

The Provident FRIEND

April 2010

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Breadmaking Day at the Meetinghouse

By Dede Carlsten



The Providence Monthly Meeting bread baking fest took place on April 10th. Elsie Morse was our fearless and peerless teacher in the fine arts of "sponge" making, flour adding, kneading and baking. Elsie taught us how to make loaves, herbed dinner breads, and herbed or sweet butterflies. We started off with coffee and hot sticky buns to get us into the spirit of the joys of bread making from the creative side to the gastronomic delights of

eating the results of our endeavors. Also Elizabeth shared her recipe for cheese bread sticks that she learned when preparing for her cooking badge with the girl scouts. Those who attended Meeting, Sunday the 11th, benefitted from our endeavors.

We had a diverse intergenerational group covering all ages, however we'd like it known that this is not a gender specific event

and all are invited to participate. Next time we hope to include scones, shaker cakes and the rich cholesterol filled baked goods from our Brown contingent. Hopefully this will take place before Christmas. It will be an invitation to share in baking breads and cakes for the Holidays.



Calendar:

Apr. 17: 10am-noon
Saylesville Book Swap

Apr. 18:
Rufus Jones Study Group
meets after coffee hour

Peace & Social Concerns
meets after coffee hour

Apr. 24:
Friendly Eights

Apr. 25: 10:30am
Conanicut Friends Meeting
at Studio, Norman Bird
Sanctuary, Middletown

May 1:
7-11am - May Breakfast

11:30am - 6pm - Quarterly
Meeting Extended Worship

May 2:
9am - Finance Mtg.

10:30am - Conanicut
Meeting resumes in the
Old Meetinghouse on
Weeden Lane, Jamestown

May 9:
9am - Communications
Mtg.

May 13: 7pm
Potluck Supper and
Meeting for Business

May 14: 3:45-5:15pm
Annual Spring Tea

May 16:
Religious Ed Mtg.

May 23: 3pm
Mid-spring walk with
Eugenia Marks

Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business - Fourth Month 11th

Providence Monthly Meeting
Fourth Month (April) 11, 2010

Minutes of monthly meeting for business

1. The meeting opened at 12:15 pm at the Providence meetinghouse with thirteen Friends present. During the opening worship the clerk read the following queries, from the *Faith and Practice* of Intermountain Yearly Meeting (2008):

Does each of us take our right share of responsibility in work and service for the meeting? What gifts do we offer? What do we hold back from offering? What do we have tied up that God has need of?

2. Announcements:
The noon worship sharing at Providence meetinghouse on the 25th of this month will consider our meeting's relationship with Friends United Meeting.

There will be a monthly meeting May Breakfast and a Quarterly Meeting Extended Worship at the Providence Meetinghouse on 1 Fifth Month. There are many opportunities for Friends who wish to be involved. Contact John Lord concerning the breakfast or the clerk concerning the Extended Worship.

Next month, our Meeting for Worship with a concern for business will be 13 Fifth Month (a Fifth Day) at 7 p.m. at the Providence Meetinghouse. There will be a potluck dinner downstairs at 6 p.m. Please contact the clerk if you are in need of transportation.

3. Membership: For Ministry and Counsel, Bob Elliott recommended that Lee Jaspers be accepted into membership in the meeting. Friends approved. Bob Elliott, Elsie Morse, and Bruce Carlsten agreed to arrange an appropriate welcoming event.

4. Nominating Committee Report: Elsie Morse presented preliminary recommendations for service to the meeting for the coming year, for our information. The committee will continue to fill in a few vacancies and bring a final report to next month's meeting for business.

5. First Day School State of Society Report: Elizabeth Oakley presented the annual State of Society Report prepared by (and approved by) the second through eighth graders. A copy is printed elsewhere in the newsletter. We thank the First Day School for its careful, concise, and well-written account.

6. Statistical Report: In the absence of the Recorder, the clerk presented the statistical report for calendar 2009, which has already been sent to the Yearly Meeting office. We note the net loss of seven members: three dropped through correction of a clerical error, eight discontinued as inactive over-twenty-five junior members, and four additions by request.

