

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Tenth Month 2023

Meeting for Worship: 10:45 am Sundays (childcare available)



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Portland, Maine 04103
portlandfriendsmeeting.org
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O that we who declare against wars, and acknowledge our trust to be in God only, may walk in the light, and thereby examine our foundation and motives in holding great estates! May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses, and our garments and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.

—John Woolman, c. 1770

Calendar

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Saturday, Oct. 21, 10:00 am | Friends School of Portland
Fall Admissions Open House
https://www.friendsschoolportland.org/admission-events |
| Sunday, Oct. 22, 12:00 noon | A Worshipful Celebration of Maggie Fiori's Ministry as Team Ministries Coordinator, Portland Meetinghouse and Zoom* (See page 14) |
| Monday, Oct. 23, 5:15 pm | Natural Resources Council of Maine rally, Bangor (See page 15) |
| Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:30 pm | Quakers Uprooting Racism (See page 16) |
| Saturday, Oct. 28, 9:30 am | Falmouth Quarterly Meeting at Windham Friends Meeting (See page 17) |
| Sunday, Oct. 29, 12:30 pm | Love Our Meetinghouse Day (Rain date Nov. 12) |
| Wednesday, Nov. 15, 8:00 pm | Quaker Call "Connect To Action" Zoom session with Represent.us (Information to follow) |

Every Month

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Every Sunday, 10:45 am | Meeting for Worship* at the Meetinghouse and separately on Zoom; |
| Every Wednesday, 7:00 pm | Young Adult Friends Mid-Week Worship
email yaf@portlandfriendsmeeting.org for location |
| Every Weekday, 10:30 am | Meeting for Worship on Zoom* |
| First and Third Thursdays: | Meeting for Healing on Zoom* |

*contact Clerk for online Meeting for Worship links



Maliseet Beaded Handkerchief Case, c. 1860

Portland Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business
October 8, 2023
Peter Woodrow, Clerk
Lise Wagner, Recording Clerk

We began at 12:45 p.m., gathered in person and also connected via Zoom. There were 33 members and attenders present for this meeting.

In observance of Indigenous Peoples Day, Wayne Cobb gave a presentation of the history of this area, in particular the land on which our meetinghouse and cemetery stand, and the theft of the land from the Wabanaki, as a land acknowledgment. Our presiding clerk, Peter Woodrow, read queries regarding our relationship with Maine tribes and we settled into extended worship sharing. Wayne also shared some action items that he hopes the meeting will take on in the future. These included making contact with the many tribal members living in nearby communities and using our building and resources to meet the needs of those peoples. We can continue to educate ourselves and the public on tribal issues and remain aware and supportive of coming policy issues. We expressed deep appreciation for Wayne's dedication to these issues and keeping us informed and rallying us to act.

1. **Minutes from September 10, 2023 Meeting for Business.** Friends accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter, with the exception of one paragraph under section 2. The new language of the last bulleted section will read as follows:

“It can be unsatisfying to be seeking agreement, and sometimes we set goals for agreement in Meeting for Business and that approach does not serve us well. What if, instead of seeking agreement, we sought a sense of unity and proceeded from there, a unity that we find first and hold through the rest of Meeting for business? And we wait for that unity, a quality of loving and feeling loved, before we try to do anything else. One person expressed concern that for much of the sharing on June 4th, Friends were indirectly referring to one specific Friend and their ministry. Being well-acquainted with this Friend, they hope that the community will get to know this Friend and others whose behavior is challenging.”

2. **Quaker Call to Action.** We are being asked, over the next 13 months, to remain vigilant and to protect our democracy by being committed to publicly affirming the radical equality of all humans under God, among other things as listed in the Call. **Friends approved signing on as a meeting to the Call to Action.**
3. **Youth Religious Education.** Where have all the children gone—long time passing? The committee noted that there have been many different experiences of how Covid affected the families of meeting and how comfortable families are to be involved regularly in meeting. What is the priority of the meeting for the youth religious education program?

We had a vibrant youth program prior to the pandemic, even if it hadn't always been that way, with 10-20 children participating every 2nd and 4th Sunday. However, finding teachers able to commit time has always been an issue. Appropriate curriculum has also been a difficulty. The committee also noted that the children and adults of our meeting would benefit from greater interaction with each other.

