

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Twelfth Month 2022

Meeting for Worship: 10:45a Sundays

First Day School: 10:30a Sundays



1837 Forest Ave Portland, ME 04103
portlandfriendsmeeting.org 207-200-6544

Connections

Co-Clerks

Rob Levin

Peter Woodrow

coclerks@portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Recording Clerks

PFM.recordingclerk@gmail.com

Treasurer, Contributions

Jane Mullen, 215-421-5257

jmmaine@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

Muriel Allen, 207-420-1021

murielpfm@gmail.com

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

"In the Gatherings, meeting in a Talking Circle with ceremony made all the difference. Nowadays, here in Canada, we even have government departments wanting to use the Talking Circle in meetings, but they don't want to use it properly. They can't give up control, so it doesn't work for them. There will be one person who holds the stick, and they decide who's going to speak next, and so they pass it to that person. And they pass it "here" and they pass it "there." I couldn't stand being in a circle like that. I was in one once, and I had to get out of there. I couldn't stand it because Spirit is supposed to *flow*. You don't control a Circle. It will do its work. You just have to leave it alone and stop trying to manage it. That's the hardest thing for non-Natives to do, to stop managing. Stop, stop, STOP already!"

The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations, Shirley Hager and Mawopiyane

Calendar

December 11 Rise of Meeting, Blessing Way for Theodore Cyz

December 12 5-6p Virtual budget information session (see inside for link)

December 18 9a Called Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (hybrid*)

January 8 9a Meeting for Worship for the Conduce of Business (hybrid*)

Every Month

Every Sunday: 10:30a First Day School/All Ages Youth Programming at the Meetinghouse

10:45a Meeting for Worship* at the Meetinghouse and on Zoom;

Every Wednesday: 7p Young Adult Friends Mid-Week Worship
email yaf@portlandfriendsmeeting.org for location

Every Weekday: 10:30-11a Meeting for Worship on Zoom*

*contact Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links

Blessing Way, December 11

Please join us at the rise of Meeting on December 11th for a Blessing Way to welcome Theodore Cyz into our community. Theodore was born to Brooke Burkett and Bart Czyz in July this year. He has an older brother, Thomas. A Blessing Way is a simple event to bestow blessings upon a new baby. We will stand in a circle in the Meetingroom around the newly-expanded family and each in turn give a verbal blessing or wish for the baby's life. Those on zoom feel free to stay online and participate from a distance. There will be food to share after the Blessing Way. Please direct any questions to Kathy Beach at katherinegbeach@gmail.com or 207-233-2065.



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

December 4, 2022

Peter Woodrow, Co-Clerk
David N. Hingston recording

Friends of the Portland Friends Meeting began in silent worship at 8:45 am. Some forty-two Friends gathered, in person at the Meeting House and remotely via Zoom. Peter Woodrow opened the meeting with a reading of the following, from *The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations* by Shirley Hager and Mawopiyane:

"In the Gatherings, meeting in a Talking Circle with ceremony made all the difference. Nowadays, here in Canada, we even have government departments wanting to use the Talking Circle in meetings, but they don't want to use it properly. They can't give up control, so it doesn't work for them. There will be one person who holds the stick, and they decide who's going to speak next, and so they pass it to that person. And they pass it "here" and they pass it "there." I couldn't stand being in a circle like that. I was in one once, and I had to get out of there. I couldn't stand it because Spirit is supposed to *flow*. You don't control a Circle. It will do its work. You just have to leave it alone and stop trying to manage it. That's the hardest thing for non-Natives to do, to stop managing. Stop, stop, STOP already!"

Peter expressed thanks to Luke Hankins and Sophie Michelewicz for their assistance with the hybrid meeting technology, and noted that Chris Beach and Ann Dodd-Collins are holding the Meeting in the Light.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES The Meeting then **approved** the minutes of the meetings of November 6 and November 20. In response to a question, Andy Grannell noted that the lists of Leadings Grants are maintained in the Meeting's archive.

2. DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE As the Meeting next turned its attention to the work of the Discernment Steering Committee, Peter led a song and the Meeting settled into a period of silent worship.

Emily Troll opened the discussion with her observation that the Committee's work has included a great many meetings and discussions in the wake of the Meeting's previous Discernment sessions. Peter then posed the question, "Will the Meeting approve a new minute?" and offered in response, "...if the Spirit leads us."

Heather Denkmire introduced the Committee's draft minute and then read its text in full:

Based on the minute approved on November 20th and the workings of Spirit that led us there, the Committee proposes the following, as we look towards our next year.

We recommend the establishment of a Work in the World Fund to make more room for Spirit-led calls of this kind. At this point, we hope to open the door, rather than make specific commitments for that money. With Spirit's guidance, our meeting will discern among the calls we hear, perhaps starting with smaller experiments, or maybe coming together around something larger that speaks loudly to us.

We expect some of the money for this fund would be drawn from our invested funds, and some would come from fundraising. That proportion is for us to determine as a community. Similarly, the money will not be spent without specific proposals returning here to Business Meeting for approval. This fund would stand beside other funds dedicated to our physical home, the Meeting House and our core programs.

We are a spiritual community dedicated to nurturing the spiritual life and continuing revelation of our members. When that revelation leads us outward, we want to support its growth. And the fruit of that work brings rich ministry back into our meeting.

Today, we ask you to help us hear and see the work in the world that is simmering here in our meeting. How we use our human and financial resources helps to tell the story of Spirit moving in our Meeting. What could our story look like over the next year, or several? What are we called to? What is emerging for us?

Rob Levin explained that the Committee proposes no specific numbers yet, and that the amounts committed by the Fund could vary from year to year. The Committee envisions the Fund as organic and flexible, depending on where the Spirit leads the Meeting.

The Meeting then settled into silent Worship and contemplation of the proposed minute.

(Continued on p. 3)

(Minutes continued from p.2)

In discussion, members of the Committee emphasized the importance of doing things “as we’re led.” Some uses for the proposed Fund might vary from year to year as needs emerge, while others might be consistent on an annual basis, such as donations to other Quaker organizations that depend on regular funding cycles.

One Friend asked for greater transparency about the Meeting’s various “pots” of funds and their uses. In response, a Committee member asked Friends to focus on the *principles* involved—details are yet to come. Another Friend added, “Don’t lock in a structure. Don’t create a fund that restricts how we are called. Don’t be restricted by what we have—Make it about the Spirit, not money.”

Friends raised the following in the ensuing discussion:

Does the minute address the push-pull between what we do for ourselves and what we do out in the World?

We need to think about management. What is the process for deciding how funds are spent?

We should be acting as of yesterday in response to the needs in the community.

We need to affirm our intention and our process for doing Work in the World.

“How do we let Spirit lead?” The Committee couldn’t juggle numbers without knowing, “What’s the vision?” What lies beneath everything that’s simmering?

If we didn’t have money, would we be having this discussion? Our relationship to other communities shouldn’t be defined by the money.

Which comes first—the vision or the process?

Historically the Meeting has been savvy and generous with its resources—we will continue to be generous; this is not new.

The proposed minute is too amorphous and vague—we want more specifics. “I do not look forward to discussing specifics and competition among uses.”

Suppose instead that we loan funds to organizations such as the Genesis Community Loan Fund in Brunswick. This way we would not have to decide on specific projects.

Maine Initiatives is another such fund, and supports Black, Indigenous, people of color, and asylum-seeking individuals and communities.

Such uses are appealing because of their opportunities for interest growth and repayment for reuse through further giving.

Our emphasis should be on *relationships*—especially our relationship with God. God may ask us to something we totally don’t expect. Look forward—don’t look back.

Support those who carry our ministry. Show clearly where the funds are going.

Peter brought the discussion to a close, noting that Friends’ offerings have been helpful and rich, and have given the Committee much to ponder.

