

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Fourth Month 2023

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

Calendar

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*

First and Third Thursdays: Meeting for Healing on Zoom

*contact Clerks for online Meeting for Worship links

Thomas Gates' Pendle Hill Pamphlet "Members One of Another" Study Group

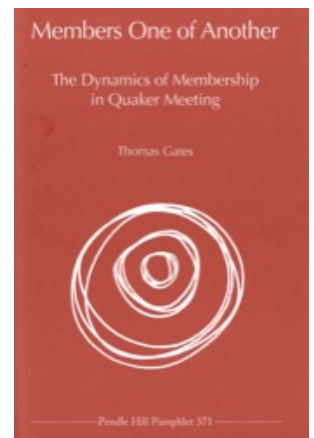
In February and March, Genna gathered an in-person study group to read Thomas Gates' Pendle Hill Pamphlet "Members One of Another". At the suggestion of the Adult Ed coordinators I would like to offer the opportunity for an online-only study of this useful and unassumingly profound pamphlet.

Dates and Time

We will meet for four 1.5 hour Monday evening sessions from 7pm-8:30pm: April 24th, May 1st, May 8th, May 15th

Genna described the study group this way: "This is an opportunity to reflect together on what it means to be a member in a Quaker spiritual community. Less "membership" in the formal sense; more "membership" in the active, felt sense, as experienced by many Attenders and formal Members alike. The content is relevant to tensions apparent in our Financial Discernment Process, to how we welcome visitors, and to issues related to Whiteness and privilege. And the pamphlet is insightful about the different and *valid* ways Friends participate as members." We'll follow in their wise footsteps.

You are welcome to read in advance, but there is no need to! We will read out-loud together. To get the Zoom information, or to request a paper copy of the pamphlet, please email Jay O'Hara oharjo@gmail.com. Feel also free to reach out to Jay with questions or ideas or suggestions.



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

April 2, 2023

Rob Levin, Co-Clerk
David N. Hingston recording

Members and attenders of Portland Friends Meeting gathered in worship at 9:00 am. Some forty-seven Friends gathered, in person at the Meeting House and remotely via Zoom. Co-Clerk Rob Levin opened by leading Friends in the song, “How Can I Keep from Singing?”

Following a period of silent worship, Rob welcomed everyone and expressed thanks to Sally Farneth for holding the Meeting in the Light, and to Luke Hankins for in-room technical support. Rob also announced that Atlantic Canada Yearly Meeting was merging with New England Yearly Meeting to form ACNE Yearly Meeting. (*April Fools!*) In review of the agenda, Rob stated that the report from the Youth Religious Education Committee would be deferred to next month.

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Meeting next **approved** the minutes of Meeting of March 5, 2023, with a note of appreciation to Theresa Oleksiw for her recording duty at that meeting.

2. MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

Mags Fehr and Stan Scott jointly presented the findings of the Clearness Committee that met with Marcia Taylor and Dennis Redfield in response to their request for their marriage to take place under the care of the Meeting:

Report of PFM Clearness Committee meetings with Dennis Redfield and Marcia Taylor on their request to be married under the care of the Meeting,

To Ministry and Counsel committee:

The members of the Clearness Committee (Lea Sutton, facilitator; Stan Scott, convener; Jennifer Frick, and Maggie Fehr) would like to report our clear unity about this marriage being a rightful mature decision by the couple, and recommend that it be taken under the care of the meeting. After two meetings with the couple, each lasting roughly 90 minutes, members of the committee met to ask ourselves the three questions given in NEYM Faith and Practice:

Are these two people joined in a spiritual union? The answer is yes, the committee has unity of mind about the spiritual basis of their union. No one expressed any reservation. The committee also noted that each of these two people gave an impression of complete confidence that their marriage is right for them, and a unity of desire to be held in the care of the meeting.

Does the couple understand the implications of their wedding and their marriage being under the care of the meeting? Again, the answer is an enthusiastic yes from all four committee members.

Are there any obstacles to this couple marrying? The committee saw no obstacles.

Thank you for receiving this report.

Lea Sutton, Stan Scott, Jennifer Frick, and Maggie Fehr

The Ministry and Counsel Committee, in turn, presented its recommendation that the Meeting hold the marriage of Marcia and Dennis under its care.

The Meeting then enthusiastically **approved** holding the marriage under the care of the Meeting. Marcia and Dennis expressed their heartfelt thanks; an Oversight Committee will be formed to plan for the event.