One prior YRE coordinator noted a number of issues that have created life challenges for parents over the past number of years prior to the pandemic. Then, the two years of Covid-caused hibernation led to many new activities and reconnection for families to be together on the Sabbath. Another Friend asked what attracted and kept families coming to meeting 3-5 years ago? One answered that the vibrancy of the program and the routine was important to her family. Another commented that numbers of youth involved in NEYM programs actually decreased a few years before the pandemic. A former member of the committee noted that prior to the pandemic, the youth programs were vibrant, but fragile. The demographic of parents is changing. How are we inviting everyone into our community?

How are we led to prioritize this program, with time and financial resources, to address the changes we have seen? More adults being involved and First Day School being offered every week were positive changes. Even if fewer children come each week, there are still many children within our community, as seen at the recent picnic. The committee believes that the YRE coordinator position is critical to the continuation of youth programs. They have determined that that position could now be done in fewer hours per week. The nursery position is also essential, in particular to be one consistent person. This position could also be reduced in number of hours.

Our YRE coordinator recognized that we as a meeting are tired from the years of pandemic and heart-work that has taken our energy. Can we walk the talk for this program? A Friend recalled that the teens who came to meeting after Sept. 11 were drawn by our community being the only place where they could talk about peace. Is there another way we could offer this as a place for youth to feel comfortable and spiritually fed? Support was expressed for the youth programs for now and generations to come. Who is led to take on the key roles in the program? There are teenaged youth who would be willing to come together if there were people who would take the time to contact them and arrange gatherings. The committee would like Friends to prioritize this work and to join the YRE committee. We have work to do, but we should celebrate the relationships we do have with children and adults in the meeting.

4. **Ministry and Counsel.** The committee has been considering the possibility of shifting the time of meeting for worship to 10 a.m. every week to give more time for programs and events at the rise of worship. This will be addressed at the November Meeting for Business.
5. **Velasco Sister Meeting Proposal.** Friends are encouraged to review the proposal for discussion and possible decision in November.

Announcements.

- Love Our Meetinghouse Day will be on October 29, with rain date on November 12.
- Cemetery Committee gave a brief report about their work which will be included in the newsletter.
- Library Committee is doing good things and the library is open for business!
- Welcoming Committee: please read their report and join them at rise of meeting on Oct. 15 to provide ideas for how to be more welcoming.
- Applications for the Leadings Committee are due soon!

We ended at 2:40 p.m., to meet again, God willing, on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at a time to be specified.

Respectfully submitted,

Lise Wagner, Recording Clerk for the day

Indigenous Peoples' Day Presentation at start of 10/8/23 PFM Meeting for Business by Wayne Cobb

For the fifth consecutive year, we at Portland Friends Meeting gather in recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

More than 550 years ago, Pope Nicholas the Fifth granted Portugal the power to “invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever, and to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery, and to possess their islands, lands, harbors, and seas.” He continued, “We exhort you very earnestly in the Lord to lead the peoples dwelling in those islands and countries to embrace the Christian religion, with the stout hope and trust in your hearts that Almighty God will further your undertakings.”

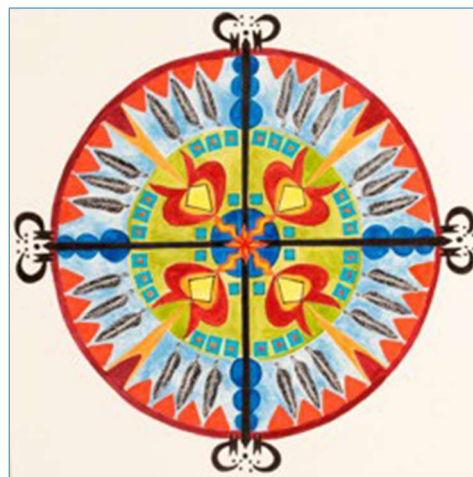
Armed with the authority granted in this so-called “Doctrine of Discovery,” several European countries sailed far and wide to discover new continents to claim. Discovery of territory previously unknown to Europeans gave the discovering nation title to that territory against all other European nations, and this title could be perfected by possession. And so the English and French landed on the Eastern shores of our continent, and by force claimed large portions of what the Wabanaki, the People of the Dawn, call Turtle Island.

