

Portland Friends Meeting Newsletter

Twelfth Month 2013

Meeting for Worship: Sundays, 10:30a

First Day School: 2nd and 4th Sundays, 10:45a

Connections

Co-Clerks

Anne Harwood 666-8179

Sarah Cushman 841-7186

Treasurer, Contributions

Sue Nelson 391-6116

60 Shadagee Road, #2

Saco, ME 04072

Treasurer, Operating Account

Kathy Beach 741-2940

14 Drew Road

South Portland 04106

Treasurer, Special Funds

Sara Jane Elliot 883-0573

Special Needs Funds

Chris Beach 741-2940

Elizabeth Szatkowski 772-1774

Ministry and Counsel

Stephanie Richards 829-4082

Lyn Ballou 865-3888

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Shannon O'Connor 774-2578

Morgan Grumbach 671-6872

Religious Education

Adults: Brad Bussiere-Nichols, 772-1774

Youth: Shuli Bonham, 619-4787

Youth Religious Education Coordinator:

Anne Payson 781-2501

Use of the Meetinghouse

Jane Mullen 761-5856

E-group Coordinator

Mary Beth Walsh 797-8414

mbwalsh@mainelyaccess.com

Newsletter

electronic submissions

Heather Denkmire

pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net

postal mail submissions

Liz Maier

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Scarborough, ME 04074

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portlandfriendsmeeting.org

Query 12: "Do you listen for the Spirit even when the words are foreign to you? Is your own understanding of God enriched by other people's experiences of the Divine?"

(New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Revision Committee, Chapter 11: General Advices and Queries, preliminarily accepted)

Upcoming Events

December 24: time tbd, silent and programmed Meeting for Worship

January 12: rise of meeting, PFM "Voyage of Discovery"

January 23: 6-9:30p Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening

Monthly Events

Every Sunday: 10:30a Meeting for worship

Every Wednesday: 5:30p Meeting for worship (begins 1/8/14)

1st Sundays: Meeting for business

2nd & 4th Sundays: 9a Adult Religious Education, 10a Singing, 10:45a Youth Religious Education

2nd Saturday: 5-8p Youngish adults potluck, Marnie Grumbach 749-9666

4th Friday: 3:30-7p Preble Street Soup Kitchen, Aaiyn Foster 766-9762

Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening – NEYM & FGC Event, January 23, 6-9/9:30pm

On Thursday, January 23rd, Beth Collea, Religious Education Coordinator for New England Yearly Meeting and Brent Bill, the Friends General Conference Coordinator for the New Meetings Project, will be co-facilitating a conversation on *Friends in a Time of Spiritual Awakening*, a case study about how to offer Quakerism through new meetings (and reinvigorated meetings) to a society yearning for a living faith. The topic stems from a thought-provoking book by Diana Butler Bass called *Christianity after Religion: The End of Church and the Beginning of a New Spiritual Awakening*. Beth is a beloved staff member of the Yearly Meeting with whom we've consulted in the past on religious education and Brent is a very engaging and grounded Friend who brings a wealth of experience in nurturing Quaker Meetings.

The event is open to Friends and any other interested folks within driving distance of Portland Friends Meeting – so please join us! We will provide a simple meal of soup and bread and fellowship from 6-7pm, followed by the program from 7-9/9:30

Mid-week Meeting for Worship,
Wednesdays at 5:30p, begins on
January 8th.

Attenders should be sure to check
portlandfriendsmeeting.org for any
last-minute cancellations.

Youth Religious Education News:

December 27-30 Young Friends
Retreat (ages 14-18): Leadings,
Friendly Crossways, Harvard, MA for
more info: youngfriends.neym.org

Take the PFM Voyage of Discovery – Learn the Secrets of Your Meetinghouse

Sunday, January 12, 2014, at rise of Meeting you can set sail for a hunt for the secrets and treasures of our Meetinghouse. Following a light lunch of soup and bread, get your passport to adventure and join one of four crews to check out the Ports of Call: Kitchen, Main Floor, Parking Area and the Dining/Storage /Nursery – each with its own activity director. We will begin with an overview of the entire trip and divide into smaller traveling groups for a 20 minute investigation of each area of the Meetinghouse and its environs.