3. TREASURER’S REPORT Kathy Beach, Treasurer of the operating accounts, noted that this is the quarterly report that she gives verbally in March, June, September, and December. On the months when there is no verbal report, you can still read the monthly report that comes out with the agenda.

Kathy indicated that we are 92% of the way through the year and thanked all those who give regularly to the Meeting by sending a check each month. This regular giving really helps us to pay the monthly bills. And also many thanks to those who traditionally give once at the end of the year. Those donations usually bring us to a good place financially at the close of December. But, Kathy reported that she does have some “heart palpitations” each year in November when our expenses are more than our income. This is not unusual; it happens every year, and we usually come out OK, but it does cause some angst!

As of the end of November, our expenses are at 77% of our budgeted amount, and our donations are at 66% of our budgeted amount. Even with the money we withdraw from our invested funds, we have a shortfall of \$5,562. In order to come out even at the end of December, we will need the help of all members and attenders. It would be wonderful if every person in the Meeting contributed whatever they can, and no amount is too small. Kathy appreciated the role modelling that some parents in our Meeting show, as they put a donation in the wooden donation box in the entry way and they have their children do the same. It’s such a nice way to show you care about the Meeting and you want to give back to something you believe in.

(Minutes continued from p. 3)

A summary of Kathy's report is included here.

Jane Mullen, Treasurer (contributions), added that the Meeting relies on donations to cover its operating expenses, and that donations thus far this year are down 16% from last year and down 23% from the previous year. Jane noted that many members and attenders do not donate, and that among those that do, most give between \$250 and \$500 annually.

Peter also reported that the recent anonymous donation of about \$160,000 was given with no restrictions, and was inspired by our discernment process. The Meeting resoundingly **approved** its thanks to the anonymous donor.

4. PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET Jo Linder, clerk of the Financial Stewardship Committee, distributed the Committee's draft Operating Budget for 2023 (attached). Jane then read comments by Dick Stratton, with edits by Jane and Jo Linder, regarding the Meeting's use of invested funds:

The proposed 2023 budget includes a harvest of \$30,000 from our Meeting's invested funds. This harvest would entail the transfer of \$30,000 from the Meeting's investment account at Friends Fiduciary Corp. to its checking account at TDBank, for use in the 2023 budget.

This \$30,000 represents 4% of the average value of the Meeting's invested funds over the past 12 quarters, or three years.

This average fund value has been roughly \$755,000. Using a value that reflects an average balance over time, rather than at a single point in time, is a well-established method of meaningfully representing an account balance.

In the case of our Meeting's invested funds account, the 2021 year-end value was unrealistically high, and it has declined since then by as much as 24% YTD. This major swing in the fund's balance in less than 12 months illustrates the challenge of using a point-in-time account value vs. a 12-quarter-average account value.

An annual 4% rate of withdrawal from invested funds is used by many trusts and endowments, based on the assumption that this rate of withdrawal will provide a reasonably sustainable harvest while protecting the underlying fund balance. Likewise, this 4% maximum annual rate of asset withdrawal has been established by Portland Friends Meeting out of a desire to ensure that funds will be available to support activities, concerns and expenses of the Meeting into the future. In contrast, harvesting more than 4% over time would likely begin a spend-down of the fund balance.

In recent years, Portland Friends Meeting has harvested less than 4% of its invested funds value for use in the operating budget. The Financial Stewardship Committee notes that positive consequences of this conservative approach during these same years include the Meeting's ability to easily lend money to Friends School of Portland twice, and to pay for driveway paving in spite of significant and unavoidable cost increases. In this vein we note that harvesting the full 4% annually may limit some of the Meeting's flexibility in responding to future unanticipated circumstances.

Nonetheless, the Committee decided to recommend including the full 4% for use in 2023, partially in response to the recent and ongoing discernment process undertaken by our Meeting.