While the French favored trade and intermarriage, the English were from the outset intent on settlement. First, catastrophic illnesses brought from Europe reduced coastal Native populations by up to 90 percent. Then, as European settlements grew, their impact on the land devastated the lifeways of the remaining Indigenous people, whose ancestors had stewarded it for 500 generations. This was as true in what we now call Maine as it was across the other English settled lands. And after Native resistance caused the first attempts at securing a settler foothold to fail, the Township of Falmouth on Casco Bay, now Greater Portland, was finally established in 1718.

One of the early men to acquire a stake in Old Falmouth was James Winslow, who was the first here to convert to Quakerism. James was raised in a staunch Congregationalist family in Massachusetts, whose home was the second to be destroyed in King Philip's War. When he arrived in Falmouth, this Englishman became a respected citizen in a Puritan town, a town that was planted on land stolen from the Wabanaki.

Winslow's conversion in 1740 did nothing to lure him and his four sons away from the quest for land acquisition. In collaboration with newly-arrived Friends and with a reputation for fair dealing, the Winslows found their way onto the Falmouth Proprietorship, where they acquired more land and obtained rights to dams on the local waterways. There seems to be no evidence of bad feeling between local Quakers and the Natives; nonetheless, the Winslows and other Friends became part of the sweeping colonization along the New England coast that wreaked havoc on Wabanaki people, their lands, their waters and their lifeways.

In 1755 the Governor of Massachusetts called on [quote] “all his Majesty's Subjects of this Province to Embrace all opportunities of pursuing, capturing, killing, and Destroying all and every of the Indians.”



Rose hips & crow feathers –Schoodic Point
by our Maliseet friend and neighbor, Mihku Paul

Thousands of Wabanaki children, women and men were killed, scalped or imprisoned, and at least 9,000 pounds in bounty rewards were paid by the colonial government from 1675 to 1760. There is no evidence that any Quakers were implicated in these atrocities, but the pastor of the First Parish Church now on Congress Street in Portland profited by keeping a hefty share of the scalp bounties. He also happened to own several enslaved Africans.

In the early 1800s, the financial success of four generations of Winslows (including two of James's great-grandsons, who were whalers at LeHavre, France) led to the purchase of 300 acres along the southern banks of the Presumpscot River. This parcel contained the very acre of land gifted by Caleb Jones on which our meeting house sits, and the cemetery where he and his wife, Lydia Winslow, are buried. In 1870 Caleb's son built the world's largest food canning factory in the world, on a site less than a half-mile from where we meet today. Water from an abundant spring on that land, which may in the past have been a valuable resource for Natives living along the river, fed the factory, and the amusement park that replaced it when the factory burned in 1875.

And so we meet today on land stolen from the Wabanaki people, on the day before a holiday that commemorates their struggles to maintain traditional lifeways in kinship and reciprocity with their Creator's living environment and all its creatures, human and non-human. If we are to help foster positive change in the spirit of healing, repair and reciprocity, what are we Portland Friends to do?

Potawatomi scientist and author Robin Wall Kimmerer raises some other good questions: "What happens when we truly become native to a place, when we finally make a home? What are the stories that lead the way? If time does in fact eddy back on itself, maybe the journey of the First Peoples will provide footsteps to guide the journey of those who now occupy their lands."

Well, there's good news...We've already started on the path! Over the past five years, we in this Meeting have raised our awareness of Indigenous history, decolonization and ways to take reparative action through reading groups, sessions with guest speakers, and Wabanaki REACH trainings. In 2021 alone, more than 70 of our members and attenders attended at least one of these offerings. (PAUSE) Now it is time to re-engage and commit to going deeper.

Our work can start right away, by helping to pass Question 6 on the November ballot. If we're successful, wording that was removed from the printed version of the Maine constitution, wording that explains the state's historical treaty obligations to the Tribes, will again be printed. Friends can attend a rally in Augusta tomorrow in support, and can work between now and election day to encourage Mainers to vote in favor.

Then, when the legislature returns to session in January, the question of restoring sovereignty to the Tribes in Maine will return to the floors of both houses. Acting together with others, we can seek ways to influence a veto-proof "yes" vote on this bill, and possibly other bills that will benefit Native people in Maine.