Beth Bussiere-Nichols next reported that Ministry & Counsel has opened a conversation regarding how the Meeting nurtures various forms of ministry in the Meeting. The Meeting can expect further information and engagement on this topic in the future.

3. REPORT FROM CUBA TRAVELING DELEGATION

Fritz Weiss introduced the delegation's report, which is included herewith as Attachment 1, and expressed the delegation's thanks for the support of the Meeting: "We felt the Meeting's presence while we were in Cuba." Leslie Manning, clerk of Durham Meeting, was in attendance and joined Fritz in thanking PFM for its support. In response to Rob's invitation to speak of the group's spiritual experience, Hannah Colbert described the powerful personal connection she felt during the silence and singing in the tiny mission church in Calderon near Velasco. Fritz said the group was fully welcomed into the journey and spiritual experience of the Friends in Velasco, who offered an open invitation to visit anytime.

As noted, during its stay, the delegation also visited and was warmly welcomed by the Velasco Meeting's mission church in Calderon (which is similar to what we might call a preparatory meeting). Hannah described the Cuban Friends' long tradition of visiting other meetings, to understand what is moving them and to share their experience.

Rob then raised the question of extending PFM's sister meeting relationship with Velasco to include Calderon. In discussion, it was noted that discovery of the meaning of the relationship is ongoing, and that extension of the relationship has already been approved by Durham Meeting and Puente de Amigos of NEYM. The Meeting **approved** the following minute:

Portland Friends Meeting approves extension of its Sister Meeting relationship with the Velasco Friends Meeting to include the Velasco Meeting's Mission in Calderon.

4. MEETING FOR HEALING

Beth Bussiere Nichols opened by describing the biweekly Meetings for Healing—currently first and third Thursdays at 7:00 pm—as a long-time Quaker tradition, a sharing of deep silence, focusing on the physical and spiritual illnesses of the world, with sometime sharing of rising concerns. Beth read a passage from L.R. Knost:

*Do not be dismayed by the
brokenness of the world.
All things break.
And all things can be mended.
Not with time, as they say,
but with intention.
So go.
Love intentionally,
extravagantly,
unconditionally.
**The broken world waits in darkness
for the light that is you.***

Friends then shared messages about the meaning and importance of healing worship, and their appreciation of these Thursday opportunities. Beth closed with the following, from Friend Rufus Jones:

...most of our life, whether it is simple or complex, is a life of relationships with other persons. It is this fact of inter-relationship that makes life spiritual, and it is this that often makes it so tragic. We cannot, if we would, fence round our souls and keep them naked and alone. We are good or bad, not in soul-tight compartments, but in our dealing with other persons who fill our world.

*Our **highest*** dealings, those which affect our entire being in the profoundest way, are our relationships with God. Nothing else so completely shapes one's whole nature as his way of responding to his Infinite Companion, for everybody does respond in one way or another.*

(*emphasis in original text)

5. FINANCIAL DISCERNMENT PROCESS UPDATE

Noting that the Discernment Steering Committee was laid down in March, Rob reported that the Financial Stewardship Committee is continuing to work out the details of allocations of invested funds into subfunds. The Nominating Committee will be identifying Convenors to implement the Shared Witness Fund. Friends are encouraged to express their interest in being a Convenor to a member of the committee. A Friend noted that the question of the relationship between the Meeting's resources and its mission remains open.

6. COVID HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

Rob asked co-clerk Peter Woodrow to clerk this part of the agenda, so that he could participate fully. Peter noted that the views expressed by Friends in response to the clerks' email regarding masking were "all over the place." Sharon McDonnell provided an update based on medical data, noting that Maine virus indicators are good, with wastewater monitoring showing low positivity. Case numbers are down, with monitoring now primarily from hospitals since most people are testing at home and not reporting test results. Though a new variant emerged last fall, Maine reporting continues to be better than national averages. Sharon will continue to monitor and report back to the Meeting when appropriate.

Discussion ensued, with thanks to Sharon and the Advisory Group for their ongoing research and reporting on the science. It was clear that while Friends differ widely in their opinions about the need for masking, "There are no *others*," and we are bound together in our shared concern for the health and welfare of every person. Peter invited Friends to consider four queries with regard to masking:

Queries for Worship Sharing Around Masking Practices

1. How does masking affect the quality of Meeting for Worship and our spiritual connections as a community?
2. How can we best support those of us with particular vulnerabilities or who are just not ready to be in a mask-optional space? Are those of us who are ready to unmask willing to wait to make the space welcoming and safe for all?
3. How do we navigate between our emotional responses (on all sides of the issue, including frustration with masking and fears of unmasking) on the one hand, and scientific data on the other (calculation of risk levels)?
4. Do we see other creative alternatives between masks optional and masks required?