7. For Ministry and Counsel, Dan Lederer presented a proposal that the meeting hold a one-day workshop in the fall of 2010, with leadership from Friends General Conference, to explore undertaking the

Quaker Quest program. Betsy Zimmerman is already a trained Quaker Quest leader. If the meeting decides to participate, FGC requests that as many people attend the workshop as normally attend meeting for worship, which for us would be 55 to 65 people.

Quaker Quest is an outreach program developed by Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting, in which the host meeting holds a series of public sessions, usually on weekday evenings, on various topics. The intent of Quaker Quest is to invite seekers from outside the meeting who may be interested in Quakerism but do not know much about it.

It was suggested that any outreach efforts involve staff and families at the Quaker schools and students at Brown. Some Friends were skeptical about being able to attract the requested number of attenders for the one-day workshop. Others felt that given the proportion of our membership that is over 65 years old, it would be useful to do more outreach especially to students and young families. Saylesville Friends have also discussed ways to do outreach into the community.

Friends asked Ministry and Counsel to provide further information about the Quaker Quest program (including a link to the FGC website) and a tentative date for the workshop, and to bring this proposal back to a future meeting.

8. Proposed Budget for FY 2011: For the Finance Committee, Bruce Carlsten presented a proposed

budget for the fiscal year that will run from June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011. He highlighted the significant changes from the current year.

It was noted that Ministry and Counsel recommended a larger increase in the donation to New England Yearly Meeting, to offset some of the reduced donations from other meetings. The Finance Committee considered this request, incorporating input from a meeting of finance people from throughout the Yearly Meeting that our committee clerk and treasurer attended. The Yearly Meeting appreciates steady giving, with sustainable increases, rather than dramatic changes from year to year. The Finance Committee therefore recommend a modest increase for this year. Ministry and Counsel and Finance Committees will continue to consult about this line in future years.

Friends approved the FY 2011 budget as presented.

9. Virtual Office for Meeting: For the Communications Committee, Dan Lederer presented a proposal regarding a meeting "virtual office," which would serve as a digital repository of meeting information such as minutes, treasurer's reports, contracts, grants, demographic data, etc. The intention is to maintain much of this information in a password-protected section of the meeting's website. The proposal is intended to

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Peace Community: Call to Action Compiled By Bruce Carlsten



Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 pm - Bridging the Divide: From Combatant to Peacemaker.

Temple Beth El, 40 Orchard St Providence. Free and open to the public.

Two men, one Israeli and one Palestinian, both had been involved in the more militaristic aspects of the conflict and both have come to the conclusion that other paths are necessary for true peace. The two men, Kobi and Aziz, will talk about their remarkable personal transformations from former enemies to peace activists seeking solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The event is being Co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Chapter of J Street, the national pro-Israel pro-Peace organization, by Temple Beth El, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and by the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University.

Wednesday, April 14, 7 pm - Report from Dheisheh Refugee Camp, Palestine:

A Jewish American Woman's Eye-Opening Journey

Speaker: Jora Ehrlich
Rogers Free Library
Community Room, 525

Hope St., Bristol, R.I. - Free and Open to the Public
A Presentation of East Bay Citizens for Peace

Jora Ehrlich recently returned to the United States after four months living, working and learning in Dheisheh Refugee Camp in Palestine as part of her graduate research at the School of International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. She has also worked at the International Institute of Rhode Island's Refugee Resettlement Department with refugee families from Africa and the Middle East. Jora reflects: "My road to a refugee camp in Palestine was a long one. I grew up in a Jewish home, part of the Jewish community and gained perspective on one understanding about the situation in Palestine and Israel. My time in Palestine was eye opening and I feel a responsibility to share some of my small learnings with people back in the United States."

East Bay Citizens for Peace, a grassroots organization committed to peaceful solutions to conflict and to social and economic justice through the promotion of open, respectful dialogue. For more information contact 247-9738, eastbaycitizens4peace@hotmail.com or www.eastbaycitizens4peace.org

Thursday, April 15th is Tax Day.