At each Port, the activity director will stamp your passport to adventure once you have discovered the ins and outs of the area. Everyone is invited to come on board, youngster, teen, “youngish” or “oldish” adult. Once your stamps are in place you will have an opportunity to cast your lot with others who want to volunteer whenever there is a life event or youth retreat at Portland Friends Meeting. Even if you don’t want to volunteer, you can take this voyage with Friends just to discover how the various parts of our Meetinghouse work or - at least to know where the Meetinghouse key is if you are the last person in the building on Sunday morning!

Our goal is that as many Friends as possible know where things are in the Meetinghouse and how to use and care for them. The committee also wants to create a list of potential volunteers who can be called upon to help when there is a wedding, memorial service or workshop. No one person will have to handle a whole event but will be part of a “crew” sharing the work.

If you want to be the “captain” of a meeting event, (workshop, memorial service, wedding, youth retreat, and rental greeter) you will want to have all of the Ports of Call stamped as completed. At the very end of our voyage of discovery you will be able to surrender your completed passport if you want to be a captain of an event or the activity director of one of the Ports of Call - that is to say, event coordinator, parking supervisor, kitchen chief etc.

Your travel agents (Event checklist creators): Sandy Jensen, Kathy Beach, Jennifer Frick, Becky Steele and Dorothy Grannell

Committee openings

The following committees have openings. If you feel called to offer your time and talents, contact Rob Levin (rob@roblevin.net or 774-8026).

Youth Religious Education Committee – Works with the Youth Religious Ed. Coordinator to plan classes, helps with occasional intergenerational worship, Advent garden, Christmas events, Easter breakfast, and oversight of nursery. *Gifts/Interest* – Love of children and enjoyment of furthering their spiritual growth.

Recorders of Announcements – 3rd First Day and 4th First Day of each Month – Summarizes announcements made at rise of Meeting, and posts them on E-group.

Pastoral Oversight Committee – Care for friends in times of sickness and need of any kind. Participation in the committee's meetings as well as helping individuals in need. *Gifts/Interest* – Compassionate feeling for others and ability to reach out to others and listen well to them.

Clean Up and Close Up After Meeting – 3rd First Day of Month – Locks building after doing a series of tasks to neaten/clean it and leave it safe, including: straightening chairs; closing curtains, turning off lights & fans & resetting 2 thermostats; closing all fire doors; removing trash; cleaning hallway & parlor carpets; and removing trash. *Gifts/Interest* – Soul is restored by caring for our building; have 45 minutes once a month to do the job.



Resource Committee to Friends School – Helps the school with process of spiritual discernment – on a regular basis and around particular issues as they arise. Meets quarterly and as needed. Members take turns holding the board of the school in the light during its monthly meetings. *Gifts/Interest* – supporter of the spiritual life, interest in education and in the school.

Portland Friends Meeting Events Coordination Committee

The committee will have 4-6 members. The purpose of the committee is to help those planning a PFM event or member life event (wedding, memorial service, anniversary, etc.). The Events Coordination Committee will provide training for, and keep a list of, volunteers willing to be Event Coordinators and/or Lead Volunteers who supervise different areas of the Meetinghouse on event days.

For each event, the committee will appoint a trained Event Coordinator who will, in consultation with the event planner or requester, choose Lead Volunteers from the list of trained volunteers. The Lead Volunteers will supervise specific areas of the Meetinghouse under the supervision of the Event Coordinator. This process will also be followed for a Meeting Event that takes place at a different venue.

An event coordinator will, in coordination with the Meetinghouse scheduler, may be assigned when the Meetinghouse is rented by an outside group, Quaker organization or NEYM retreat to orient the renter to the building and to open and close the building.