Due to the pressure of time and the impending Meeting for Worship, there was not adequate time to fully explore these queries. Peter noted that we will look for additional opportunities for Friends to explore these issues.

7. CLOSING WORSHIP

Following a brief period of silence, the Meeting then rose at about 10:35 am, to meet again for the Conduct of Business on May 7, 2023, according to Divine will.

**Attachment 1 to the minutes of Portland Friends Meeting
April 2, 2023**

Report from the delegation that traveled to Cuba from Portland and Durham meeting.

This morning I woke up to the sounds of sirens from the North Deering fire station and for a moment thought I was back in Velasco waking to the crowing of the roosters in the back yard to the Velasco Quaker Church.

Portland and Durham sent Kim Belshaw, Sue Calhoun, Hannah Colbert and Fritz Weiss to Cuba from February 16th through the 27th. Our activities during this period are listed at the end of this report. We are reporting on our experience with our sister meeting in Velasco.

We spent a full week with our sister meeting in Velasco. Velasco is a small city that is the center of an agricultural area in the east of Cuba. The church is located on the central plaza of the city. Velasco Church was built in the early years of the 1900's. The roof is constructed from large pine beams. At that time there was significant trade between Maine and Cuba. Maine sent down loads of lumber, ice and other products and brought back sugar, molasses and fruits. We are choosing to claim that it is Maine pine that built the roof of the Velasco Church. Our relationship goes way back.

This trade relationship is complicated as the trade originally involved Maine traders bringing African slaves to Cuba for the sugar plantations.

We stayed in the home of Yadira, the pastor in Velasco, and her family. Yadira's husband, Franklin, is a truck driver. Her two daughters, Isabela and Cristine, are students. The pastor's home is attached to the church and every day during our stay members of the church and the larger community streamed to the house to visit and to talk to their pastor. We were deeply embedded in the Velasco Quaker community.

Almost every day there were meetings for worship, for prayer, for gratitude and praise. Some days there were more than one. Velasco has a mission church - roughly equivalent to a preparative meeting - in Calderon. On Tuesday we travelled in a horse drawn cart to Calderon and shared lunch and worship.

There were prayer gatherings of the women in the church, a house meeting, a celebration of the graduation of the third cohort from the Cuban Peace Institute, and Sunday worship. Worship was led by the community and was participatory. We sang, shared stories, asked for support, reflected on messages, embraced and kissed and were embraced. The Cuban Quakers are gathering and seeking together and sharing the Truth they find corporately. The form is different from the quiet waiting worship that we are accustomed to, but the spirit felt very familiar.

We were expected to bring messages to the worship services. As a group we hosted the Friday evening worship service at the annual gathering of Cuba Yearly Meeting. We also asked discussion questions and shared reflections at the mission church, brought a message to the house worship and a lesson to Sunday Worship.

The pastoral care among the Quakers in Velasco was simply amazing. There is a drought in Velasco now, and some wells are dry. Friends came to the church with buckets for water. The women brought food, conversation, song and worship to an elderly Friend who was housebound. Frequently Friends left Yadira's house carrying cartons of food for themselves, for their families and neighbors. The whole community was invited to join us for a trip to the beach and a picnic. The youngest baby was passed from adult to adult - we were told he was the Church's baby. Funds were being collected for those in need, for the women's missions, and for the repair of the Church roof. One of the most striking characteristics was how consistently the community loved each other. Yadira and Franklin sometimes struggled to take care of all they had to do together due to power outages and Franklin's travel but they always concluded moments of stress saying "mi amor, mi corazon, mi vida".

The situation in Cuba now is difficult, Basic necessities including food are very expensive or unavailable. The economy is extremely complicated. Many young adults are leaving Cuba. There are power outages every day. The hospitality we received was very generous and open hearted and at times, because of the terribly hard times, accepting it was uncomfortable. And the funds we brought to cover the costs of hosting us, allowed Yadira to feed her community generously and to take them to the beach.

We brought seven large suitcases of material donations to the Quakers in Cuba, including a lot of medical supplies

(Thank you Sydney), five laptops (thank you Chris Fitze), tools for the Wilmington Center restoration, solar lamps, and more. We carried material sent to us from Oregon, Kansas, North Carolina, and throughout New England. On March 13 Jorge Luis, the clerk of CYM, sent a video of Alexia, a "strong and beautiful baby" born to Roxy safely in part because we had brought the supplies her doctor needed. His message thanking us for our support and for our love and for God's presence moves me to tears.