In addition to these elective and legislative efforts, I want to share a vision for steps Portland Friends might take in the year ahead. First, we can schedule the in-person version of the Wabanaki REACH interactive map exercise, live in our Meeting House, sometime next Spring...that request has already been made. But my greater vision is that we reach out and connect with Indigenous people who live in our area, to learn how we can be of service. We are more than 2 hours away from the closest Tribal community, but according to the latest census 164 people 18 years and older listed themselves as

American Indian living in Portland. Almost twelve hundred in Cumberland and York Counties claimed that heritage. In other words, we are surrounded by folks who know they are Indigenous!

I want us to learn about their needs, and whether they need assistance getting those needs met. I want us to seek ways to return local land and water rights to Native people. I want us to connect with non-profit organizations and government agencies to learn about programs that can benefit local Native people. I want us to meet with and request from local park, land trust and trails groups that they acknowledge their presence on stolen Wabanaki land and connect with their Indigenous neighbors to apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge on their lands. I want us to consider ways we Portland Friends can use our human energies, our meeting house and land, and our financial resources to help in whatever ways we can. I want us to do this in the spirit of respect, solidarity and reciprocity.

The presentation was accompanied by these queries from our Clerk Peter Woodrow

Indigenous caretakers lived on, learned from and loved this place for more than 10,000 years before newly arrived colonists defined land as real estate and claimed it as their own by virtue of “discovering” it.

- Have we learned from the descendants of those Indigenous Peoples how to humbly and respectfully live in relationship to this place, gratefully sharing it rather than arrogantly viewing ourselves as exclusive owners? What might “learning to live in reciprocity” with the land where we seek Spirit together look like?
- Are we open to Spirit’s leading to repair and build the relationship with our Indigenous neighbors? Do we understand the pain of the loss they suffered and continue to contend with under colonization? Do we honor their resilience and knowledge as they continue among us?

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Urges Action on Palestine-Israel

The U.S. Must Act to De-Escalate the Violence in Israel and Palestine

We are heartbroken by the recent violence in Israel and Gaza. As Quakers, we deeply mourn the loss of all lives and pray for those who have lost loved ones due to this latest escalation. We unequivocally condemn Hamas' attacks and inhumane treatment of civilians and call for the immediate release of all hostages. We also condemn the indiscriminate and violent Israeli response that has already claimed hundreds of civilian lives.

More war and weapons won't bring peace. In the face of growing violence, lawmakers must:

- Work to de-escalate this situation by calling for restraint, ceasefire, de-escalation, and respect for international law.
- Protect lives—those of the Israeli hostages and the roughly 1 million children who live in Gaza.
- Address the root causes underlying this explosion of violence, including decades of institutionalized oppression and collective punishment of Palestinians through brutal military occupation and a 16-year Gaza blockade.

Urge Congress to call for an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation, and restraint to prevent further civilian harm in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Congressional staff tell us personalized letters are most impactful. Customize your message to reflect your experience. Email Lobby@fcnl.org for tips.

An Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends

Update, July 2023

The Steering Committee of the Urgent Call has continued prayerfully to discern whether and how we are called to further action in anticipation of the 2024 elections and the continuing threats to our democracy.

In light of the events since the mid-term elections, we believe that our original Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends, endorsed by more than 720 individuals and 80 Quaker Meetings and organizations nationwide, is as relevant and urgent now as when it was first issued.

Many Friends worked hard during the 2022 mid-terms to protect our elections and rebuild democracy by registering voters and serving as canvassers, poll workers, poll watchers, and election officials. To our great relief, the elections were conducted safely and without major problems. Many voters overcame partisan efforts to restrict their access to the polls and rejected election deniers and extremist candidates in key races.

Regrettably, we see that truth, democracy, equality, and civility continue to be under unprecedented attack by authoritarian movements in our society. These extremist movements, many anchored in the tenets of white supremacy, are aggressively pursuing an agenda that counters equality, integrity, community, peace and justice. Their actions include racist attacks on people and communities of color, restricting voter access to the ballot, denying health care choices for women and LGBTQI+ people, and refusing to address the scourge of gun violence. Meanwhile, the existential threats of the climate crisis are growing dramatically, requiring urgent action to transition rapidly from an economy based almost entirely on fossil fuels to one based totally on clean energy.

We believe Friends are called to persevere in seeking and speaking truth, followed by right action.