Portland Friends Meeting for Business December 1, 2013

1. Portland Friends Meeting for Business began in silent worship with 30 members and attenders present. During worship, Co-Clerk Sarah Cushman read Query #13 and Query #15 from the Revised Advices and Queries. Query #13 reads, "Do you use your time, energy, resources, gifts, and material possessions in the service of God's love?" And Query #15 reads, "Do you maintain an appropriate balance among work, service, worship, family, and recreation? Are you ready to rest if God asks it of you?"
2. **Minutes of November 3, 2013 Meeting for Business.** Some dates were corrected. The dates for the 2014 Falmouth Quarterly Meeting are the first Saturdays in April and November, and the fourth Sunday in July. Friends accepted the minutes as corrected.
3. **Financial Oversight** - Kathy Beach & Rita Clifford
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Beach said that she is happy to report that we are in the black! Income and expenses are both at 81% of budget and we are 92% of the way through the year. Friends were very generous with their donations this month, and the delicious soup and chili luncheon put on by the teens with lots of help from several adults was a success. Notecards sold by Sarah Jane Elliot raised approximately \$70. \$840 was raised that day. This included the sale of pies made by Friends for Thanksgiving. Donations for the month of November were \$11,545, an all-time high. Our balance for the year is \$469. We will have our usual expenses in December, so we will continue to welcome donations from Friends who are able to do so. Many thanks to all who have donated so generously to the life of our Meeting.
 - b. **2014 budget proposal:** We continue to try and make this as realistic as possible. The budget is listed in detail at the end of these minutes. Many contributions, including those to NEYM, remain as previously listed but some have increased slightly to a total \$90 increase from last year. \$17,750 in total is allocated to donations for 2014. Meeting house expenses are basically the same as 2013. We will be asking for slightly less in terms of donations. Syl Doughty pointed out that there are some recent repairs that will be needed to secure basement windows from vandalism and improve exterior security lighting. These may need some extra money in the budget for Buildings and Grounds. He was asked to obtain estimates for the needed work before the January Meeting for Business. A friend asked if we could make better connections with youth workers and residents and the community policing department in the area that might make the building better respected in this neighborhood. Co-clerks and Ministry and Counsel will consider this issue further. Approval of the budget will now wait until January when the estimates for Buildings and Grounds work are available and Friends have had time to read and consider the proposed budget as laid out in the newsletter. Building and Grounds may need time to consider further options.
 - c. **Financial Oversight's recommendation for a loan to FSP** (\$100,000 at 4% interest with 20 year amortization rate, to be reviewed in 5 years). The interest rate was reviewed and reconsidered after the discussion at a previous Meeting for Business, but the committee was unanimous in recommending the 4% rate as appropriate with consideration to their fiduciary responsibilities to the meeting and its contributors. This is a conservative approach that allows us to continue to support our budget from our endowment. It now appears also to be less than the current rate from a bank loan, an interest rate that is likely to rise. Friends approved the loan as set out in Financial Oversight's recommendations, if it proves necessary to the school.
4. **Ministry and Counsel:** Lyn Ballou reported that Ministry and Counsel recommended Kathy Beach for membership. The meeting enthusiastically approved this. There will be a Christmas Eve service, details to be announced. In response to requests there will be a midweek meeting for worship on Wednesdays at 5:30pm, probably starting in January. Clerks will not be responsible for this meeting. There will be a scholarship opportunity for young Friends via Pickett Endowment Grants. These range from \$500-\$3000 and are for people showing unique promise in Quaker leadership and for research or projects that will benefit the meeting community. Nominations close December 15th.

(cont-)

minutes (continued)

5. **Nominating Committee:** Rob Levin reported that their job has been made easier this year because of a lot of stability in key areas. There are still a few blanks and Nominating Committee is reaching out to some people to fill those slots, though they will welcome volunteers. Notable vacancies include in Youth Religious Ed, two of the clean-up slots and a couple of people to record announcements. The new co-clerk will be Andy Grannell. Pastoral Oversight committee has asked to change the committee name to Care and Concerns. Friends expressed regret for the loss of the term 'Pastoral' and asked the committee to consider including that word in their recommendations to Meeting for business and report to business meeting in January. Friends happily approved the roster of names from Nominating Committee. The Events Coordination Committee is a new committee that has received a very positive response. The purpose of the committee is to help those planning a Portland Friends Meeting event or a member life event. Dorothy Grannell read out the specifics of the proposed scope and work of the committee, which is printed in the newsletter. Friends approved the existence of this new committee and its roster of members with great appreciation. On January 12th the committee will lead a "Voyage of Discovery" to enable Friends to learn the secrets of the meeting house.
6. **Peace & Social Concerns:** Jennifer Frick reported that the committee has determined that they do not want to take action on approving the minute from Middlebury, nor at this time take any other action related to gun violence. They heartily invite anyone from Meeting who wants to take up this cause to do so. The committee can fill interested parties in on the actions that have already been taken this year by this committee and others from Meeting around the issue, and will support them in any way they can.
7. **Other Business:** the deadline for the newsletter is Wednesday December 4th. Heather Denkmire asked Friends to send her any items for inclusion. It was noted that such items should be proofread for accuracy of dates and spelling.
8. **Reminders:** Committee annual reports are due this month.