The day we arrived in Gibera, Kenya Casanova asked "How is Dorothy (Grannell)? Kenya knew Dorothy through their work together with FWCC. When we shared that Dorothy had a small stroke two days earlier, she said they would hold her in their prayers, and they did. This moment made the long and deep relationship with Cuba real. Dorothy's recovery was a joy to us and to those in Cuba who have known her for years.

Our activities during our time in Cuba:

- We arrived in Cuba on Thursday 2/16. After settling in and dinner we attended the evening Worship service.
- During the annual meeting (Thursday- Sunday) we attended a lesson each morning, and then a business session in the morning and afternoon, and in the evening a worship service.
- We gave the message on Friday evening worship. Our service ended with the song "Espiritu de Dios". In most of the subsequent services, this song was sung because our hosts knew that we knew the words.
- On Sunday we visited Pueblo Nuevo, attended the beginning of their Sunday worship & returned for the closing worship of the annual sessions.
- Sunday afternoon we visited Banes mtg, and arrived in Velasco.
- Monday we spent in Puerto Padre, visiting the Wilmington Center, the church, and touring the city.
- Jorge Luis (the presiding clerk of CYM) showed us his apartment and introduced us to his family.
- We were in Velasco for the rest of our time in Cuba. We stayed in the parsonage with Yadira and her family.
- On Tuesday we traveled via horse cart to the mission in Calderon where we visited and worshiped with the community there. That evening attended a prayer service in Velasco.
- On Wednesday there was a morning women's prayer services and we then traveled to a beach with many from the church for a picnic with an incredible cake, that evening we had dinner at a neighboring Friend's house.
- Thursday Kim and Hannah left - Sue and I attended a house worship in the evening. We gave the message at this service.
- Friday was a day of rest. Sue accompanied the Women's group bringing food, companionship and prayer to an older woman. We went to local carnival in the evening.
- On Saturday there was a graduation celebration in the Velasco Church for the third cohort to complete the Peace Institute's course in Quaker Studies. The graduation was followed by a catered feast with a roasted pig with guests from Puerto Padre.
- On Sunday, we gave the lesson during worship. We had another feast with a rich Cuban stew (Caldoza).
- During our 12 days in Cuba we attended 13 separate worship services.
- We brought an unrestricted donation of 5280 euros to Cuba - a little more than \$6,000. We also carried a donation from Wilmington Meeting for the Wilmington center project.
- On Monday Sue and I flew to Miami, returning to Maine on Tuesday

Thank you for sending us. There is so much more we want to share.

With Love

Kim, Hannah, Sue and Fritz



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
SECTION OF THE AMERICAS
Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos
SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

COMING ATTRACTIONS



You are invited to sign up for any in a **FREE series** of Informational Zooms about FWCC's work to create the precious, sacred spaces to connect and build community among Friends.

Please register for the sessions of interest to you so that you may hear directly from those who are developing tools that are important to Quakers. Each session is offered once in English and once in Spanish. Come learn about:

Sign up now! <https://fwccamericas.regfox.com/lunch-learn--becoming-the-quakers-the-world-needs>

In the 21st century, Quakers need the gifts of the Friends World Committee for Consultation: theological, language and cultural interpretation skills, experimentation, inclusivity, and reconciliation.

The work being described in this Zoom informational series is the focus of a special global fundraising campaign. This campaign will enable us to create the precious, sacred spaces to connect and create community among Friends - both virtually and in meetings and churches.

To help you learn more about the campaign components, we set up a special website with more information. Our next step is to build the tools that Friends need in the 21st century.



Consultations on topics that matter to Friends and the world

April 12, 2023—2PM Eastern | 1PM Central | Noon Mountain | 11AM Pacific



Glossary of Quaker terms in Friends languages & enhanced translation and interpretation services

April 26, 2023—2PM Eastern | 1PM Central | Noon Mountain | 11AM Pacific



Quaker Connect—a pilot project to equip congregations to thrive in the 21st century

May 10, 2023—2PM Eastern | 1PM Central | Noon Mountain | 11AM Pacific



A new global online map of Friends meetings and churches

May 31, 2023—2PM Eastern | 1PM Central | Noon Mountain | 11AM Pacific



World Plenary 2024 Updates

June 14, 2023—2PM Eastern | 1PM Central | Noon Mountain | 11AM Pacific

Friends School of Portland Annual Fundraising Auction

You are invited to the Annual Friends School Fundraising Auction!