AFSC is planning an all day presence at the Main Post Office (Corliss St) in Providence. We have a

great flyer, Warfare is stealing our jobs. You can get it from the website (www.afsc.org/sene). We invite you to take an hour or two to stand with us, either in Providence or at your own Post Office. We also will be holding a press conference in conjunction with Ocean State Action and RI Jobs with Justice and are looking for some creative street theater. We also will probably hold our penny poll on government spending, the results of which we will pass on to our congressional delegation. We know there will be similar events at the Bristol and Pawtucket Post Offices. Let us know if we can add your town to the list on our website. See the website or call Martha Yager (508-399-6699) or Bruce Carlsten if there are questions.

Saturday, April 17, 1-5 pm - New England United Regional Antiwar Network General Meeting

Round Top Center at Beneficent Church, 300 Weybosset St, Downtown Providence RI
Free & Open to the Public - Light Refreshments Will Be Served

Opening discussion on: **Pirates of the Caribbean: A Brief History of US Intervention in the Region**

An antiwar organizing session on: Strengthening our regional network, United National Antiwar Conference this summer...and more!

www.NewEnglandUnited.org

NewEnglandUnitedOutreach@gmail.com | 508-653-5534

Sponsored locally by the RI Mobilization Committee to Stop War & Occupation
www.RIStopWar.org | RIStopWar@gmail.com

Call Bruce Carlsten if there are questions.

Sunday, May 2, 2pm - Rally, March, and Peace Festival in NY calling for Nuclear Abolition

Join with thousands of people from around the world on the eve of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the United Nations. Hundreds of international organizations have come together to organize a weekend of action to bring pressure to bear on world leaders who will be attending the NPT conference to make nuclear abolition a reality "in our lifetimes!" We also understand that nuclear disarmament is interconnected with ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, funding human needs and environmental sustainability, so we will march together to call for: **No Nukes, No Wars, Fund Human Needs, Protect the Earth!** For more information go to www.peaceandjusticenow.org/wordpress/

Around the Meeting

Ministry and Counsel:

On First Day, April 25th, we will be having a worship sharing on the topic of our relationship to Friends United Meeting (FUM). The worship sharing will take place at noon at the Providence Meetinghouse after the rise of Meeting for Worship. The reason for the worship sharing is that there has been deep concern in several of NEYM's constituent monthly meetings about both FUM's personnel policy and its adherence to the Richmond Declaration of Faith. The purpose of the worship sharing will be to try to determine the sense of our Meeting in regard to these issues, which are more fully described in background

material that was sent out recently over our listserve. Contact Dan Lederer if you would like to receive a copy.

Pastoral Care:

Anyone needing a ride to the May Breakfast please contact a member of Pastoral Care

Mid-spring Mindfulness Walk:

Eugenia Marks will offer a walk on May 23d at Audubon's Parker Woodland leaving from the meetinghouse at 3pm. Ride share will be organized for the 35 minute drive to Foster-Coventry. "Mid-spring Mindfulness" will allow walkers time for extending time of contemplation and companionship. The walk

route is hilly; sturdy shoes are required. Please contact Eugenia Marks if you have questions.

Saylesville Bookswap:

Don't forget to visit the website at <http://bookswap.webatu.com/> Visits to the website help the bookswap.

High School Room:

The third floor room has been reorganized to provide a space for high school Friends. We're looking for Quaker and other inspirational quotes to use in the space. If you have an inspiring quote, please send it to: providentfriend@providencefriends.org

Friendly Eights:

There will be a Friendly Eights on Saturday April 24th. Please contact Debbie Block if you would like to participate, host, or facilitate.

Annual Spring Tea:

Please come to the 6th annual Spring Tea on Friday, May 14th at the Meetinghouse from 3:45-5:15pm. This is an opportunity to celebrate the season and to express our thanks to the faculty and staff of Moses Brown School.

News from Conanicut By Marcia Lindsay

I hope that this finds everyone through the mess of the last week, and ready for the spring ahead, which of course means:

Conanicut Friends Meeting will return to worship at the Old Meetinghouse at Weeden Lane on Sunday, May 2 at 10:30 am. We hope that many of you will be free to join us on that day.