Becky Steele then read the following footnote to the draft budget, after which she provided several preemptive responses to likely "FAQ's":

On the expense side, the Financial Stewardship Committee feels that the process for weighing requests for use of funds should be a matter for Meeting-wide discernment. As part of the budget process this year, the Stewardship Committee received requests for \$5,000 from Family Promise, as well as \$4,000 as an ongoing annual contribution for Cuba travel, and is aware that Spirit is moving among Friends for other uses for our resources that might not have fit within the slots of a current committee or working group request. The weighing of these requests is a matter for Meeting-wide discernment.

Question: Why is this draft budget being presented now?

Answer: Because the Meeting must pay for ongoing operating expenses and the Treasurer must be authorized to make those payments.

**Quick Summary of Income and Expenses for PFM
Through November 2022
(11th Month, 92% of the year)**

	Year-to-Date	% of Budget
INCOME		
Donations	\$42,292	66%
Rent	\$575	58%
Endowment	\$16,500	92%
Other		
TOTAL	\$59,367	72%
EXPENSES		
Meetinghouse Expenses	\$25,360	86%
Meeting Community	\$35,433	78%
Meeting Monetary Contributions	\$7,700	100%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$68,493	83%
Balance	(\$10,605)	

(Minutes continued from p. 4)

Question: Can we change the budget after it is adopted?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Has the large recent donation been included?

Answer: Not yet.

Question: What about new requests?

Answer: It is not the Financial Stewardship's role to discern with respect to new requests. Rather, the Committee's role is to report on what's available.

Becky reminded Friends to read the footnotes at the end of the draft budget, and stated that several lines are blank because those elements await discernment by the full Meeting.

In discussion, the following particulars about the proposed budget and the role of the Financial Stewardship Committee were clarified or added:

There are a number of significant increases from the 2022 budget.

The proposed budget reflects the minimal rental income that was received this year.

The Religious Education Committee is still reviewing its requests regarding its personnel compensation.

In response to a question about "ongoing" travel to Cuba, Fritz Weiss noted that the Velasco Friends Meeting Sister Committee has requested a budget of \$4,000 per year. This is based on a trip every two years, with a total cost of \$16,000 to be shared between Durham Monthly Meeting and PFM. Fritz added that budgeting this amount will preempt a lengthy discernment conversation every year.

This is only a preliminary budget. The Committee will come back in January with its final proposal for 2023.

At this point there is no contract for the facilitator that is noted in the Discernment Steering Committee line. The amount shown is an estimate only, should the Meeting decide to retain a facilitator for the ongoing Discernment discussions.

The Leadings grants are not listed since those funds are not part of the Operating Budget.

The Meeting's monies that are held by Friends Fiduciary Corporation are in four separate funds, only one of which is restricted as to use. The newly received donation is unrestricted and will be deposited with the General Fund.

Heather Denkmire gave thanks to the Financial Stewardship Committee for its efforts in developing and presenting the proposed Operating Budget. Peter reported that the Committee plans to organize a further on-line session to advance review the proposed budget.

5. CREATION OF A WORKING GROUP ON BEING A WELCOMING, AFFIRMING AND ADVOCATING MEETING

Rob then reminded Friends of the Meeting's renewed approval of a minute in September regarding our commitment to being a Welcoming, Affirming and Advocating Meeting—including a public declaration. He noted that he is convening a working group reporting to Ministry and Counsel to explore what further steps the Meeting might undertake to make this commitment real through specific policies and actions. Anyone interested in serving on the working group is invited to contact Rob.

The Meeting then settled into closing worship. Meeting rose at about 10:35 am, to meet again for the Conduct of Business on January 8, 2023, according to Divine will.

Thank you to Sue Calhoun!

Last month we shared the letter from our Meeting to our Sister Meeting in Velasco, Cuba in both English and Spanish. Thank you to Sue Calhoun for her careful translation!

Daily Weekday Silent Worship:

This is an opportunity for silent worship. The group meets for thirty minutes each Monday through Friday at 10:30 AM. All are welcome.

The zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88630165246?pwd=QXhMYWozZnRteWFsWmdJTUZqamIUUT09>

Proposed 2023 Budget (Draft)

Proposed 2023 BUDGET WORKSH (3)

	2023	2022	
	Requests	Budget	NOTES
INCOME (*See note 1 below)			
			Increase (Decrease) over 2022
Donations to PFM	70,000	63,800	
Transfer from Invested Funds	30,000	18,000	Sustainable harvest from invested funds: 4% as of 9.30.22
Rent	500	1,000	
Other	0	0	
TOTAL INCOME (1)	\$ 100,500	\$ 82,800	\$ 17,700
EXPENSES			
1. Meetinghouse & Grounds			
Total Utilities			
Fuel	3,300	3,300	2023 number based on CCF actual data for 2022
Electricity	1,450	1,320	2023 number based on CMP increases for 2023
Water, Sewage, and Stormwater	1,850	1,760	anticipated increase in 2023
Phone, WiFi	1,750	1,680	
Total Utilities	8,350	8,060	
Insurance	2,500	2,500	
Custodial Care & Snow Removal	3,300	3,300	
Internal Building Loan Repayment	4,500	4,500	continues through 2025
Buildings & Grounds Comm.	5,000	6,250	
Cemetery Comm.	4,000	4,000	
1. Total Meeting House & Grounds	\$ 27,650	\$ 28,610	\$ (960)
2. Youth of the Meeting			
Human Resources			
Compensation			
Religious Ed Coordinator	11,000	10,000	10% increase for .25 FTE salary
Nursery Coordinator	4,405	4,405	
Childcare (hourly)	600	635	
Subtotal Compensation	16,005	15,040	
Workers' Comp, SSTaxes	2,600	1,100	
Payroll Service	300		
First Day Program	1,800	600	program rebuilding
Camperships & Youth Scholarships	3,000	3,000	
All-Meeting Youth Rel Events	600	0	Easter Bkfst, Spring picnic, Advent Gdn, Fall event
2. Total Youth of the Meeting	\$ 24,305	\$ 19,740	\$ 4,565
3. Care of the PFM Community			
Committees			
Adult Learning Comm.	350	0	For books and/or speakers' honoraria
Communications Comm.	1,500	600	New laptop and microphone plus newsletter costs
Events Comm.	350	350	
Financial Stewardship Comm.	600	600	
Library & Records Comm.	1,600	1,500	Archive project and book purchases
Ministry & Counsel Comm.	350	350	
Pastoral Care Comm.	100	100	
Welcoming Comm.	275	0	new committee
Committees Subtotal	5,125	3,500	1,625
Special Funds			
Adult Scholarships for Friends' Activities	1,500	1,500	This includes registration for Pride March
Clerks' Enrichment Fund	500	500	
Special Needs Fund	2,000	2,000	
Special Funds Subtotal	4,000	4,000	0
3. Total Care of PFM Community	\$ 9,125	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,625
4. Other Areas of Focus			
Discernment Steering Comm	2,700	0	facilitator (\$800/session + \$85/travel) X 3 sessions
Velasco Friends Mtg Sister Comm.	500	500	contingency funds
New England Yearly Meeting Support	16,000	16,000	
Miscellaneous	750	750	
4. Total Other Areas of Focus	\$19,950	\$17,250	\$2,700
Total Costs of Running Our Meeting	\$81,030	\$73,100	\$7,930
NET (INCOME LESS EXPENSES) TO THIS POINT	\$19,470	\$9,700	

5. Financial Contributions Beyond Our Meeting				To be discerned by Meeting (+See note 2 below)	
Friends School of Portland				2,000	
Friends Camp				350	
American Friends Service Committee				450	
Friends Committee on National Legislation				450	
Falmouth Quarterly Meeting				100	
Quaker Ridge Meetinghouse				100	
FLGBTQIA+				150	
Ramallah Friends School		500		500	PFM commitment
Friends World Committee for Consultation				150	
Friends Publishing				400	
Friends of Kenya Rising		1500		1,500	HS tuition scholarship commitment thru 2023
Puente de Amigos (Bridge of Friends) NEYM				200	NEYM fund
Cuban Sister Comm. Travel Support					\$4000/yr requested; \$1500 expensed in 2022
Woolman Hill Retreat Center				150	
Maine Council of Churches				200	
City of Portland (in lieu of taxes)		1000		1,000	Directed gift for Asylum Seekers
Family Promise Portland		2000		2,000	Annual Commitment \$1000; \$5000 requested
Leadings Grants		7000			Reflects total leadings grants awarded in 2022
Other Work in the World Contributions					
5. Total Contributions Beyond Our Meeting		\$ 12,000		\$ 9,700	
Total All Expenses		\$ 93,030		\$ 82,800	
Net Income less Expenses		\$ 7,470		\$ -	