This year, we will hold an **auction kick-off** event at Goodfire Brewing Company in Freeport on **Thursday, May 4 from 5:30pm -8pm**.

The online auction begins Friday, May 5 and runs through Friday, May 12.

After the bidding is over, we hope that you will join us for a **celebration** at FSP on **Saturday, May 13**. This will include food, music by the FLUKES, kids' activities, and auction item pick-up.

We hope that you will consider making a donation towards to auction this year! The auction is Friend School of Portland's most important fundraising event. Proceeds go directly to FSP's Annual Fund, which supports the most essential aspects of FSP - supplements tuition aid and supports our amazing teachers' salaries and classroom activities. Last year, we had a successful auction because of all the generous donations of items and services.

The deadline to contribute items to be auctioned is Wednesday, April 26! Get the creative juices flowing! Think of a way you love to spend your time, build community and being kind to others - is it sitting around a campfire? Donate a professionally built stone fire pit. Is it taking time to relax with family? Donate a week stay at a cabin. Is it enjoying delicious homemade food? Donate a homemade pie or cake! Is it spending time in nature learning new things? Donate a plant ID or mushroom walk. Is it making art? Donate a photograph, watercolor, piece of art made by you.

You can fill out an [online donation form here](https://forms.gle/XkzrkFM38kjPtZdp7). <link: <https://forms.gle/XkzrkFM38kjPtZdp7> >

Learn more about this year's auction on the Friends School of Portland website here. <link: <https://www.friendsschoolportland.org/annual-auction> > Items can be dropped off at Friends School of Portland during the school day (Mon-Friday 8am-4:30pm) or reach out to Development Director, Brooke Burkett to arrange an alternate pick up on a Sunday in April at PFM. Reach out with any questions to the Development Director, Brooke Burkett at brooke@friendsschoolportland.org or 207-558-6214.

Let it Shine

FRIENDS SCHOOL OF PORTLAND'S 16TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AUCTION



Bid Online Friday, May 5 – Friday, May 12
Celebration on Saturday, May 13 from 10 am – 1 pm at FSP
Learn more at www.friendsschoolportland.org/annual-auction

The following is an essay by an eighth grade student at the Friends School of Portland, Althea Denkmire. Part of their year end project is finding an action related to the subject of their study. Althea chose to share this essay with us, Portland Friends Meeting. She is available for further conversations (contact heather@grantwinners.net) if you would like to talk with her.

The Erasure of Native Americans and the Role of Quakers

by Althea Denkmire

Truth telling. Something Quakers preach about as much as a sect of Christianity with no pastors can preach about something. But the history has not always been true to that. Through the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Quakers operated over 30 schools for Indigenous children. That might sound fine, but these schools were veritable conversion camps, teaching Native kids how to be useful and passive to white America. An argument often brought up in Quaker spaces is that the intentions were pure, but in this essay we will look past that excuse and explore this issue and how it has been, and hopefully will be, combated and dealt with.

My interviewee for this project, Anne D Burt, has herself bumped into one of these institutions. While working with the American Friends Service Committee in Indiana, her job being to form relationships with the local Quaker groups, she came into contact with the White Institute. At the time she thought of it as just another conservative Quaker Meeting with a school for Native American children attached. Later, long after the institute closed, she discovered the sinister truth of what that boarding school was. Though the goal of Christianizing native people and helping the next generation conform to white society seems intrinsically wrong to our ears, to earlier Quakers it was a charitable act, a way to serve a people unable to serve themselves. In a July 1869 letter to the Quaker Indian agent on the Otoe Reservation in Nebraska, Friend Edward Shaw from Richmond, Indiana, wrote:

“To protect, to Civilize, and to Christianize our Red Brethren—it is a duty we owe them that we may help in a degree to make up to them for the cruelty and wrongs they have received at the hands of the white man, if that can ever be done. If we want them to become Christians, we must act as Christians towards them.”

It is an inherently colonist and prejudiced thinking to believe that to make someone Christian is to make them good. That is something we must address. There was absolutely nothing wrong with the religious beliefs and culture of the natives beforehand, but if we can reconcile what the Quakers believed to be true and what the victims of this scheme know to be true, we can make reparations, compensation whether monetary or otherwise for damages done, on a foundation of knowledge and truth.