In order to have the Meetinghouse in the best

condition, any member that can join in cleaning up the Old Meetinghouse on Sunday April 18 would be appreciated. We need to : wash windows, vacuum, and wipe down the benches. The pillows that have hung there all winter will need a good drying out. Any mice in residence will be encouraged to move! Any outdoor pick up would be a plus as well.

There will be a new Historical Society sign for

the property in place on N. Main Rd., but we will clean up or replace the old Meetinghouse sign which lists our worship times and place it inside the wall on the Weeden Lane side.

But until then, we continue to meet at the wonderful space at the Studio at Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown on April 11 and 25 at 10:30 am.

I also encourage sending in donations to the

Providence Friends Meeting (99 Morris Ave, Providence RI 02906, Attn: Treasurer), for those who do not already do so. We are trying to give our support in succession across the three organizations that help us keep our Meeting and building sound, and directed donations to PFM are in order!

In the growing Light of this new season, wishing you all well.

May 1st Breakfast By John Lord



May Breakfast (Saturday, May 1st) is our first ever attempt at this old New England tradition. It should be a great chance for us to get together to welcome Spring, to reach out to the greater community, and to

kick off the extended worship that day.

Breakfast is \$5 (\$2 for kids under 12) and will consist of scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, pancakes, assorted

muffins, juice, coffee and tea.

The date is Saturday, May 1 from 7-11 am. We still have a few work slots open, so let John Lord know if you can help.

... Minutes continued from page 2.

fill a need for a single source of information and key documents for the meeting.

It was noted that digital media do not survive technological changes unless there is a diligent effort to transfer information to new formats. Documents in hard copy are more durable for the historical record, and more accessible to some. Maintaining paper files takes organization as well as space; maintaining digital files also requires time and attention. The Yearly Meeting archives also requests copies of

minutes and other records on durable paper.

We appreciate the Communications Committee's efforts to remedy the existing gap in our storage of and access to key documents. We authorize the committee to proceed with the proposed digital repository, as a trial measure, while also working on a better physical repository for documents and more attention to transferring documents to the Yearly Meeting archives.

10. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the Treasurer, Bruce Carlsten

presented an interim treasurer's report for the current fiscal year ending May 31, 2010. The finance committee projects that we will end the year in the black, allowing for a modest replenishment of the meeting's general reserve fund.

11. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that no business meeting was held this month due to the threshing sessions. The appropriate committees are working on a proposal for the next phase of renovations to the Saylesville meetinghouse.

12. The meeting closed with a period of grateful worship, intending to meet again at the Providence meetinghouse on 5th month 13 at 7 pm following a potluck supper.

Mark Conley, Presiding Clerk
Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

Quaker Quest By Dan Lederer

Quaker Quest began as an outreach project developed in 2002 at Friends House in London. It consists of a series of 2-hour sessions that are open to the public and that address various topics such as "Quakers and Worship", "Quakers' Experience of God", and "Quakers and the Practice of Peacemaking", with a typical session consisting of brief presentations by three speakers, group discussions, questions and answers, and an explanation of Meeting for Worship, plus an opportunity for participation in silent worship as well as refreshments and socializing. The goal is to promote Quakerism as a spiritual path for our time that includes a search for the sacredness of each person, an encounter with the divine through the power of stillness, and a commitment to the ways of equality and nonviolence. At the same time, in clarifying and speaking of

their faith experience, Friends have found the process to be a valuable means of inreach and strengthening of their Quaker communities.

Friends General Conference (FGC), of which NEYM is a member, is encouraging its constituent monthly meetings to consider Quaker Quest programs. The recommended first step in doing so is to host a "motivation and inspiration" workshop for meeting members and attenders only. The workshop is led by two facilitators provided by FGC and can run for a full day or a half day (for example, a First Day afternoon), with the expectation that there is a high level of participation by the host meeting.