We urge Friends to consider taking the following actions, both individually and corporately through our Quaker monthly and yearly meetings, wherever possible working with allied groups to increase the impact of our witness:

1. Publicly affirm our core belief that God gives every human being a measure of Divine Light and encourage every person to act in accordance with that holy witness within them.
2. Publicly denounce all efforts to subvert free and fair elections through voting restrictions, gerrymandering, and other undemocratic means; work to protect and promote free and fair elections by volunteering as poll-workers and election officials; actively support conscientious election officials and state attorneys general.
3. Publicly affirm our historical and religious commitment to the radical equality of all human beings under God. Take up the work of recognizing and repairing the racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and other oppressions in our midst, even as we counter intolerant and vindictive forces at work in the broader society.
4. Publicly denounce the MAGA and related authoritarian movements, including their continued lies, distortions, support for autocratic leaders, and attacks on individual liberties and democratic institutions. We are called to counter the use of hate, threats, and violence whenever and wherever we see them.
5. Act locally to support good candidates running for office. Working together as allies of and in coalition with other faith communities and

continued on reverse

community-based organizations, particularly those led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQI+ people, can help build community and strengthen the impact of our actions.

6. Circulate the Urgent Call within our meetings, churches, and Quaker organizations for individual and organizational endorsements.

The Urgent Call Steering Committee pledges to serve as a hub for communication, conversation, learning, and support as Friends act for truth and democracy over the next 16 months. We will organize periodic national Zoom calls and training sessions to support and facilitate our witness together.

The first national Zoom call is scheduled for September 28, 2023 from 7–9 pm EDT. We are delighted that Parker Palmer, noted Quaker author and teacher, will be providing an opening message on "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Love, Truth, Justice & the Work of We the People." Please print, post, and distribute the attached flyer in your meeting and elsewhere.

Our second call this fall (to be scheduled) will be a learning opportunity to understand the bi-partisan **American Anti-Corruption Act**, and how your endorsement and work with allied organizations for its passage locally and nationally could lead to major reforms needed to protect truly democratic, free and fair elections.

These national Zoom calls provide opportunities for us to gather in community, affirm our commitment to worship, learn together, and prepare to act locally. Register for these National Calls and future trainings at www.quakercall.net.

We have felt the immense value of listening and acting together as Friends around these urgent issues of our time. We look forward to being with you in the coming months.

The Urgent Call Steering Committee:

MARIAN BEANE

Charlotte Friends Meeting, Piedmont Friends - Yearly Meeting and Fellowship

BRUCE BIRCHARD

Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Friends General Conference

SAM CALDWELL

Providence Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

GRETCHEN CASTLE

Doylestown Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Dean, Earlham School of Religion, Former General Secretary, Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office

MARY ELLEN MCNISH

Byberry Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee

DIANE RANDALL

Hartford Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Sojourning Friends Meeting of Washington, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

JIM WADDINGTON

Salem Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

MICHAEL WAJDA, CLERK

Goshen Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Sojourning Bennington Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Former Associate Secretary, Friends General Conference

Meeting and Organization Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only.



You can endorse the Urgent Call, find additional resources, register for national conversations on these issues, report on specific actions that you, your meeting, or your organization has undertaken, and sign up for continued updates at www.quakercall.net.

We also welcome your questions, suggestions, and resources at info@quakercall.net.

Portland Friends Meeting Support of our Sister Meeting of Cuban Friends

Proposal Presented by Velasco Friends Sister Committee and PFM Financial Stewardship Committee

Historical Highlights:

- On November 1, 2020, Portland Friends Meeting joyfully approved joining with Durham Friends Meeting in a sister relationship with Velasco Friends Meeting.
- Given COVID travel restrictions and ongoing uncertainty re. the likely timing and cost of travel to Cuba, the following minute was approved in June 2022: “Friends approved the delegation and our support as a Meeting for the trip as a whole with the decision around the Meeting’s financial contribution to the trip to be decided at a later date.”
- Since 2021, Velasco Friends Sister Committee (of both Portland and Durham meetings) has met regularly and provided written and verbal reports to our PFM community. This activity and the related reports are reflected in minutes from several PFM business meetings, 2021-2023. The minutes reflect a lack of unity within the meeting regarding the nature and levels of support that it will provide to the sister meeting relationship.
- Friends from our PFM community traveled to Cuba in November 2022 (Sydney MacDowell) and February 2023 (Kim Belshaw [Durham], Sue Calhoun, Hannah Colbert, & Fritz Weiss). The travelers subsequently shared that this experience was spiritually transformative for them, seeing the power of community, mutual support, and loving Spirit at work within a group that has few material resources. They hope to communicate this community example to Portland Friends as an important part of the exchange.
- In April 2023, the Meeting approved the “extension of its Sister Meeting relationship with the Velasco Friends Meeting to include the Velasco Meeting’s Mission in Calderon.”
- In May 2023 members of PFM’s Velasco Friends Sister Committee and the Financial Stewardship Committee participated in a conversation facilitated by PFM Co-Clerks, Peter Woodrow and Rob Levin. (Participants: Kathy Beach, Ann Dodd-Collins, Alan Farneth, Rob Levin, Jo Linder, Sydney MacDowell, Jane Mullen, Becky Steele, Peter Woodrow, Fritz Weiss). Highlights of this conversation:
 - Deeper meeting-wide discernment is needed in order to reach unity regarding the nature of PFM’s commitment to ongoing corporate and financial support of our sister relationship with Velasco and Calderon Friends.
 - Consideration of the Meeting’s support of its Sister Meeting relationship includes both spiritual and financial elements.
 - Velasco Sister Meeting Committee seeks regular significant contributions toward Cuba travel expenses. This would both reflect PFM support and, importantly, enable the committee to be considered for financial support from additional Quaker sources (NEYM, for example).
 - A bank account dedicated to receiving and disbursing funds related to the Velasco Sister Meeting effort, including funds for travel and to meet other expressed needs from Velasco Friends, has been established. Durham Friends have contributed \$4,000 to that account for this fiscal year. Nancy Marsteller of Durham Meeting is serving as treasurer of this account. If Portland Friends Meeting chooses to make annual contributions to the Velasco Sister Meeting project, they would be made to this account. The meeting would in turn receive an annual accounting of how the funds have been used.
 - The possibility of a \$4000 annual donation was discussed, in recognition that a decision regarding an amount and source (Shared Witness Fund, Operating

Budget, or a special fundraising effort) of funds would be made by the meeting as a whole.

- In July 2023 Ann Dodd-Collins, Jo Linder and Peter Woodrow met in conversation to distill and clarify the joint committee discussion, and to develop a joint proposal to bring to the whole PFM community. Highlights of this conversation:
 - Total travel costs related to the 2023 delegation were \$16,352. The Sister Meeting committee detailed donations from five Quaker sources (including two within PFM) that provided the majority of financial support for these travelers.¹
 - Recognition of Durham Friends Meeting administrative support for this work, including holding the funds in an account, making payments, monitoring income and expenses, and providing use-of-funds updates to donors.

The outcome of these discussions and subsequent input by members of the joint committees is the joint proposal below.

Proposal for Consideration and Further Discernment at Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business (MfWfCB):

If Portland Friends Meeting affirms full support of our Velasco Sister Meeting relationship (as defined by MfWfCB above), the joint committees recommend for consideration at Meeting for the Conduct of Worship for Business:

1. Is the Meeting as a whole in full support of the Sister Meeting project, including an understanding of the financial implications, while recognizing that there will always be uncertainties in relation to Cuba (travel restrictions, changing needs and capacities, etc.)?
2. Provide support annually for a PFM/DFM delegation to Cuba, for delegations expected to travel every other year. (Expenses are often incurred in the year prior to travel, and finances budgeted in one year could be carried over, held in the dedicated Sister Meeting bank account).
3. Travel expenses for future PFM delegations are met by donations from a variety of potential sources, including some of each delegate's personal financial resources, as they are able. An individual who is clear about their call to this ministry should receive financial assistance to do this work, as an expression of Portland Friends' collective witness.
4. Propose a commitment of \$4,000/year total financial support from PFM to support our Velasco Sister Meeting program for the next two years (2024 and 2025), to be reevaluated and continued, revised or canceled as the Meeting determines.² This money will be used to help cover travel expenses and to pay for supplies that Velasco Meeting and its mission at Calderon have requested.
5. Develop and approve a policy determining the source of approved funds that support Cuban travel (e.g., Shared Witness Fund, annual Operating Budget, and special fundraising efforts).