Scheduling Use of the Meetinghouse

Our beautiful, peaceful meetinghouse is available for our use for events and activities related to the life of the meeting, and available for rent for other uses. Advance reservation of the space is required for any use.

Please schedule your planned use well in advance of a need. To do so:

FIRST— check space/date/time availability on our online the calendar at www.portlandfriendsmeeting.org

SECOND — contact me at jmmaine@aol.com with the available space/date/time that you desire

THIRD — I will confirm your reservation with you and add the event to the calendar

Don't miss out!! The online calendar is updated as specific scheduling requests are made.

With thanks,
Jane Mullen

PFM contact updates:

New address and phone numbers for Sara Jane and Rita:

595 Ocean Street, #6, South Portland, ME 04106

Sara Jane: 207-749-9706, sarajane Elliot726@gmail.com

Rita: 207-409-5434, rclifford13@hotmail.com

newsletter editorial assistance opportunities

Advice & Queries: select items for inclusion each month with additional content as appropriate

Calendar items: gather items from various sources

Profiles of committees: about the good work being done "behind the scenes"

Profiles of members and attenders: help us know each other through interviews and/or personal submissions

Quaker history: help us better understand our roots with a brief monthly entry

email heather at pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net with questions or if you are interested in signing on for a month or more.



Position opening: Director of Studies

FSP is seeking a dynamic and collaborative Director of Studies beginning in August 2014. The Director of Studies facilitates faculty focus on student learning and instruction; facilitates professional development; communicates with parents, board,

and wider community about student learning and the school's curriculum; assists in the administration of the school; is part of the core Admissions Team; takes the lead on accreditation-related matters.

For more details: <http://friendsschoolofportland.org/job-postings/director-studies>

Upcoming events

Saturday, January 11, 10:00-12 noon

Family Open House: Take a student-led tour, meet the teachers in their classrooms, and talk to current parents and students. Learn more about Quaker education and get a feel for our culture of joyful learning. Our Head of School, Jenny Rowe, and Director of Studies, Mary Tracy, will also be on hand for a question and answer session. To RSVP, please call Jen McNally at 781-6321 or email jen@friendsschoolofportland.org.

A Brand New Rides System for PFM

The Pastoral Care Committee has been quietly arranging rides to Meeting (and to medical appointments) for those in temporary or permanent financial need or physical disability for a number of years. And the Pastoral Care concern is not just limited to rides, but also encompasses providing meals, shopping, and volunteers to keep houses clean. Just about anything required by a person in need, anything not already supplied by family or friends, could be arranged by Pastoral Care. That's what we do.

Sometimes the number of available volunteer drivers and the number of people needing rides have been small enough that one rides coordinator could keep track, but what if the number of drivers or the number of riders increased dramatically? We want to be ready for that eventuality. That means spreading the responsibility evenly among all the parties involved.

We see the need for more formal procedures, and an opportunity for making use of technology, whether it be the telephone, email, or websites. In the past, we have used a free, Web-based database called Doodle.com to organize rides as well as schedules for visiting and bringing food to shut-in Friends.

It's time to put all our experience and ideas together, so we can create a flexible rides system that will accommodate future member and attender needs in an easy way, and one that makes the load light by making it well-distributed among the participants.

