean up. As COVID continues to affect us, years after the start, it was a true privilege to be together like this. We missed many of our Friends on this day, and were grateful that so many could join us.

Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists

Anyone is welcome to join our email lists! Announcements about worship, documents for Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business are sent via the “Life of the Meeting” list. To join/subscribe to these email lists/e-groups, simply email pfm.email.list.owner@gmail.com.

Once you have joined, to send a message to “Life of the Meeting” use pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com and, to send a message to “Wider Community” use pfm-wider-community@googlegroups.com.
Wayne Cobb and Ann Dodd-Collins met with other members of the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy in Belfast on Friday, July 8. We discussed the conversations Shirley Hager has had with various tribal leaders about NEYM’s Apology to Native Americans, confirmed that Wabanaki issues will continue to be our major focus in the next legislative session, and discussed the future of FCMPP. In anticipation of a renewed push by the Wabanaki Alliance in the next Maine Legislature, Wayne and Jim Matlack will be writing a minute in support of Wabanaki sovereignty for Falmouth and Vassalboro Quarters to consider at their fall meetings.

Wayne has been attending all meetings of the Wabanaki Alliance, which have been held on Zoom biweekly over the summer, on Thursdays at 10 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact Wayne at wcobb2@gmail.com. Topics have included Federal legislation and plans for advancing State legislation in the 2023 session. He will be keeping the Meeting notified when individual actions are timely.

In addition, Wayne has been involved in drafting signage for the Riverton Trolley Park, signage that reflects both Wabanaki and Quaker presence on the Presumpscot River.

Furthermore, Wayne has been in touch with Mihku Paul, who has expressed interest in resuming her Indigenous women’s gatherings at our meeting house. She will be making plans for that in the near future, taking into account our Covid protocols.

What we are following:

HR6707, Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act. This bill, sponsored by 2nd District Representative Jared Golden and co-sponsored by 1st District Representative Chellie Pingree, passed in the House on July 14. This legislation will amend the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act so that the Wabanaki tribes can benefit from future federal laws that apply to other federally recognized tribes. It is time to contact Senator King and ask him to support this bill. The Wabanaki Alliance urges us to make our letters/emails personal.

Begin by saying who you are and why you support HR6707. For example, I am a member of Portland Friends Meeting (Quakers) and have been working on tribal issues for some time. To me, HR6707 is a fairness issue.

Then, in your own words, suggest why Senator King should support this effort – because of the values he has demonstrated, his legacy as a principled and forward-thinking policymaker … For example, I know that supporting this effort is in line with your longstanding legacy of being on the side of equality and fairness, and I look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like more talking points, examples, or background, please contact Wayne at wcobb2@gmail.com or Ann at doddco@gmail.com. We can send you a two-page PDF file.

Let’s Find Out About Velasco Friends!

What is the official name of Velasco Friends Church?
Iglesia de los amigos Cuáqueros

What form of worship do they practice?
Programmed, Christian, Biblical Quaker worship

What is their Yearly Meeting?
Junta Anual de Cuba (Cuba Yearly Meeting)

What is the name of the pastor?
Yadira Cruz Pena is the pastor, Zoe Lazara is the clerk of Velasco Mtg.

Do Velasco Friends have a First Day School program for children?
Velasco has youth religious education - but not on First day, The weekly schedule for Velasco Friends is: Sundays at 9:00 am and Tuesdays at 7:30 there is a service of prayer and preaching, Thursdays at 8:00 pm is house worship (families gather for a period of worship around the theme for the week), Friday at 7:30 the women gather for worship and Saturday at 8:30 PM the youth religious education program occurs.

Scenes from “A Taste of Cuba!”
How many members does Velasco have?
There are roughly 60 members (in communion) and approximately 20 additional in the community.

Could you answer the same questions about Portland Friends? Durham Friends?
Send donations to: Ann Dodd Collins (name on check), 120 Pleasant Ave, Unit 3
Portland ME 04103 MEMO line Sister Meeting
Venmo @Ann-Dodd-Collins memo Sister Meeting
Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Tuesday September 13, 11:56pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net