Reparations are in the works as it is. New England Yearly Meeting, the parent meeting of Portland Friends, has been rolling out waves of apologies. “I write to you from the lands of the Narragansett, Wampanoag, and Pokanoket to offer my gratitude for the discernment of Friends of our Yearly Meeting to express our apology to Native peoples, and for the faithful and prodigious work of the Right Resources Relationship Group who have been shepherding our sending out of that message,” proclaims the newsletter about apology from the presiding Clerk on their website. The work that is being done, while not something we should see as groundbreaking, shows a narrative change. From this apology we can see that now we listen to what people say they need, and we don't just go ahead with what we think is right.

Besides the obvious internalized racism and colonialization mindset, the Quakers who ran boarding schools for Native kids wanted to help; where that help became torture was in the thinking that they knew what was best, that white people knew what was right for the Indigenous people. The best step that I can see from modern Quakers is in the listening to what people know that they need. We can't erase the history but we can honor it and change the future for good.

Thinking about Christmas in April!

Planting a seed... we are hoping some folks will come forward to organize a Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship, with singing and candlelight. Heather began the tradition several years ago and has coordinated each year since until last year. She has had to step back from coordinating. Might you be available to help coordinate for us in 2023? Please let the Co-Clerks know.

“I give myself this advice: Do not fear truth, let it be ever so contrary to inclination and feeling. Never give up the search after it; and let me take courage, and try from the bottom of my heart to do that which I believe truth dictates, if it lead me to be a Quaker or not...”

– Elizabeth Fry

Support our Community!

Would you like to donate to Portland Friends Meeting but don't know how? Here are some options to consider:

1. You can use the DONATE button on our website, portlandfriendsmeeting.org. Donations through this site go directly to Friends Fiduciary for a small fee, and your donation will be conveyed to the Treasurers on a monthly basis.
2. You can arrange a regular payment directly to the Meeting's checking account by connecting your bank with our bank. Please call Kathy Beach at 207-233-2065 or Jane Mullen at 215-421-5257 to set this up.
3. If you come to Meeting in person, there is a small wooden donation box in the front hallway. You can put cash or checks in there and they will be collected each Sunday.
4. You can write a check and send it by USPS to 1837 Forest Ave, Portland 04103.
5. You can volunteer to serve on one of the many committees of the Meeting. Sharing your expertise and wisdom with our community is very much appreciated!

Many thanks to everyone for all you do to keep our Meeting vital and robust.

AFSC Corporation Program 2023

Friends are welcome to join the annual Corporation Program of the American Friends Service Committee ("AFSC") virtually on April 14 and 15 for workshops hosted by AFSC staff. On Friday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. ET, Friends will gather to hear Ambassador Andrew Young's keynote address.



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

Please share this invitation widely with your meeting/church and Friends in your communities. We look forward to seeing you there!

Among other things, the following workshops on AFSC programs will be available on line:

- Planting the Seeds for People and the Planet
- Tanks, Tear Gas and Assault Rifles: police militarization in California
- Light in Gaza
- North Korea Assistance and Advocacy

To learn more or register: <https://afsc.org/afsc-corporation-program-2023>

All Maine Gathering 2023

The All Maine Gathering (our first since the pandemic) will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 9-4 at the South China Community Church (formerly the South China Meetinghouse, home meeting of Rufus Jones). Our presenter will be Quaker activist and teacher, George Lakey, whose most recent book is "Dancing With History". <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/711533/dancing-with-history-by-george-lakey/>

Our theme is "Our Quaker Stories".

We are hoping to be able to invite interested Friends to gather Friday evening for a retreat experience.

All ages are welcome, but we ask that those under 16 pre-register by contacting durham@neym.org.

The church is located at 246 Village St., South China (parallel to Route 202) about an hour and a half from Portland.

Since we in Falmouth Quarter are hosting this event, we ask that you bring something to contribute to our pot luck lunch. For more information, you can contact us at the same durham@neym.org with questions.

We look forward to seeing you there! <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2023/05/all-maine->



Friends,

Veterans for Peace, Maine is hosting a visit of the Golden Rule to Portland and Bath June 26-28th. This ship has Quaker roots. The original voyages were skippered by a New England Friend, Albert 'Bert' Bigelow.

I am working with coalition of Maine peace groups headed by Veterans for Peace. Please visit this website <https://vfpgoldenruleproject.org/>, read the brochure you will find there - and especially watch the video - to better understand the rich and influential this ship continues to inspire.

I will be updating plans and offering opportunities to contribute to this visit.

Onward!

Andy

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: .
- 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.

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>

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, May 10, 11:59pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