Hosting a workshop obligates us to provide transportation, meals, and lodging for the two facilitators but does not

require a commitment to proceed with Quaker Quest. Rather, it allows prospective participants to have their questions answered and to practice presentations and group interactions. At some point after the workshop we will need to discern whether to proceed. If the sense of Meeting is to do so, there follows a period of time, at least several months, during which we decide on session topics, determine dates of sessions, plan publicity, and hold training sessions for those who will be involved. In considering the above details, Ministry and Counsel has envisioned holding the workshop this coming fall, perhaps mid-November, with an initial series of sessions, perhaps three, in the spring of 2011 and again the following fall.

Looking ahead to our next Meeting for Business, which will take place on Thursday evening May 13,

Ministry and Counsel will ask Meeting to approve our hosting a Quaker Quest workshop in November. In considering this proposal, Friends are encouraged to find out more about Quaker Quest by going to www.quakerquestfgc.org. This site will answer a lot of your questions, and there is a link to the British site as well.

Providence First Day School Meeting State of Society 2009

By Elizabeth Oakley, Clerk

First Day School is now writing its fifth State of Society Report. The second through eighth grade members and attenders of Providence Monthly Meeting have met for worship and business in 2009.

In the spring and early summer, we finished the Disaster Kits which we began in 2007. Some were sold to members of the meeting, and the rest were donated to the Red Cross, which gives kits to people

who have had their homes burnt down. We are happy to have made a difference with these kits.

We also had our annual spring planting around the meeting house.

When we returned from our summer break, we decided not to have committees this time. Instead, we have a different topic to learn about each month, and different guest adults to tell us about the topics. Our adult helpers continue to change

every month or so. Our topics for the fall were the Bible and historic Quakers. We had our annual fall bulb planting, and held a successful bake sale during the Meeting Yard Sale.

This winter, we did a traditional Christmas play for the Christmas Gathering. We also raised money for Heifer International, an organization that provides animals, tree seedlings, and other things for struggling

families all over the world, through our "B" Tree.

We expect the rest of the academic year will progress similarly and will break for the summer in the first week of June.

Quarterly Meeting and Extended Worship By Mark Conley

At the request of New England Yearly Meeting, Providence Monthly Meeting has agreed to host an Extended Worship Session on May 1st on behalf of Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarter. We would like to extend a special invitation to Sandwich Quarter and to New London Monthly Meeting to join us as well, though of course all members of Yearly Meeting are very welcome.

As you might guess, our Meeting can use volunteers from our membership to

assist in this event. If you would be interested in helping with providing daytime refreshments, childcare, or would be willing to lead small groups in consideration of the query (see schedule below), please contact Mark Conley. We can also use someone who might be willing to lead a Group Sing!

Our Hospitality Committee had already planned a May Breakfast for that morning between 8 and 11 a.m. We are inviting members of our Monthly Meeting, the two Quarters, Yearly, as well as

members of the Moses Brown and Providence communities to join us that morning. Our hope is that we can have a wonderful entire day of togetherness in worship and fellowship.

We would be happy to provide child care, but we do request that you let us know in advance how many children you will be bringing and what ages they are to make sure that we provide appropriate activities.

There will be snacks available throughout the

afternoon, with some soup and light refreshment available at dinner. You are welcome to bring something to share or a "bag dinner" as well.

See the schedule on Page 8.

Moses Brown Invitation By Galen McNemar Hamann

Quaker Spoken Poet and Songwriter Jon Watts will be spending the day at Moses Brown on Friday April 30th.

This is part of his 2010 Two Wheel Tour Richmond to Boston on a Radish. If you

want to learn more about him please visit his website www.jonwatts.com.

Providence Monthly Meeting is welcome to join us for either of the assemblies:

2:30pm - Upper School Assembly in Alumni Hall

2pm - Sinclair Room at Moses Brown.

Clerk's Corner By Mark Conley

Drop Thy still dews of
quietness, / Till all our
strivings cease:
Take from our souls the
strain and stress, / And let
our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

- John Greenleaf Whittier,
1872

In the not-too-distant past in
Quakerism, the Quarterly
Meeting was a much-
anticipated time of worship
and fellowship. Members
from Monthly Meetings in a
fairly close geographic
region looked forward to
these gatherings that
helped them get to know
the people and ideas that
came from a wider group

than only their weekly
fellow worshippers. These
Quarterly Meetings were
usually all-day or even all-
weekend affairs, with time
for visiting as well as
business.