*(1) The total revenue in this budget was determined by using a sustainable harvest from our invested funds as well as our best estimate of annual giving. The sustainable harvest was determined by taking 4% of the average ending balance for the 12 preceding quarters. We recognize that this amount, \$30,000, is larger than has been harvested in recent years, but in some prior years invested funds were also used for other major expenses beyond the annual budget.

The Financial Stewardship committee recognizes that our Meeting is in the midst of discerning expanded harvesting from invested funds, and wants to be respectful of that discernment without stepping in its toes, so this is a sort of "status quo" figure, recognizing it may likely change as the Meeting feels called to do.

+ (2) Also, on the expense side, the Financial Stewardship Committee feels that the process for weighing requests for using these funds should be a matter for Meeting-wide discernment. As part of the budget process this year, the Stewardship Committee received requests for \$5000 from Family Promise, as well as \$4000 as an ongoing annual contribution for Cuba travel, and is aware that Spirit is moving among Friends for other uses for our resources that might not have fit within the slots of a current committee or working group request. The weighing of these requests is a matter for Meeting-wide discernment.

Financial Stewardship Committee presents the proposed 2023 Budget that reflects anticipated income and expenses of the collaborative, community spiritual life at Portland Friends Meeting. The 2023 Operation Budget (DRAFT) and supporting documents are available to download and review https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GfnieUrJw3O6T9Q_thWpgQgj5etu_7Ss.

This operating budget proposal includes several changes including reorganization of sections to reflect where we use resources within our community and share them with others. Since January 2022, our Portland Friends Meeting community has been participating in a resource discernment process that clearly supported preserving and maintaining our building and grounds, including our cemetery while supporting and growing youth programs. There is a deep yearning to find unity that supports wider work in the world. This DRAFT budget proposal includes open cells in Section 5, with the intent to request our PFM community to further discern where to direct financial contributions to support individuals and organizations in that work. Learn more about past recipients of PFM funds [HERE https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n8twQPjIFQ-caQQL4vl_I9RpGQ1MO4qu/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n8twQPjIFQ-caQQL4vl_I9RpGQ1MO4qu/view) (click on the hyperlinks in the document).

A virtual budget information session will be held Monday, December 12 5-6 pm at the Zoom link [HERE https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81393118087?pwd=cmgxOWJvRlFmMThURUMwSVUvNlZDdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81393118087?pwd=cmgxOWJvRlFmMThURUMwSVUvNlZDdz09). Please submit your comments, proposed additions, or corrections about the budget to me via email: jolinder98@gmail.com, preferably by December 14. This will allow for time for FSC to consider revisions and distribute a final draft proposal of the budget for consideration prior to the January Meeting for Business.

Advent Garden

On December 3rd, families and Friends met for Advent Garden for the first time in several years. Masks were on, and energy was high. While elders warmed up the space in the Meeting Room, the rest of us gathered downstairs to sing the song and get in the spirit of Advent - eager anticipation as you move towards the Light, careful attention to your own Light, and holding the Light of others in your heart.

Then, we climbed the stairs singing and the ritual began. The garden is created by a spiral of balsam garland, with a candle at the center. When we entered the room, only the center candle was lit and the room was so dark, you couldn't tell who was who. As the children walked the spiral, lighting their candles and placing them one by one along the garland, the room brightened and we could begin to see one another.