This is the background to this announcement of a new Rides system. The basic idea is to identify three separate roles for all people involved in the system: those offering rides, those needing rides, and a coordinator who makes sure that everything works smoothly.

To simplify the new system, each week, people offering rides and people needing rides will contact each other by phone, in person, or by email, as they prefer, aided by the coordinator. A list of volunteer drivers and a list of requested rides will drive this system. Responsibilities for each role have been identified and made very specific and clearly written, so they are easy for everyone to follow. We feel that the flexibility of this new system and the fair distribution of responsibilities across all roles will make the new system successful and a great base for handling future individual needs.

We encourage anyone who has found this description interesting to visit our PFM Rides webpage, which is at www.nsrusa.org/pfm-rides. That page shows the written procedures for each role when you click the three tabs at the bottom of the page. To ensure some minimal security for the list of volunteer driver information that also appears on the page, the page requires an "access password". Please obtain the password from any member of the Pastoral Care Committee. Please keep it for use only within PFM so we don't have to change it.

If you have any questions or comments about the new Rides system, please direct them to Shannon O'Connor.

Arthur Fink Photography

East End Holiday Stroll and more...

Arthur's photography display, with images of dancers in class, in rehearsal, and in performance will be one of the stops on the East End Holiday Stroll, Saturday, December 14, 11 am - 6 pm.

He will have fine framed prints for sale, unframed prints, cards, and books. Visit him at 145 Newbury Street (former synagogue building, just off India St.)

20% of all sales where Portland Friends Meeting is mentioned will go to the meeting.

He will also have a large work at the Bakery Photo Collective "Photo a GoGo" show Friday December 13, 6 pm - 8:00 pm at the Dana Warp Mill, 90 Bridge Street, Westbrook Photo a GoGo is a huge photo show and party, with great food (and open bar).

Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism

Administered by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, small annual grants (up to \$1,000) are available for projects relating to Christian mysticism.

Members and attenders of PFM and other interested individuals or groups are invited to consider submitting proposals by March 1, 2014. Recently funded projects have included a project for a Quaker/Monastic Forum to be sponsored by St. Meinrad Benedictine Monastery and the Earlham School of Religion; research on the mystical tradition and religious dissent in England between 1640 and 1730; and a grant to the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation for bilingual workshops and gatherings on contemplative prayer in Cuba. Proposals should be brief (one or two pages). Two or three individuals who know the applicant and are familiar with his or her work should be asked to send letters of reference by this deadline as well.

For guidelines or additional information on the Bogert Fund, send inquiries to Kenneth Woodrow Henke: kenneth.henke@ptsem.edu
Princeton Theological Seminary Library, 25 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Jennifer Frick's HealingSound/HealingTouch Holiday Specials for PFM

gift certificates, \$40/each; three or more, \$35/each—20% of proceeds goes to PFM

Healing Sound/Healing Touch is a bodywork practice that focuses on helping the receiver to "tune out, tune in, and thereby tune up" mind, body, and spirit in a relaxing, refreshing format. Energy-related modalities used include Polarity, Reiki, Therapeutic Touch, as well as hand & foot reflexology, and gentle rocking

Jennifer Frick was certified as a massage therapist in 1984, and practiced until returning to full-time teaching in 2001. Since then she has studied new bodywork techniques and practiced informally and a year ago added sounding/chanting and Reiki work to her repertoire. In 2012, Jennifer retired from full-time teaching to return to bodywork practice with a current focus of healing using sound and energy work.

Contact Jennifer at (207) 939-1312 or jfrick47@gmail.com or visit: healingsoundhealingtouch.wordpress.com

Dear Friends,

Most of us are aware of the Tortilla Flat restaurant next door to the Meetinghouse. And most of us make use of its upper parking lot next door. But few of us have eaten there. I'd like to remedy that. They deserve our support for their many years of letting us park in their lot. My wife and I recently ate there twice after Meeting (they open at Noon on Sundays). We found their food to be excellent in the category of "Tex-Mex", and their servers to be courteous, pleasant, and very helpful.

-- David Spector

Portland Friends Meeting
1837 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04103

Address Service Requested



Next newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, January 8, 9pm

submissions: pfmnewsletter@grantwinners.net