This Spring, Yearly Meeting
has given the Quarters a
great gift through a request:
a request that we meet
together in extended
meetings for worship, in
large and small groups, as
we consider what keeps us
from devoting more of our
lives to the still, small voice
that motivates all we do as
Friends. The specific query
reads: "What stands in our
way of giving ourselves
over fully to the will of God

and the work of the Spirit,
as individuals, and as a
Religious Society?" Weighty
questions indeed!

Fortunately, we can have a
day together with Friends
from Smithfield, Westerly
and Worcester, along with
Friends from the Sandwich
Quarter, to consider these
queries and simply spend
time worshipping and
getting to know one
another.

Even if you have never
attended a Quarterly
Meeting event before, I
hope you will consider
coming to this one on the
1st. Join members of
Providence at our May
Breakfast, then stay and

share your thoughts and
gifts with old acquaintances
and new Friends!

And, as always, thank you
for all you do in the Life of
our Meeting.

Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

Providence Meeting (401) 331-4218 <http://providencefriends.org>
99 Morris Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

Presiding Clerk: Mark Conley clerk@providencefriends.org
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Zimmerman assistclerk@providencefriends.org
Recording Clerk: Betsy Cazden recordingclerk@providencefriends.org
Treasurer: Peter Swaszek treasurer@providencefriends.org
Ministry & Counsel: Dan Lederer ministryandcounsel@providencefriends.org
Pastoral Care Committee: Thia Lord pastoralcare@providencefriends.org
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Listserv Moderator: Dan Lederer list@providencefriends.org
Website: Dave McNab webclerk@providencefriends.org
Moses Brown School Liaison: Thia Lord liaison@providencefriends.org
Young Adult Friends: Stephen Higa yaf@providencefriends.org
To schedule the Meetinghouse: Bruce Shaw scheduling@providencefriends.org
AFSC SENE: Martha Yager (508) 399-6699 or myager@afsc.org or www.afsc.org/sene



Elizabeth Bonner Zimmerman

Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends

Meeting for Worship each Sunday

Providence: 10:00 am Saylesville: 10:30 am
Jamestown: 10:30 am

First Day School, Providence - Sunday. Children join Meeting for Worship from 10:00-10:15 am and then proceed to First Day School from 10:15-11:00 am.

Other Meetings for Worship (All welcome):

Monday - 12:30 pm - Moses Brown Upper School

Wednesday - 8:25 am - Moses Brown Lower School

Wednesday - 9:40 am - Moses Brown Middle School
(all three in Providence Meetinghouse)

Thursday - Noon-12:45 pm Brown University in
J. Walter Wilson room 411

Potluck, Providence - each First Sunday

Meeting for Business

Providence: Second Sunday each month at 12:15pm
Saylesville: Last Sunday of each month

AFSC SENE Support Committee - Second Tuesday,
6:30-9:00 pm Volunteers needed and welcome. Call (508)
399-6699

Extended Worship and Quarterly Meeting Saturday 1 May Providence Meeting

Schedule for the day:

7 – 11 am - May Breakfast for the wider community
(\$5 minimum donation requested)

11:15–11:30 am - Call to Worship

11:30-12:30pm - Meeting for Worship

12:30-12:45pm - Division into small groups for reflection

12:45-1:45pm - Small Group Meetings: Reflection on the
Query: "What stands in our way of giving ourselves over fully
to the will of God and the work of the Spirit, as individuals, and
as a Religious Society?"

1:45–2:30pm - Reflections shared with all from each Small
Group
Meeting

2:30–3 pm - Break for coffee, tea and light refreshment

3:00-3:15pm - Group Sing

3:15-5pm - Extended Worship

5 pm - Simple Dinner (bring a "bag dinner:" soup and bread will
be
provided)

6 pm - RI-Smithfield Quarter Meeting for Business as needed

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99 Morris Avenue

Providence, RI 02906