They took turns roughly along the lines of age, from the youngest with their special grownups aiding them, to the teens. The last to walk was Sabrina, for whom it is a final year of taking this role before graduating high school.

The room was rich in quiet and feeling. Precious. And that sense continued as some went downstairs for chili dinner, and many stayed in the room to walk the spiral themselves.

There's a bittersweet feeling in gathering, when we know that even more long to be with us but aren't ready to return. We pray that next year things will be different. As we look forward to that time, remember that Advent Garden is not just for kids. It's about the way we hold our young ones as a community. And we do that all year long, in all kinds of ways.



Welcome Back! Our Much Improved PFM Library Is Now Up & Running

Our library is open for browsing and for checking out books you would like to read at home. Here is a brief look back over the last 2.5 years.

Beginning in February of 2020 and through the COVID months that followed, PFM's wonderful and unique collection of books and pamphlets has been rehoused on six new bookcases.

Some of this work and purchases were funded by a Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund grant and some through annual PFM library budgeting.

Using the digital recognition and unique identifier of ISBN, the entire collection of books has been scanned and will soon be made available for browsing and searching at PFM Library on LibraryThing (see fuller description below)

Mia Bella D'Augelli, Sally Farneth, Muriel Allen, and Andy Grannell have met weekly throughout the autumn to add upwards of another 200 books to the collection. We are now shifting our focus to offer a series of orientation sessions throughout the winter months.

Here are some questions that highlight the strengths of our collection, i.e., Quakerism.

How many books are currently catalogued in our overall collection? (1751)

How many Quaker history, biography, journals, and novels do we currently enjoy? (352)

How many of these are currently best selling Quaker books? (approximately 20 of the top 30)

Did you know that a Wellesley Friends Meeting funded and filmed biography of Rufus Jones (1863-1948) is available for viewing on YouTube (search terms: Rufus Jones, Quaker, Quakerism) and that we have a copy of the accompanying book entitled "Rufus Jones, A Luminous Life" in our collection?

Using the free and continuously updated app called LibraryThing, we have scanned all our book covers (1750) and uploaded them to our own PFM Library website.

LibraryThing makes our collection available complete with descriptions and reviews. To view how this scanning works go to: LibraryThing tutorial on YouTube. Beginning in January we will be offering introductions to LibraryThing .

We have scanned, catalogued and carded all of 250 plus books written for children and youth. Emily Troll and Sally Farneth continue to review this collection. These are now housed in the first floor classroom's bookcases and beginning in January we will be fine tuning our check out process for this special collection.

We are looking forward to a series of orientations following Meeting for Worship with the first one scheduled for Sunday, January 15.



Dear Friends,

I wanted to pass along the news that Friends School of Portland will be holding a Winter Admissions Open House on January 7th, from 9am-noon. This is a time to tour the school and outdoor campus. Our faculty and staff will also be on hand for tours to meet and chat with. We would love to have families from PFM come. The event will be by registration which is not open yet. If you are interested, please reach out to me directly!

Please feel free to pass on the word about this event. I am particularly trying to reach communities that might not have heard of FSP before - if you have any connections that you think could be helpful with this, please reach out to me!

If you or someone you know is interested in applying, a heads up that the FSP application for the 2023-24 school year will go live on our website this Friday, December 9th. The priority deadline is Tuesday, January 31, 2022. For the full admissions timeline and checklist. see here. << <https://www.friendsschoolportland.org/admissions-info> >>

I wish you and yours a joyful and restful holiday season ahead.

Kind regards,

Megan Campbell, Director of Enrollment

megan@friendsschoolportland.org 207-558-6213



Portland Friends Meeting Email Lists

Our Meeting has two email lists, also sometimes referred to as "e-groups" or "Google groups:"

1) **Life of the Meeting:** Announcements about Meeting for Worship, committee work, Quaker business or events, and gatherings for the Portland Friends Meeting community. To send an announcement to this list, email: pfm-life-of-the-meeting@googlegroups.com.

2) **PFM Wider Community:** Everything else!

To send an announcement to this list, 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.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
January 10, 11:56pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