1. Sources of funds for the 2023 travel delegation included the following: Lyman Fund (\$3,000); Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund (\$4,000); PFM Leadings Grants (\$2,000); PFM Adult Scholarships (\$1,400); Durham Friends Meeting (\$4,000); donations from individuals and contributions from delegation members (\$5,952); fundraising (\$601.50). Total = \$20,953.50

(Note: Some New England Quaker funds require evidence of a financial commitment from the monthly meeting when applying for financial grants.)

2. Financial Stewardship is not in unity with recommending an amount as large as \$4000 a year from our annual operating budget, but is clear that this commitment should be discerned by the Meeting as a whole, which may be led to increase its giving to support this mission.

Report of the Welcoming Committee for October 2023

The welcoming committee has reformed with members Lyn Ballou, Sandi Jensen and Dorothy Grannell. We would like to be joined by at least two additional members preferably from generations younger than ourselves. We need people to help us broaden our understanding of all the generations within our meeting.

The following are the **Tasks of the current committee**:

- Check the guest register and sign guests onto the e-group
- Contact newcomers to welcome them and answer questions
- Assist the greeters
- Provide a written introduction to the meeting
- Work with Genna Ulrich to develop a “Know Your Meeting” packet for newish attenders.
- Plan fellowship activities which deepen our knowledge of each other
- Monitor public spaces for currency of items and attractiveness
- Welcoming does not organize after worship snacks. (This could change in the future if a plan is deemed necessary) Those who choose to bring a snack are reminded that they must clean up afterwards, empty the coffee pot and grounds, and take away trash and food waste.

What we noticed that is not welcoming:

- Our website listing for our Sunday worship location is out of date (as of Oct1).
- Committee information on the website is incorrect (as of Oct1).
- Support is needed for our tech assistants so that we can continue to welcome attenders via Zoom. Should we be paying people to step up for those roles?
- Bulletin Boards and Displays in the Parlor are out of date and room is cluttered with chairs

We are worshiping together in one place on Sunday morning. Let's shake off the stress of the pandemic and pull together, attend to details, get our space and our online presence in order. We will feel more comfortable as a community and be more welcoming to all who come when we are well organized.

Our First Fall Welcoming Event will take place October 15 at rise of meeting in the worship room. Interested Friends are urged to come and share your ideas on how all of us may be more welcoming and explain brief getting-to-know-you activities. This will be a brainstorming session and a chance to say how you felt welcomed to Portland Friends. What made you come a second, third or fourth time? What is missing for you in terms of connecting to PFM.



Friends School of Portland
Fall Admissions Open House
Saturday, Oct. 21, 10am - 12pm

www.friendsschoolportland.org



Friends School of Portland will be holding their annual Admissions Open House on Saturday, October 21 from 10am-noon.

FSP offers a Fall and Winter Open House for families curious about FSP's culture of joyful learning. Open Houses are a great way for students and families to learn about Friends School of Portland. Tours with Middle School students, explore the school campus and 21 acres, and time to learn more about Quaker education at FSP with faculty members, as well as Sara Primo, Head of School, Nell Sears, Director of Studies, and Megan Campbell, Director of Enrollment.

Registration is required for this event. Learn more here:
<https://www.friendsschoolportland.org/admission-events>

A Worshipful Celebration of Maggie Fiori's Ministry on October 22



Please join Maggie's Support Committee and her home meeting of Portland, ME <https://www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org/> in a celebratory and worshipful appreciation of Maggie's gifts and service to New England Yearly Meeting's youth programs as the former Teen Ministries Coordinator. There will be a lunch provided at the rise of Meeting for Worship at/around 12 noon followed by a semi-programmed worship* at the meetinghouse and also by ZOOM at 1 PM. ALL are welcome.

Please register for the Zoom link here: <https://lu.ma/rxjihu2t>

If you're coming "from away" and need hospitality, or want to help keep a headcount for the food, or if you are unable to attend but want to convey a message, let us know here:

Durham@neym.org.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out and we look forward to seeing you on October 22!

*Yes, this does include singing and prepared message; this is for Maggie, after all!

Tom Antonik, Leslie Manning, Julie de Sherbinin



Hello,

This is it. **This is our chance to tell decision-makers that mining in the Katahdin region is not worth the risk.**

The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) has scheduled an October 23rd public hearing in Bangor for the zinc mining proposal at Pickett Mountain. **Join us for a rally** before the hearing to send the message that this is the WRONG mine in the WRONG place by the WRONG company.

Bangor Rally & Hearing: The Katahdin Region is No Place for a Mine

Monday, October 23

Cross Insurance Center, 515 Main Street, Bangor

Rally starts at 5:15 p.m.

Hearing starts at 6:30 p.m.

This is our best chance to demonstrate the overwhelming public opposition to a mine in the Katahdin region. We know the company, Wolfden Resources, will be there and will bring its supporters to try to tip the balance in its favor.

- Join us for a rally and pizza at 5:15 p.m. before the public comment session begins to hear from speakers and to show your opposition. Then at the public comment session, you'll have an opportunity to speak to the LUPC in person and share why you oppose this mining proposal.
- [Find more information to prepare your comments on our website](#) — we're happy to help you with talking points if needed.

This new hearing date in Bangor was scheduled after more than 50 Maine legislators sent a letter urging the LUPC to make the hearings more accessible. This dangerous mining proposal is important to Mainers far outside the immediate region where the mine would be located — and we need to show that to the LUPC.

I hope you'll join us on October 23rd. [Sign up here!](#)

Sincerely,

Melanie Sturm
NRCM Forests & Wildlife Director

P.S. If you can't attend the hearing, you can submit a written comment opposing the mine to the LUPC using [our action alert](#).



Friends Committee on National Legislation

Dear Friend:

Four years ago, the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism—and the inaugural cohort of Quakers Uprooting Racism—was born.

Now, that same coalition brings together six Quaker organizations working to accelerate the movement for racial justice among Friends and the wider community. We are now in the process of forming the 2024 Quakers Uprooting Racism cohort—a group of racial justice changemakers learning and experimenting with actions together.

Register to learn more about the coalition and its plans on Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. EDT.

Join the online discussion with FCNL representatives of the ***Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism*** to learn about their vision for transforming the Religious Society of Friends and plans for the 2024 cohort.

Hear What People Are Saying:

“Doing this transformation work in a Quaker context was powerful. We grounded ourselves in community and spirituality, our shared experiences, and common fields of action. I now have relationships with Friends working to advance racial justice in Quaker organizations, Friends schools, and yearly and monthly meetings.” – A participant in Quakers Uprooting Racism 2021-2022

Please forward this invitation to a F/friend, your community list-serv, and share it with your networks!

Sincerely,

Bobby Trice

Quaker Engagement Program Manager



Love Boldly, Share Deeply

Falmouth Quarter will meet on October 28th from 9:30 – 2 at Windham Friends Meeting.

We invite you to come and share about the life and spirit in your meetings. Our hope is that our entire time together is a time of worship, with laughter, business, connections and handcrafts.

Windham meeting is preparing for their annual craft fair and would welcome donations of homemade items, knitting, or crafts for the fair. Those who knit or crochet are encouraged to bring your materials and work on projects while we meet. The meeting is not welcoming White Elephant items this year.

The schedule for our time together is:

9:30 - Gather in worship – Singing, connection, perhaps some Juice and coffee and snacks and sharing

10:00 - Meeting for business to approve the budget, approve donations for the year, to confirm the dates for 2023-2024 Quarterly meeting, consider what program we might like to bring to the Quarter in January, receive Durham's recommendation to record a Friends gifts in ministry, nominate Friends to the Beacon Friends House Corporation and to share news from each meeting. If you have additional items for the business agenda, please forward them to Fritz Weiss @ rossvall@gmail.com.

11:30 break, potluck lunch. There is a stove and microwave to heat up items and an electric tea kettle to heat water.

12:30 Sharing experiences from the 2023 annual sessions of New England Yearly Meeting – especially the two plenaries.

- a [plenary](#) with Joseph Bruchac (an Abenaki storyteller) & Jesse Bruchac (an Abenaki language teacher), and

- the [Bible half-hours](#) with Emma Condori Mamani, a Bolivian Friend who spoke recently at Durham Friends Meeting.

- A [plenary](#) with Anna Fritz (cello) (examples of her ministry are available at: <https://annafritz.com/>)

2:00 Wrap up, close worship.

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested

Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, November 8, 11:58pm

submissions: dhingston@comcast.net

